

Growing and Going in Time of Crisis

English Service
2021.1.10

"He is the one we proclaim,
admonishing and teaching
everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone
fully mature in Christ."

Colossians 1:28



SUNDAY WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rick Zuniga

WORSHIP IN SONG

Jonathan Chan and worship team

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rick Zuniga

SCRIPTURE READING: John 4:1-26

MESSAGE

“Jesus the Living Water”

David Park

SONG OF RESPONSE

Jonathan Chan and worship team

BENEDICTION

David Park

EM COMMUNITY NEWS

BAPTISM POSTPONED

In light of the current pandemic situation, the COVID-19 Response Team decided this past week to postpone the January/February baptism until further notice. Let this not diminishes our joy in the Lord to witness new births in Christ. May we remain steadfast to know Him and make Him known!

CONDOLENCES TO THE LO FAMILY

Our beloved Rev. Samuel Lo, 85, passed away peacefully on December 31, 2020 at hospital due to failing health. Pastor Lo is the founding pastor of CEFCL. In the early 1960's, he and a group of overseas students from Hong Kong formed a Bible study group that, by God's grace, eventually gave birth to a church and become CEFCLA. Pastor Lo lived a faithful and fruitful life for God's glory, and is dearly missed as a humble and gentle shepherd.

Pray for Mrs. Lo and her three daughters (Sharon, Amy & Bonnie) and their families. Amy and her husband, Kryzsiak came back from Poland on Jan 2 and are currently in quarantine. Pray for God's comforting presence to be with the family. Pray for a smooth planning process for the funeral in the midst of pandemic.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP CONTINUOUS SUSPENSION

In consideration of the extended stay-at-home order for Southern California, the COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) decided to suspend indefinitely the English outdoor worship services until further notice. CRT continues to evaluate the situation and seek wisdom to safely reopen for in-person worship.

During this fearful time, let us encourage one another to pray with our eyes focus on God, who is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. May we grow to go as agents of hope to this weary and broken world.

CHURCH COMMUNITY

CHURCH PLANTING UPDATES

Thank you for praying for the church to seek God's will in church planting. It has been a long journey with intercessions and discussions. We are grateful for your prayer, input, faithful giving and those who have been facilitating in the process. The Board decided at its December 2020 meeting that the church will not pursue planting a new church in the near future. The Board supports planting new churches and expanding God's Kingdom. Please continue to pray for God's guidance for the right timing for CEFCLA to engage in this church planting movement. The church plant fund will still be available for tithing so that we will have funds when the time comes to launch.

We thank God for the Board and each of their hearts to seek to honor the Lord and we continue to trust the Lord to give His leadership to CEFC and trust His wisdom and goodness. Please contact the Board and pastoral team if you have any questions.

CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL

NEW QUARTER BEGINS TODAY

Praise the Lord for our children Sunday school teachers! Pray for their Zoom classrooms starting today at 1:30pm.

1st grade: Jessica Tse

2nd grade: Wing Lee

3rd grade: Jonathan Lai

4/5th grade: Victor Shen

We welcome all elementary school kids to join. Please contact Jessica Tse, Children Ministry Assistant at jessicatse@cefcla.org for questions and registration.

PASTORAL COLUMN

“Growing and Going in Time of Crisis”

Pastor Fred Eng

In the April 1, 2020 issue of the UCR News (University of California, Riverside) there is this article which caught my attention: “How might the coronavirus change the world around us?” The author Tess Eyrich wrote the article based on an interview with Richard M. Carpiano, a medical sociologist. In the article, Dr. Carpiano comments that a pandemic like COVID-19 is especially interesting to sociologists because it forces conversations by radically rearranging our social routines.

Indeed, the coronavirus pandemic has forced conversations in all walks of life. And the church is not exempt from it. For the past 10 months, CEFC leaders have been in conversations about how to minister to the church and to the world in this pandemic crisis. What we should focus on in 2021, knowing that the pandemic is not going away any time soon.

With that in mind and after much prayer and consideration, we have come up with this year’s church theme: *Growing and Going in Time of Crisis*, focusing on disciple-making and evangelism.

Here is the brief explanation of the theme:

“Growing” refers to multiplying and maturing disciples. We have been called by Jesus, as His church, to make disciples (Matthew 28). We are after more than seeing initial conversions and baptisms. We aim to see people grow to be more like Jesus—grow to maturity in Christ.

“Going” refers to going into the world as ambassadors of God to share the Good News, moving towards where Jesus wants us to be as a church, to evangelize the community and plant churches, Lord willing.

PASTORAL COLUMN

“Growing and Going” refers to both growing and going are happening at the same time.

“Crisis” refers mainly to the pandemic; however, civil unrest, racial unjust, natural disasters, and decline of Christianity are also part of it.

The theme passage is taken from Colossians 1:28, “He (Christ) is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ” (NIV).

This verse clarifies what we are about—making disciples through proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and maturing disciples to look more and more like Him. The work described in the verse is harder than anyone who has not attempted it can imagine, and might sap the strength of the youngest and fittest of people without the strength which God supplies. (R.C. Lucas, *The Message of Colossians & Philemon*) But then, we have to remember that “Not by might nor by power, but by God’s Spirit” (Zechariah 4:6).

Let’s grow and go!

GET CONNECTED

OUR MISSION

We glorify God by spreading the Gospel through words, deeds and relationships transformed by the Gospel – from ourselves, to our families, our city and the ends of the earth.

CONTACT US

For other language ministry teams please visit www.cefcla.org

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