

Worship on August 2, 2026

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Gord Osborne)

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 332 O Lord my God / How great thou art
- Prayer for Worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Children's Hymn BOP 373 Jesus loves me

We Listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- Scripture reading: Exodus 3:1-15
- Sermon: **The Foundations of the Christian Life Series**
Week 1 – Who Is God
- Hymn BOP 674 In the bulb there is a flower

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 651 Guide me, O thou great redeemer

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Come, let us worship the Lord, our God, who was before all things and who holds all things in his hands.

All: The Lord is God, and we are his people.

One: When we are anxious about the future, God remains faithful.

All: When we cannot see the way ahead, God goes before us.

One: When we try to carry what is too heavy for us, God invites us to trust him.

All: We do not have to control everything, because God is God.

One: So let us lay down our burdens, quiet our hearts, and turn our eyes toward the One who is faithful.

All: We come to worship the God who knows us, loves us, and holds our future. Let us worship the Lord.

Praise song – BOP 322 O Lord my God / How great thou art

Prayer of Adoration

Gracious and eternal God, you are the God who simply is.

Before the mountains were formed, you were God. You are the beginning and the end, the One who holds all things together.

You are greater than our understanding, yet you invite us to know you.
You hold what we cannot hold.
You know what we cannot know.
You see what we cannot see. So we praise you.
You are faithful when we are uncertain.
You are steady when our lives feel unstable.
Your purposes are greater than our plans.
And we do not have to carry the whole world on our shoulders.
You are God. And that is enough. Receive our worship today.

Prayer of confession (Unison)

Gracious and faithful God, you hold all things together, yet we often live as if everything depends on us. We worry about the future and forget that our times are in your hands. Forgive our anxiety and our reliance on what we can see. Teach us to trust you in uncertainty, to rest in your strength, and to wait on your wisdom. Thank you for your faithfulness to our church in every season. Anchor us in your promises, not our plans. Guide us one step at a time, and help us walk by faith in your unfailing love.

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

Hear the good news of the gospel.
You are not saved because you have everything under control.
You are held by grace. The God who calls you is faithful.
The God who knows you will not abandon you.
The God who holds your life also holds your future.
So receive this assurance today.
You can trust God with your life.
You can trust God with your future.
You can trust God with what you cannot control.
In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven, your future is held by grace, and you are free to walk forward in faith.
Thanks be to God.

May the Peace of Christ be with you

Praise song – BOP 373 Jesus loves me

Prayer for Children

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

Scripture reading: Exodus 3:1-15

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

SERMON: The Foundations of the Christian Life
Week 1: Who is God?

Today, we are beginning a new sermon series called **“The Foundations of the Christian Life.”** For the next eight weeks, we are going to ask some of the most basic questions of the Christian faith.

Who is God?

Who is Jesus?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Why do we read the Bible?

Why do we pray?

Why do we need the church?

Why do we give?

And what does it actually mean to follow Jesus?

These are simple questions. But they are not small questions.
Because the way we answer these questions shapes the way we live.

So today, **Who Is God?**

I don't simply want to give you information about God.

I want us to ask a deeper question:

“If God is God, what difference does that make in my life?”

Because knowing who God is should change the way we live.

In Exodus chapter 3, Moses is standing before a **burning bush.** <PIC>>

God is calling him to go back to Egypt.

Moses was afraid. He didn't feel qualified. He didn't want to go.

And Moses asked God a question.

“If I go to the Israelites and they ask me, 'Who sent you?'—what am I supposed to tell them?”

And God says, **“I AM WHO I AM.” V14**

Then God says, **“Say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.” V14**

This is one of the most important moments in the Bible.

God gives Moses his name. **“I AM.”**

God is not saying, “I am this because someone made me.”

God is not saying, “I exist because something else gave me life.”

God simply says, “I AM.”

God is the One who simply is.

Everything else depends on something else.
You and I were born. We depend on our parents.
We depend on food and water. We depend on oxygen.
We depend on other people.
We depend on circumstances we cannot control.

But God does not depend on anything outside himself.
God is not one more thing inside the universe.
God is the One upon whom everything else depends.

And this is where the Christian life begins.
Not with us. But, with God.

God is God. I am not. And we are not. That sounds obvious.

