

Sunday Worship on December 28, 2025

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Robert Kennedy)

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song BOP 153 Joy to the world (Vs. 1, 2, & 4)
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song 160 Unto us a child is born (Vs. 1-4)
- Prayer for children

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Isaiah 63:7-9
- Second reading: Psalm 148 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Hebrews 2:10-18
- Sermon: **The glory of God through suffering love**
- Praise song BOP 141 Good Christians, all rejoice (Vs. 1-3)
- Prayer for people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (tune BOP 79 Praise God with songs that never cease) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 159 Oh come, all ye faithful (Vs. 1, 2, 4, & 5)

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord from the heavens and in the heights;

All: Praise God, sun and moon!

One: God's name alone is exalted;

All: God is above the earth and heaven.

Praise song – BOP 153 Joy to the world (Vs. 1, 2, & 4)

Prayer of Adoration

God of glory, angels called to shepherds with songs of your good news.

Mary pondered the mystery of your goodness in the tumult of new birth.

Your splendour shines from a manger where the Light of the world was born.

In the fragility of flesh, you are revealed to us face to face.

And so we gather in worship and praise of you, who are Creator, Redeemer, and Guide; perfect and eternal, now and forever.

Prayer of confession (Unison)

God of compassion, you promise new life, but we confess that we are in love with our old ways; with hurts that we nourish, hatreds that hold us hostage, and fantasies that restrict our faithful living. You offer to us unconditional love, but we reject our neighbours and live apart from you and one another in many ways. Recreate us in the image of your son, and for your glory's sake, forgive us.

Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Here is the good news of the Gospel, brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus Christ is chosen for our salvation. In him we are made acceptable to God. Let us give thanks to God and be at peace with God, with ourselves and with one another.

May the Peace of Christ be with you. *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

Praise song BOP 160 Unto us a child is born (Vs. 1-4)

Prayer for the children

Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)

- First reading: Isaiah 63:7-9
- Second reading: Psalm 148 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Hebrews 2:10-18

"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."

Sermon: The glory of God through suffering love

Precious people of God, grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas is behind us now. The lights may already feel dimmer. The songs a little quieter. And yet the Word of God meets us today with a truth that goes deeper than celebration.

Hebrews tells us something surprising today.

It tells us that **it was fitting for God to bring salvation through suffering.**

That word, fitting, may trouble us.

We prefer glory without pain.

We prefer victory without cost.

But the Bible teaches us that **God's glory is revealed most clearly through suffering love.**

V10, "It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

This does not mean Jesus was imperfect. It means **Jesus was made complete as our Saviour by fully entering our human experience.**

Jesus did not save us from a distance. He came close. He took on flesh, just like you and I. He walked our roads. He felt hunger, sorrow, rejection, and fear.

V11, "For the one who sacrifices and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,"

This is about us. The Son of God, who created the heaven and earth and everything in between, is not ashamed of us. Jesus is not ashamed of our weaknesses. Jesus is not ashamed of our wounds. Jesus is not ashamed of our struggles. Jesus accepts our emotions, our fleshly desires, and our life experiences. This is the heart of suffering love.

Jesus shares our humanity so deeply that he stands with us, not above us. He knows what it is to be tempted.

He knows what it is to hurt.

He knows what it is to face death.

And because he entered suffering, he now redeems it.

The cross was not an accident.

It was not a tragic detour. It was the path God chose to reveal his glory.

In Jesus' suffering, sin is broken.

In his death, the power of death is destroyed.

In his resurrection, fear loses its grip on us.

V17, "Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people."

Jesus became like us "in every respect," so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest.

Jesus is merciful – because he understands us.

Jesus is faithful – because he never abandon us.

This is a good news for us today.

Some of us are carrying quiet suffering.

Some of us are weary from long struggles.

Some of us are walking through uncertainty, grief, fear, illness, confusion, or tiredness.

The gospel does not tell us to hide our pains. It tells us that Christ has already entered it.

Here's a paradoxical truth and hope.

Our suffering is not meaningless.

In Christ, suffering becomes a place where God's glory can be revealed. God's glory is revealed to us not as a spectacle achievement or success, but as faithful love.

Because Jesus suffered with us, he now helps us in our suffering.

V18, "Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested."

Not sometimes, not someday, but NOW.

So as we move beyond Christmas, we do not leave Christ behind in the manger. We follow him into real life. Into a world that still aches, still groans, still waits for redemption.

And we trust this promise.

The glory of God is at work in our lives, especially in our sufferings, through his suffering love. So, in our sufferings, let us be reminded that Jesus Christ is with us with his suffering and unending love.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for a Saviour who did not remain distant, but entered our suffering with love. When our hearts are heavy, remind us that Christ walks beside us. When our faith feels weak, strengthen us with his mercy. Help us trust that your glory is at work even in places of pain and suffering, and teach us to follow Jesus with courage, humility, and hope. In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen.

Praise song BOP 141 Good Christians, all rejoice (Vs. 1-3)

Prayer for the people:

Merciful and faithful God, we come before you knowing that you understand our weakness.

We pray for who are suffering. Those burdened by illness, grief, anxiety, or loneliness. Be near to them, God. Let them know that they are not forgotten.

We pray for this world still marked by violence and fear. For children in danger, for families displaced, for nations aching for peace. May your suffering love break cycles of hatred and open paths toward justice and reconciliation.

We pray for this congregation. Strengthen the weary. Comfort the grieving. Renew the hopeful. Heal the sick. And make us a people who reflect Christ's mercy to others.

We trust you, O Lord, for you are with us, and your love will not fail. Thank you for guiding and leading us through this year 2025. We lift up our next year into your hands. Fill our lives with your presence. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

Sisters and brothers in Christ, God has given us everything through Jesus Christ. He even entered our suffering for our sake. Our offering today is a response of gratitude and trust. As we give, we participate in God's work of mercy and hope in this world. Let us offer our gifts freely, knowing that God uses them to bring healing and life.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify God.

(BOP #79, Praise God with songs)(words are on the screen)

Offering prayer:

God of love and grace, receive these gifts we offer today. Use them to reflect your suffering love in a hurting world. May they bring comfort to the broken, support to the needy, and hope to those who feel forgotten. Bless all that is given, and shape us into faithful servants of your grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 159 Oh Come, all ye faithful (Vs. 1, 2, 4, & 5)

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

As we prepare to go into the world, we remember this truth: God's glory is revealed through suffering love. Christ has walked our path, shared our pain, and stands with us still. So, we go with confidence, not because life is easy, not because we are so powerful, **but because Jesus is faith**. May we carry his mercy into our daily lives and trust that God is at work, even now and always.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.