



多倫多中華聯合教會
TORONTO CHINESE UNITED CHURCH

3300 Kennedy Road, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1V 3S8
Telephone / Fax: (416)754-7147 & (416)754-2746

下主日 NEXT SUNDAY			
英文崇拜 上午九時三十分 ENGLISH SERVICE 9:30A.M.			
主禮：黃詠園	LEADER: Maria Wong		
宣道：黎嘉燐牧師	PREACHER: Rev. Dr. Alan Lai		
音樂：The Talking Donkeys	MUSICIANS: The Talking Donkeys		
讀經：林銘輝	READER: Matthew Lum		
司事：黃詠庭、馮錦忠	USHERS: Sarah Wong, Simon Fung		
招待：李國基、譚穎嫻	HOSTS: Henry Lee, Wing Haan Tam		
中文崇拜 上午十一時 CHINESE SERVICE 11:00A.M.			
主禮：杜國豪	LEADER: Wilson To		
宣道：黎嘉燐牧師	PREACHER: Rev. Dr. Alan Lai		
司琴：黃布愛玲	ORGANIST: Regina Wong		
傳譯：曾陳侃明(國語)	INTERPRETER: Olivia Tsang (Mandarin)		
司事：陳應楠 梁杜敏儀	USHERS: Ying Nam Chan Loretta Leung		
陳永佳 陳孔玉娟	Edwin Chan Janet Chan		
音響：廖永輝	PA SYSTEM: Peter Liu		
簡報：譚穎嫻	POWERPOINT: Wing Haan Tam		
點算獻金義工 OFFERING COUNTING VOLUNTEERS			
譚穎嫻	蕭仁瀚	Wing Haan Tam	Alfred Siu
鍾國榮	鍾蘇寶珍	Alfred Chung	Frances Chung
郭黃潔萍	黃詠園	Kitty Kwok	Maria Wong

黎嘉燐牧師：每星期一休假

黃布愛玲行政幹事：每星期三休假

黃文助理幹事工作時間：每星期一、三及四上午十時半至下午二時半

Rev. Dr. Alan Lai day off: every Monday.

Regina Wong (Administrative Secretary) day off: every Wednesday.

Wendy Huang (Assistant Secretary) Working Hours: 10:30am-2:30pm, Mon, Wed. & Thur.



我們的使命是以耶穌基督為首，
以上帝無條件的愛為心，
把教會帶到人群，
把人群帶到教會。

With Jesus Christ as the Church's foundation,
and living God's unconditional love,
we bring the Church to the people and
we bring the people to the Church.

【本堂使命宣言 TCUC Mission Statement】

大齋節第四主日

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

二零一四年三月三十日 MARCH 30, 2014

GATHERING AND PRAISE

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this time of worship!

God's goodness and mercy have followed us day by day.

Welcome to this time of worship!

Christ's light shines ahead of us, showing us the right direction.

Welcome to this time of worship!

The Spirit of God is here, knowing our hearts and loving us.

SONGS OF PRAISE

"Above All"

PRAYER OF APPROACH

God of Jesus, who shared our humanity, keep us company on this Lenten journey so that we may find the path to life. **Amen.**

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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

(We greet one another in Jesus' name saying "the Peace of God be with you".)

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 23:1-6

(please follow the projection screen)

SONG OF PRAISE: MV #85

"Tale, O Take Me as I Am"

(Our offering is received during the song)

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(please stand)*

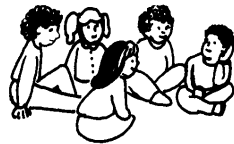
God generously supplies all we need; goodness and grace follow us every day. In response to God's love, we share with others.

The light of Christ has shined in our lives;

bless with light and love all those who receive these gifts,

we pray in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World. Amen.