But I think many of us spend a great deal of our lives trying to live as though we are.
We try to control everything. We try to fix everything.
We try to carry everyone. We try to know everything.
We try to make sure everything turns out the way we want.
And sometimes, without realizing it, we are trying to do something that only God can do.
We are trying to be God.

But here is the good news: “You don't have to be God.”

If God is God, then I don't have to control everything.

Think about how much anxiety comes from our desire for control.
We worry about our future. We worry about our children.
We worry about our health. We worry about our relationships.
We worry about our church. Sometimes we lie awake at night trying to solve tomorrow's problem even before tomorrow arrives.

But the Christian faith begins with this simple truth.

God is God. I am not.

And that is not bad news. That is freedom.

I don't have to know everything because God knows.

I don't have to control everything because God is in control.

I don't have to carry everything because I can place some things into God's hands.

This does not mean that we become passive.

It doesn't mean we stop working, planning, caring, or trying.

It means we stop pretending that everything depends on us.

Faith is not saying, “Nothing matters.”

Faith IS saying, “Everything matters, but everything does not depend on me.”

Because God is God and we are not, we don't have to be in control of everything. Because God is God, we can be free.

There is a second thing that changes when we know that God is God.

“My life has a purpose bigger than myself.”

We ask, “What do I want to do with my life?”

“What will make me happy?” “What will make me successful?”

“What do I want my life to mean?”

Those are not bad questions. But the Bible gives us a deeper question.

Instead of asking only, “What do I want to do with my life?”

we begin to ask, **“What is God doing in the world, and how can I participate in it?”**

Through this question, our focus shifts from ourselves to God.

My work is no longer just a way to make money.

My family is not simply a responsibility.

My relationships are not merely about what I can get from people.

My time, my gifts, my resources, my home, and my abilities can all become part of God's larger story.

We may feel like we are doing something very small, or something ordinary. We go to work. We care for our family. We make dinner.

We help our neighbours. We listen to someone who is hurting.

We show kindness to someone who feels forgotten.

But **when we know that God is alive and active in the world, small and ordinary things like these can become meaningful.**

Our life is no longer just our own private project.

We are part of something bigger.

The question is no longer simply, “Am I successful?”

The question becomes deeper, **“Am I participating in what God is doing?”**

And when we begin to see our lives as part of God's story, we also learn to trust him with the parts of the story we cannot yet see.

And there is one more thing.

If God is God, “I can trust him with what I cannot control.”

This is where faith becomes personal.

To believe in God is not simply to say, “God exists.”

Christian faith is more than believing that God is there.

It is learning to place our lives into his hands.

And that is not always easy.

Sometimes we don't understand what God is doing.

Sometimes we pray, and the answer doesn't come, or God says no.
Sometimes we ask, "Why?"
Sometimes life doesn't make sense.
Faith does not mean that we always understand everything.

"Trust does not mean that we understand everything."

Trust means that even when we don't know what is happening, we know who God is.
We may not know what tomorrow holds; but we know who holds tomorrow.
We may not understand the road ahead; but we know who walks with us. That is what it means to say, **"God is God. And I am not."**

And perhaps this is especially important for us as a church.
We are a smaller church than we once were.
And when a church becomes smaller, it can be easy to become anxious about the future.
We may wonder, "What will happen to us?"
"What will our church look like five years from now?"
"Where are we going?" "How will we grow?"

There are many things about our future that we simply cannot see clearly. And we don't need to pretend that we have all the answers.

Here, I think about Moses.
Moses didn't know how the story would unfold.
He didn't know how Pharaoh would respond.
He didn't know how the Israelites would respond.
He didn't know how long the journey would take.
He didn't know anything that would happen after he said yes to God's call. God did not give Moses the whole plan.

God gave Moses his name.
"I AM WHO I AM."

And perhaps that is what we need as well.
We DO NOT know exactly what the future holds for our church.
But we DO know who holds our future.
We may not know what God will do next.
But we know that God is still God.
So our calling is not to figure out everything.

Our calling is to be faithful with the next step God puts in front of us. To love one another.
To keep learning. To keep growing.
To welcome people. To serve our neighbours.
To become the kind of church we have been talking about.

And then, together, our calling might be to see what God will do among us. Because we don't have to build the future by ourselves.

God is God. And we are not.

