

2020 Year Theme:
Be Strong and Courageous! Joshua 1:9

Worship Theme:

Repentance and Social Responsibility

Today's scripture texts: Act 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-16; 28-35;

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-14 & 19

God's life and grace, and the gift of resurrection, are wonderful things to know about, but they mean very little in real terms without a response from us. In this week's readings, we read about how the psalmist responded with gratitude, praise and commitment when he recognized God's gracious rescue; how the people responded to Peter's sermon at the Pentecost when they realized their need to repent; and how the two disciples experienced for themselves that Christ had resurrected when they encountered Jesus. While God's grace and love are always available, it is when we respond that we can appropriate and benefit from them.

What is the Abundant Life? Jesus came that we may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). We live in strange times when popular theology suggests that God has blessed those who have too much and has not blessed those who struggle to find bread. But what is the abundant life? Is it symbolized by the embarrassing quantities of goods and wealth that we hoard for ourselves in this country? Probably not!

Early Christians understood something about sharing goods and distributing their wealth (Acts 2:44-47). Is it possible, these days, for Christians to align ourselves with God's plans for a good life for all people?

Questions to Wrestle With

1. In the first-century context, where people were often hostile toward Christianity, what did it mean for someone to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ?
2. People sometimes struggle with the term conversion, a term that implies transformation, reform, and the need for re-education. What does it mean to be converted to Christianity? What is left behind and what is embraced?
3. As repentance involves a change of heart, mind, and will, what change(s) need to occur in your congregation to be more socially responsible in your community?

May our worship this week lead us to encounter life such that we cannot avoid offering ourselves to life in response!

EVENTS

Online Bible Class & Worship

26 Apr

9.30 am Bible Class

Parable of the Speck & Log
Cher Yam

11.00 am Worship

Repentance and Social
Responsibility

John Lim

Wed Online Bible Class

29 Apr

7.30 pm

Study on the book of Daniel
Lim Lian Chye

Zoom Prayer Warriors

Every 2nd & 4th Tue

Lim Lian Chye

5 Jul Youth for Christ (Youth Day)



Use this QR code to access
Online Worship



CIRCUIT BREAKER TO MINIMISE FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19

The Circuit Breaker measures have been in place since 7 April 2020 and will be extended by another 4 weeks until Jun 1 (inclusive).

YOU can join us in worship by going to www.ppcoc.org and click on our Online Worship under Resources tab or Quick Links. You can also check the Donate tab on how to make bank transfers to the church for tithes and offerings.

Because of the COVID-19 lockdown, many congregations have been forced to temporarily transit to live streaming worship, rather than gathering in person. Which means, for the time being, most of us find ourselves sitting on our couches and around our kitchen tables participating in worship from home on Sunday mornings. If that is the case for you and your family, here are five suggestions and tips for participating in online worship.



1. Don't Be a Spectator, Be a Participant

Now, more than ever, it can feel like worship is something we consume, like a movie or a television program. My encouragement would be, don't allow yourself to feel like a spectator. See yourself as a participant.

Even if we can't hear the other voices, God hears the voices of all of his people around the world singing his praises. So, don't just listen to songs, sing the songs with your brothers and sisters. We all need songs of praise in our hearts and pouring from your lips now more than ever.

Take the bread and the cup, picturing the multitude of people throughout the world who are sharing it with you. Though we are in many places, there is only one bread and only one cup (1 Corinthians 10:14-18). Even when we were all gathered in separate congregations, there was still only one bread and one cup that we were sharing. The division between houses, cities, states, and countries has never changed the fact that all of Jesus' people throughout the world have always been sharing the meal together.

So, participate in the worship. See yourself as a participant. Understand that you are taking part in something bigger than yourself, bigger than what's going on in your home. You are taking part in a global feast with millions of others.

2. Don't Criticize or Compare

Because so many churches are streaming to YouTube and Facebook, it's very easy to see what the church down the road is doing and compare their online service to your congregation's online service. There are, of course, going to be differences in style and content, as well as budget and capabilities. My encouragement would be to resist the temptation to critically compare your congregation to other congregations.

Ministers, elders, deacons, teachers, volunteers, and countless others are all doing the best they can to figure out how to lead, teach, encourage, minister, and reach out to the community during this crisis. It's an incredibly challenging time for everyone. Just remember that what you might intend as a helpful suggestion could come across like hurtful criticism to someone who is working significantly more hours, and having to learn all new skills, to make Bible studies and worship services available for you.

We all have the benefit of being able to learn from many teachers, preachers, and evangelists from the comfort of our own homes right now. Some of them will be broadcasting from a church stage, others from home. Some will be using a smartphone and others will be using HD cameras. But they, and all the people behind the scenes, are doing the best they can. Please pray for them and encourage them.

3. Limit Distractions

When watching videos online or on television, we have conditioned ourselves to switch channels when it loses our attention. See if this sounds familiar: We start watching a live stream. We watch for a minute or two, but soon flick our finger across the screen and start scrolling through the feed for something else.

Some of that may be fine, but we all need time of uninterrupted worship and study. My encouragement would be, on Sunday morning, start your worship live stream and don't switch the channel until it's over. Don't text. Don't scroll through your Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter feed. Just be still, be present, and participate.

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4. Take Notes

If you would typically take notes in a Bible class or a sermon, then do that with online services as well. In fact, even if you didn't take notes before, maybe you could start a new practice. You will likely retain much more information if you write some things down. It will also help you avoid being distracted.

Those who are artistically inclined might prefer to draw a picture of something mentioned in the Scripture, song, or sermon. I have seen some amazing pictures drawn both by children and adults of things that inspired them in the service.

After the service is over, you could even take a picture of your notes or your drawing and share it on social media to encourage others.