(The young people leave for their groups after the Offertory Prayer)



LISTENING TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING *(please see p. 6-7)*

John 9:1-41

REFLECTION

"An Invisible Truth"

SONG OF PRAISE: VU #619

"Healer of our Every Ill"

SENT TO LIVE THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(please see p. 9-10)

M&S FUND TODAY – MINUTES FOR MISSION

"Open-Door Policy"

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

SONG OF PRAISE: VU #657

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

DISMISSAL & BLESSING

God's goodness and mercy will follow us day after day.

We leave this place of worship trusting in God.

Christ's light shines ahead of us to show us the way.

We leave this place of worship with lives open to God.

The Spirit of God is always with us, knows our hearts, and loves us.

We leave this place of worship with lives open to each other.

Go in peace, in the love of God who is creating, God who bears our pain, and God who comforts and guides, now and always. **Amen.**

After the sung "Amen" we take a few moments of quiet

We thank everyone who shared their ministries in worship today

LEADER: Betty Yip

REFLECTION: Rev. Dr. Alan Lai

MUSICIANS: The Talking Donkeys

READER: Karstein Yip

USHERS: Jessica Chan, Simon Fung

HOSTS: Olivia, Chris & Noelle Tsang

AV/SANCTUARY: Alexandra Lum/Joanne Chan, Simon Fung, Kin Chan,
John Feng/Chauncey Hui/Chris Tsang

SUNDAY SCH. TEACHERS: Cathy Seto, Sarah Wong

上午十一時中文崇拜程序 CHINESE WORSHIP SERVICE

主禮：何洪標	Leader: William Ho
宣道：黎嘉燐牧師	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Alan Lai
司琴：黃布愛玲	Organist: Regina Wong
傳譯：曾陳侃明(國語)	Interpreter: Olivia Tsang (Mandarin)
司事：鍾國榮 梁玉雲	Ushers: Alfred Chung Grace Leung
梁祖欽 梁盧潤儀	Charles Leung Yun Yee Leung
音響：廖永輝	PA System: Peter Liu
簡報：廖琪珍	Power Point: Kitty Liu

電琴序樂

ORGAN PRELUDE

唱詩第506首

「佳美時日歌」

OPENING HYMN #506

"All Beautiful The March of Days"

宣召

CALL TO WORSHIP

著往 (第625首)

同唱「主在聖殿中」

INTROIT (#625)

"The Lord Is in His Holy Temple"

祈禱

PRAYER

主禱文 (第649首)

同唱「我們在天上的父」

THE LORD'S PRAYER (#649)

"Our Father ..."

獻詩

「真神之愛」(青年聖歌I -134)

(歌詞請閱大螢幕)

伴奏：梁范麗儀

ANTHEM

"The Love of God" (by F. M. Lehman)

(Lyric on the projection screen)

Accompanist: Lilian Leung

兒童信息

由黎嘉燐牧師主講，信息後

兒童往樓下參加主日學。

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are dismissed to Sunday School after the message led by Rev. Alan Lai.

啓應文*

詩篇23:1-6 (舊約第673頁)

RESPONSIVE READING*

Psalms 23:1-6 (NEB p. 627)

讀經*

約翰福音9:1-41 (新約第140頁)

SCRIPTURE READING*

John 9:1-41 (see p. 5)

唱詩第381首

「巨匠歌」

HYMN #381

"O Master Workman of The Race"

宣道*

「看不見的真相」

SERMON*

"An Invisible Truth"

榮耀頌

(歌詞在聖詩封底內頁)

GLORIA PATRI

(Hymn book inside back cover)

會務報告*

PARISH CONCERNS*

奉獻

主日捐 (紅袋)

建設及維修基金捐 (藍袋)

THE OFFERINGS

Sunday Offering (red bags)

Building & Maintenance Fund Offering (blue bags)

獻禮文 (第644首)

「萬物都是從主而來」

OFFERTORY PRAYER (#644)

"All Things Come of Thee"

祝福

BENEDICTION

阿們頌 (第675首)

CHORAL AMEN (#675)

唱詩第475首

「夜盡光天歌」

RECESSIONAL HYMN #475

"Father, We Praise Thee, Now The Night Is Over"

電琴殿樂

ORGAN POSTLUDE

(*)後座有即時傳譯設備，譯為國語(撥M字)及英語(撥E字)。如需聽筒或簡體字聖經請向司事長索取。Simultaneous translation into Mandarin (switch to M) and English (switch to E) is available. Please obtain the headphone or Simplified Chinese Character Bible from the Chief Usher.