So today, as we begin this series, I want us to remember one simple sentence: **If God is God, then I don't have to be God.**

I don't have to control everything. I don't have to have all the answers.

I don't have to carry every burden. I don't have to create my own meaning. I don't have to hold the whole world together.

Because God is God. And I am not.

And that is not a limitation. That is freedom.

Maybe today, you need to hear that.

Maybe you've been carrying something that you were never meant to carry.

Maybe you've been trying to control something that you cannot control.

Maybe you're exhausted because you feel like everything depends on you.

The first step of faith today is simply to say this.

"God, you are God. And I am not.

So I will do what you have given me to do.

And I will trust you with what I cannot do."

And, as a church, we can say the same thing together.

"God, you are God. And we are not.

We don't know everything about our future.

But we trust you with our future.

We will take the next faithful step.

And we will walk together and see what you will do."

The Christian life begins here.

Before we learn how to pray, before we learn how to read the Bible,

before we talk about the church, before we talk about giving,

before we talk about following Jesus,

we begin with this: "God is God."

And because God is God, my life has meaning.

Because God is God, I can let go of control.

Because God is God, I can trust him with my future.

Because God is God, I don't have to be God.

That is one of the most beautiful gifts of faith.

The world tells us, "Everything depends on you."

But, the gospel says, "No, it doesn't."

There is a God who is greater than you.

A God who knows you. A God who loves you.
A God who calls you. A God who goes before you.
And a God who is able to hold what you cannot.

So today, as we begin our journey through **“The Foundations of the Christian Life”**, let us begin where Scripture begins.
Our faith journey begins not with ourselves, but begins with God.

God is God. And I am not. And we are not.
And that is not bad news. That is freedom.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are God, and we are not.
Thank you that we do not have to carry everything, control everything, or understand everything.
Help us trust you with what we cannot control. Give us courage to take the next faithful step, and help us walk together as your people. Hold our lives, our families, and our church in your hands.
In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise song – BOP 674 In the bulb there is a flower

Prayer for people

Gracious and loving God, we come before you knowing that you hold our lives in your hands. You know our joys and our burdens, our hopes and our fears.

For those who are anxious about tomorrow, give them peace.
For those facing difficult decisions, give them wisdom.
For those who are grieving, bring comfort.
For those who are lonely, bring companionship.
For those who are struggling in their families, bring patience, forgiveness, and reconciliation.
For those who feel uncertain about the future, give them courage to take the next faithful step.

Lord, we also pray for our church. We thank you for the people you have gathered here, for the years of faithfulness, for the prayers that have been offered, and for the love that has been shared among us. We do not know exactly what the future holds.
But we know who holds our future. Keep us from fear and discouragement. Help us to love one another deeply, to welcome those who are searching, and to serve our neighbours with humility.

As we begin this new journey of learning the foundations of the Christian life, help us not simply to learn about you, but to live differently because we know you.

Teach us to trust you more deeply. Teach us to pray more faithfully. Teach us to live with open hands.

And help us to become the church you are calling us to be.

We do not ask for the whole map. Give us enough light for the next step. And when we cannot see the road ahead, remind us that you are already there. You are God. We are not.

So we trust you. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering

Everything we have comes from God's gracious hand. Our time, our abilities, our resources, and our lives are gifts from him.

As we bring our offerings today, we remember that giving is an act of trust.

We say, "God, you are God, and I trust you with what you have placed in my hands."

Let us give with gratitude, trusting that God will use our gifts for his purposes and for his glory. Let us worship God through our giving. (As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.)

(BOP #830, Praise God from whom all blessings flow.)

Offering prayer

Gracious God, everything we have comes from you.

We offer these gifts with gratitude and trust. Receive them, bless them, and use them for the work of your kingdom.

May these offerings help proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, strengthen your church, care for those in need, and open doors for others to encounter your love.

Teach us to hold our possessions with open hands and to remember that our security is not found in what we have, but in who you are.

We dedicate both our gifts and our lives to your service.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 651 Guide me, o thou great redeemer

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

As we leave this place today, we may not know everything that lies ahead. We may not have all the answers. But we know who walks with us. We know who holds our future. So let us go with confidence. Not because we are not in control, but because God is.

As we continue this journey together, let us remember the simple truth we have heard today.

"God is God. And we are not."

And that is not bad news. That is freedom.

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.