



Good News for the Pews

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From Pastor Don

Big news: On Sunday, January 15th we had a worship service. That should be no surprise to anyone. Indeed, we have a service every Sunday, rain or shine, pandemic or no pandemic. So basically this is not news. Nor would most anyone think it's worth writing about. We did have a guest preacher, Commissioned Pastor Mary Jane Gordon of Ingleside Presbyterian Church, so it was a special service, and it was in conjunction with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and the *Matthew 25: Dismantling Structural Racism Sunday*. But it wasn't, say, Christmas Day or Easter Sunday. It was essentially just Sunday church with a guest preacher. But what happened was actually amazing.

Because I was not preaching I had the opportunity to worship in the pews just like everyone else. But probably unlike most everyone else I was also taking mental notes on a lot of things. You see I was acutely aware of everything that went into that service, and I feel motivated to share with you what I know is involved each week on Sunday. The process starts, each Monday, with me at my desk. I spend time reflecting on the events of the world and then crafting a liturgy, often using the lectionary to determine which two scripture lessons to use from the proposed six on the calendar for each week, and then I craft the words for the service. This has nothing to do with the work I put in for preparing the sermon, this is just the order of worship that we follow each week. It's also on Monday when I confirm the liturgist and readers, whom I have previously invited to participate.

Next the hymns are chosen by worship planners, reflecting the contours of the liturgical elements. Sometimes digital accompaniments are generated. Sometimes a musician begins to practice for live accompaniment. The liturgy is put into slides for projection in the sanctuary and streaming through the Web. The texts on the slides are checked for clarity and typos. Digital elements are woven around spaces for live video and sound capture and streaming. Colors and images are chosen. Pre-and-post-worship music is selected. Thought goes into camera angles and microphone placements. Worship leaders write and prepare their contributions, weaving into the liturgy, and also reflecting something of themselves. A "flow" video is created so we can visualize the whole service. Promos are drafted and notes sent out along with the Ragsheet to prepare people at home and people in-person to engage in our worship and, we always hope and pray, connect with God in a meaningful way.

On Sundays all these elements are stitched together, often with special decorations or changes to the chancel, made on the fly after the Mandarin congregation exit the sanctuary. And then worship
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Pastor Don *(continued from page 2)*

So at our next worship service I hope you will think about the time and talents of a whole score of people who do everything from crafting liturgy to serving tea. And if you thought something was a little off, extend a measure of grace. Don't forget all the other volunteers on our various standing committees either. It's not just the work of a few people, it is the industry of dozens that makes our church function. And since *many hands make light work* there is always room at the table for someone else to pitch in!

To all of you, I want to express my deep thanks and profound appreciation for our astounding volunteers. It is a blessing to serve God with all of you. We made a difference in someone's faith on Sunday...let's do it again!

And may God continue to bless us all!

Pastor Don

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Stewardship and Resource Committee **by David Soohoo**

Our **English Resource Committee** provides oversight, support and administration of the budget and finances, communications, membership rolls, and stewardship for our Pastor and English Worshiping Community. Along with the Building and Finance Committee of the Session, we are continually engaged in the facility maintenance, safety, security, and space utilization of our building. Our important resources include volunteers and leadership, working together to support the church's mission and ministry. The business of the church continues sustainability and growth for the ministry of the church and its members.

Speaking of Stewardship, it is a discipline that involves every aspect of our lives and in all the stages of life. In sharing the Good News, seeking peace and justice, employing resources and abilities, it is our response to God's grace and goodness. Stewardship requires consideration and deliberation of how our choices affect others, of how we can be good caretakers of the world and the global community, and of how we can best serve God as Disciples of Christ.

From the Confession of 1967, guidance for the statement of our faith, "The church calls all people to use their abilities, their possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted to them by God for the maintenance of their families and the advancement of the common welfare." (The Confession of 1967, 9.46c)

Your donations, gifts, and pledges continue to support our pastor's salary, worship, mission-driven programs, the church building, and the work of the church.

Serving with me on the Resource Committee are Stuart Go, Max Hum, Jackie Jew, Terry Leong, Winchell Quock, Annie Wong and Rev. Don Hammond.

Food Pantry Volunteers in 2022

Listed below are the volunteers who helped operate PCC's food pantry every Saturday in 2022 except for Christmas Eve. Our pantry ended the year with 285 enrollees and 30 people on the waitlist.

Scott Barlow
Huan Qin Cai
David Chan
Jonathan Chan
Pat Chan
Nancy Chee
Ed Chin
Jean Chin
Marie Chin
Diana Chow
Mark Chung
Huen Gin Coi
Wayne Eng
Kevin Feeley
Amy Feng
Sherman Gee
Yukiko Diane Go
Caitlin Gong
Cindy Lee Gong
Mildred Hall
Sharlene Hall
Pastor Guo Hao
Ashley Hew
Alisa Ho
Logan Ho
Cammi Huang
Dahou Huang
Benji Huey
Clinton Huey
Peggy Huey
Jeanette Huie
Ann Hum
Carl Jew
Jackie Jew
Robbie Jew
Shellie Jew
Cynthia Joe
Rev. Ronnie Kaan
Eddie Kam
Lauren Kam
Ryan Kam
Ben Kim
Thomas Kong
Lesley Kraechan
Loi La
Linda Lee
Mary Wong Leong

Terry Leong
Debbie Leung
Matthew Lew
Chiu Mei Li
Jeanine Lim
Jammie Lue
Jared Lue
Jeremy Lue
Justine Lue
Carole Chinn Morales
Kai Mei Ng
David Nguyen
Kelvin Quan
David Sakamoto
Ivy Yee-Sakamoto
Mei Ling Shih
Cuzy Solis
David Soohoo
Shu Gin Tan
Helen Thach
Ivy Truong
Ella Vo
Shirley Wing
Alice Wong
Annie Wong
Darin Wong
Johnny Wong
Kimball Wong
Susie Wong
Sylvia Wong
Vivian Wong
Ruth Wu
Haan Yi
Julie Yu
Abigail Zhen
Lisa Zhen
Liam Zhen
Peter Zhen

Groups and Churches:

Chinese Congregational Church
Church of Latter Day Saints
Cornerstone Trinity Excelsior
GKI Presbyterian Church
Project by Project
Rotary Club of SF Chinatown