本主日獻花

: 趙柏林、張瑞芳夫婦

本主日獻刊

: 劉明新、黃寶娟夫婦
趙柏林、張瑞芳夫婦

今日講道經文

約翰福音9:1-41 (和合本新約聖經第140頁)

耶穌過去的時候、看見一個人生來是瞎眼的。門徒問耶穌說、拉比、這人生來是瞎眼的、是誰犯了罪、是這人呢、是他父母呢。耶穌回答說、也不是這人犯了罪、也不是他父母犯了罪、是要在他身上顯出上帝的作為來。趁著白日、我們必須作那差我來者的工。黑夜將到、就沒有人能作工了。我在世上的時候、是世上的光。耶穌說了這話、就吐唾沫在地上、用唾沫和泥抹在瞎子的眼睛上、對他說、你往西羅亞池子裏去洗、他去一洗、回頭就看見了。

他的鄰舍、和那素常見他是討飯的、就說、這不是那從前坐著討飯的人麼。有人說、是他。又有人說、不是、卻是像他。他自己說、是我。他們對他說、你的眼睛是怎麼開的呢。他回答說、有一個人名叫耶穌。他和泥抹我的眼睛、對我說、你往西羅亞池子去洗。我去一洗、就看見了。他們說、那個人在那裏。他說、我不知道。他們把從前瞎眼的人、帶到法利賽人那裏。耶穌和泥開他眼睛的日子是安息日。

法利賽人也問他是怎麼得看見的。瞎子對他們說、他把泥抹在我的眼睛上、我去一洗、就看見了。法利賽人中有的說、這個人不是從上帝來的、因為他不守安息日。又有人說、一個罪人怎能行這樣的神蹟呢。他們就起了分爭。他們又對瞎子說、他既然開了你的眼睛、你說他是怎樣的人呢。他說、是個先知。猶太人不信他從前是瞎眼、後來能看見的、等到叫了他的父母來、問他們說、這是你們的兒子麼。你們說他生來是瞎眼的、如今怎麼能看見了呢。他父母回答說、他是我們的兒子、生來就瞎眼、這是我們知道的。至於他如今怎麼能看見、我們卻不知道。是誰開了他的眼睛、我們也不知道。他已經成了人、你們問他罷。他自己必能說。他父母說這話、是怕猶太人、因為猶太人已經商議定了、若有認耶穌是基督的、要把他趕出會堂。因此他父母說、他已經成了人、你們問他罷。所以法利賽人第二次叫了那從前瞎眼的人來、對他說、你該將榮耀歸給上帝。我們知道這人是個罪人。

他說、他是個罪人不是、我不知道。有一件事我知道。從前我是眼瞎的、如今能看見了。他們就問他說、他向你作甚麼、是怎麼開了你的眼睛呢。他回答說、我方纔告訴你們、你們不

聽。為甚麼又要聽呢。莫非你們也要作他的門徒麼。他們就罵他說、你是他的門徒。我們是摩西的門徒。上帝對摩西說話、是我們知道的。只是這個人、我們不知道他從那裏來。那人回答說、他開了我的眼睛、你們竟不知道他從那裏來、這真是奇怪。我們知道上帝不聽罪人。惟有敬奉上帝遵行他旨意的、上帝纔聽他。從創世以來、未曾聽見有人把生來是瞎子的眼睛開了。這人若不是從上帝來的、甚麼也不能作。他們回答說、你全然生在罪孽中、還要教訓我們麼。於是把他趕出去了。耶穌聽說他們把他趕出去。後來遇見他、就說、你信上帝的兒子麼。他回答說、主阿、誰是上帝的兒子、叫我信他呢。耶穌說、你已經看見他、現在和你說話的就是他。他說、主阿、我信。就拜耶穌。耶穌說、我為審判到這世上來、叫不能看見的、可以看見。能看見的、反瞎了眼。同他在那裏的法利賽人、聽見這話、就說、難道我們也瞎了眼麼。耶穌對他們說、你們若瞎了眼、就沒有罪了。但如今你們說、我們能看見、所以你們的罪還在。

