

WORDS FROM PASTOR

It has been two weeks since we returned to Chinatown for worship. Though there are still a lot of adjustments to be made, the excitement is so real and strong! More than 3 months, I had been preaching before a camera at home. It was a strange experience. There was one or two weeks that I pre-recorded the sermons, then joined the worship on Sunday at home with my wife. Listening to my own sermon through the TV at home in a worship is rather a virtual experience.

Though not many attended the worship, returning to Chinatown facility brings a totally different feeling. When the chairperson read the "Call to Worship" text and prayed, the long missed emotion came back immediately. When the praise team led us to sing, gratitudes flooded my heart and tears fell from my eyes.

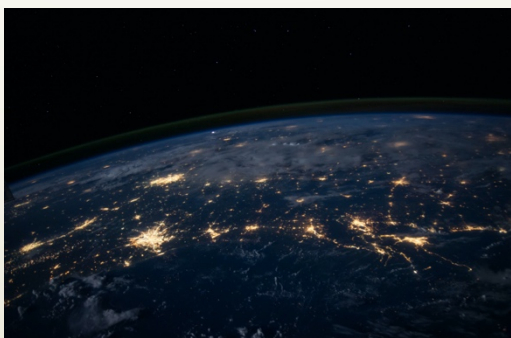
Yes, we have to be thankful for modern communication technologies. Without them, we couldn't worship together during the pandemic lockdown. Furthermore, these technologies play an important role in fulfilling the ultimate mission of "bringing the Gospel to the end of the world". But, genuine church life can not be totally dependent on the internet. The core of church life is to influence life with life, to build up life with life. This is best done in the context of face-to-face interaction. The incarnation of Jesus Christ is the most powerful supporting argument!

There are certainly advantages for live streaming our worship, including the facts that many home-bound seniors can join us, and our non-Christian family members may be exposed to our beliefs, but it should not completely replace face-to-face worship and fellowship.

Looking into the future, I think we have to do both: live streaming and in-person services. Maybe we can encourage members living close by to have small group worship on Sunday, and fellowship groups during the week. Covid-19 totally changes our ways of living. How is the church going to respond? This is a question we all have to ask.

What do you think? Would love to hear your opinions.

Pastor Isaac



MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Chinese Worship	11AM Sunday https://bit.ly/2y4GI7T
Chinese Bible Study	8PM Thursday
Love Fellowship	8:30PM Friday
Chinese Prayer Meeting	9:30PM Wed 515-604-9094 Code 631 509 396
English Worship	1PM Sunday https://bit.ly/2Ym8BCR
English Prayer Meeting	9PM Tuesday
English Bible Study	6PM Thursday

Members/Activity News

Pastor Kevin started a 4-weeks summer youth program on 7/18. About 16 youth signed up for interest classes and community services. Please pray for the youth as well as the adults who are helping.

If you desire to join our service at 103 Madison Street, kindly register through the following link: <https://forms.gle/4FqZ1AhUEWLHukKN7>. Live stream will be provided as usual.

Pastor Peter Mitimangi of Tanzania passed away suddenly in March. His wife, Patience, will be giving birth to their 5th child in August. The family is in dire need of major financial and other support. The Board has approved to set up a Love Offering for the family. Please send in your offering and specify it for the Mitimangi Love Funds by July 26. Please reach out to Pastor Isaac if you have any questions or recommendations.

Our church picnic will be held on 8/15 at the Sunken Meadow Park, Long Island. Please register by 8/9 by the following link: <https://forms.gle/31MDTQy4krd2ksnP9>

Prayer Items

- ✓ Pray for President Trump and his cabinet that they can lead with righteousness.
- ✓ Pray for God's protection over churches in China that they will stand firm in faith.
- ✓ Pray for provisions from God to all para-church organizations.
- ✓ Pray for complete healing and peace for cancer patients in our midst.
- ✓ Pray for young couples as they take care of families, careers, and church ministries.
- ✓ Pray for smooth operation of our youth summer program.
- ✓ Pray for the preparation of our reopening and annual congregational meeting.

2020 Bible Reading Plan

7/26	Acts 25 : 1-27	8/2	Romans 2 : 1-29
7/27	Acts 26 : 1-32	8/3	Romans 3 : 1-31
7/28	Acts 27 : 1-25	8/4	Roman 4 : 1-25
7/29	Acts 27 : 26-44	8/5	Roman 5 : 1-21
7/30	Acts 28 : 1-15	8/6	Roman 6 : 1-23
7/31	Acts 28 : 16-31	8/7	Roman 7 : 1-25
8/1	Roman 1 : 1-32	8/8	Roman 8 : 1-18