5. Discuss Key Takeaways

On a typical Sunday morning, after the worship assembly is done, we all start talking about where to eat lunch and then we race out to our various Sunday activities. But now, things are a lot slower-paced on Sunday mornings. There is often more time to think, reflect, and discuss.

My encouragement would be, if you have other people in the house with you, after everything wraps up, discuss the service. If you don't have others at home with you, maybe you could call, text, or video conference with someone else who was watching the service and doesn't have family at home either. No matter who you discuss the service with, the experience is often completed by talking about what you heard with someone else.

When we listen to a message or sing a song, we typically ask questions like, "Did I agree with that?" Or, "Did I like that?" Those aren't bad questions, but consider other questions you might ask; questions like, "What did I learn about Jesus?" Or, "What changes do I need to make in my life?"

Conclusion

I hate being separated from my church family. I hate not seeing their faces or being able to greet them in person. But I am thankful we can connect through technology. As long as this situation lasts, we need to be determined to make the best of it and grow as a result of it.

I love you and God loves you,

Wes McAdams

How members are doing at home since the covid-19 pandemic started

HOME-BOUND & HAPPY – Yeo Chiew Yen

Being home-bound due to the 'circuit-breaker' situation has not been as challenging as I'd feared.

I'm spending more time reading the Bible during this time. As a working mother for whom time is a scarce resource, I don't usually spend more than 15 minutes each day doing my quiet time. Thus, this period of isolation has been an enriching experience, both spiritually and mentally.



I've re-discovered a new interest in the OT books which I usually avoid reading in the past because I found it very tedious with endless genealogies, laws, etc. I now find the stories very interesting as I follow the journey of the Israelites who are perpetually disobeying God. As I now have a better grasp of the stories in the OT, I believe it will help me to explain it better if my 'non-believer' friends have any questions.

I'd borrowed 6 books from the library just before we went into 'lockdown'. These books are a source of respite when I want to take a break from the endless emails. When the 'circuit breaker' ends, I think what I will miss is the extra time to read the most important book I will ever read.

Community Garden Ministry

"Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food..." Genesis 2:9

Do you dream of growing your own organic vegetable garden?

We believe that growing your own food will help you reconnect with nature and cultivate a community spirit.

As the Building Committee works on rebuilding the church building, we are looking for members to join our community Garden Ministry to work on ideas for the garden landscape for our new church building.

Beautiful garden comes with careful planning and proper execution. In this community Garden Ministry, we will exchange ideas and learn from each other how to grow different kinds of tropical and edible plants. We will meet and discuss about growing plants, vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, etc. In this journey, we will experience the joy of growing our own plants and vegetables and even replicate them in our own homes!

We are calling upon members who are interested to join this community Garden Ministry. There is no qualification required. If you love to plant your own vegetables, you are welcome to join us and learn together.

Please contact our members Joanne Wong (Hp 81130716) or Kelly Leong (Hp 90187884) if you are keen to join this Ministry.



Our condolences to **Sis. Angie Loh** on the passing away of her mother on 21 April and **Sis. Lucy Kwan** whose mother passed away on 22 April. May God's peace and comfort be upon the bereaved families of both Angie and Lucy at this time of sorrow and loss.

Elders' Zoom Prayer Meeting

God Above All

Prayers for COVID-19 crisis

Join the elders as they pray specifically about the COVID-19 crisis and for the people affected by it.

If you have any requests related to the crisis, please send them to the elders or Beng Chuan by 29 Apr.

Date: 1 May 2020

Time: 10am

How: Members will be given the zoom meeting ID this week for them to join. Remember to mute your mic when you join. You are encouraged to leave your video on so that everyone can see each other during this time of prayer.

Psalms 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble"

Reaching out for Christ During the Covid-19 Pandemic Circuit Breaker Period

Dear Patrick & Beng Chuan,

I'm thinking of sending food to pre-believing family members of our church brothers and sisters. Can you send a message to a few members at a time and ask for the address of their pre-believing family members and friends that we may deliver a love meal (lunch) to them? In our meal delivery, we'll attach some material or links for their family members to read about God and bible relevant to lives. Let us target at least 5 names each day for food delivery starting on 14th April – 1st June. Thanks!

– John & Wendy Then

Sis Anna Goh (deaf), "My sister (unbeliever) says thank you, thank you! She is happy to receive free lunch from you. She says food is okay and wants to donate for it. But John says no! no! She is very appreciative what church has done during this hard time. Thank you very much, Patrick! Thank for your care, concern and love."

Friends of Our Deaf Fellowship

We welcome Sisters Anna, Mimi, See Mui and Nancy in reaching out to their non-Christian families and *friends of the deaf* so that each of them may receive a love meal (lunch) from the PPCOC. Praise to the good Lord for this love meal initiative by John & Wendy.



WAYS TO GIVE

(B) CHEQUE

- Please address the cheque to "Church of Christ, Pasir Panjang"
- Please write the following at the back of the cheque
 - Account number you wish to give to
 - Your name, contact number and address
- Please **deposit your cheques** at POSB or DBS branches. Please do not mail the cheques to the church office as our staff are working from home.



Donate via Bank Transfer

ACCOUNT NUMBERS

- 1. General Fund** bank account number: 063-001497-4
 - No further action is required
- 2. Mission Fund** bank account number: 063-001495-8
 - Please inform Sis Annie (receipt given)
- 3. Building Fund** bank account number: 063-007311-3
 - Please inform Pledge/BF Committee (Peter, Jim or Grace) (receipt given)

FEEDBACK on
Church Matters



<http://bit.ly/38KH8wK>

Pledge & Building Fund Committee

Peter Lim

Jim Kawi

Grace Mariaraja

Elders

Simon Goh

Peter Lim

Lim Swee Aun

Ooi Boo Chye

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