WORDS FOR TODAY'S SERMON

John 9:1-41 (New American Standard Bible)

As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Jesus answered, "*It was neither that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came *back* seeing.

Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?" Others were saying, "This is he," *still* others were saying, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the one." So they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went away and washed, and I received sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet." The Jews then did not believe *it* of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner."

He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear *it* again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?" They reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and *yet* He opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out. Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him. And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

代禱事項 PRAYER CONCERNS :

1. 失蹤的馬航370號客機已被宣布墜毀在印度洋，讓我們記念所有遇難者及其家屬。願上帝安慰哀慟的人們，抹掉他們的眼淚。求主賜勇氣和智慧給所有搜索飛機人士，可以盡快找到關鍵證據，解開迷團。

We remember the victims and their families as the Malaysian Airlines 370 that has been declared crashed in the Indian Ocean. May God comfort all who mourn and wipe out their tears. Give courage and wisdom to all plane searchers and hasten the hope of recovering key evidences to solve the mystery of its disappearance.

2. 多倫多市長競選進行時，讓我們為所有參選者禱告，使他們為多市的福祉擬定計劃及具有遠見。願他們存著謙恭服務的心，誠實正直施政。在選舉日，程序被監察達到公正和選出最佳的領導人。

As the election for the mayor of City of Toronto approaches, we pray for all the candidates as they outline their plans and visions for the city. May all carry with them a heart for humble service and lead with integrity. On the Election Day, may a justice system be observed and the best leader be elected.

3. 讓我們為即將來臨的復活節崇拜及準備工作禱告。在這聖週裏，拆除存在世上各種分裂的城牆，及我們教會裏的眾信徒憑著信念放下過往的仇恨，反而專注於上帝的奧秘，因為每一個人都是按神的形象被造的。

We pray for the upcoming Easter services and preparations. In this Holy season we pray for breaking down of the walls of division throughout the world and in our church. We pray for the people of faith might put aside their past animosity and instead, focus on the mystery of God and that each person is made in the image of God.

歡迎 WELCOME :

1. 歡迎您參加本堂的主日崇拜！英文崇拜後，歡迎參加在懷熙中心舉行的茶聚。

Welcome to our Sunday Services! We are glad you have come to worship with us today. After 9:30am English service, please join us for fellowship and refreshment in T.H. Chan Memorial Hall.

2. 9:30時主日學在5-6室及圖書室授課，11:00時主日學在14-17及20室授課。歡迎2-17歲兒童青少年們參加主日學。

Our Sunday School teachers look forward to learning with you again. 9:30 am service students will meet in Rooms 5-6 & 9. 11 am service students will meet in Rooms 14-17 & 20. Everyone in the ages 2-17 is welcome to attend

3. 本堂網頁<http://tcuc.ca>現正重新整理，新網頁將於日後公佈。
The church website <http://tcuc.ca> is under reconstruction, the new website will be announced when it is ready.

本週聚會與活動 ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK :

1. 英文崇拜歌頌小組練習於中文崇拜後在正堂舉行。
The Talking Donkeys will rehearse promptly following the close of the 11am worship service every Sunday.
2. 教會詩班練習於下午1:30在正堂舉行。
Church Choir will rehearse every Sunday at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary.
3. 團契健康排舞於下午2:15在教會懷熙中心舉行。
Fellowship Line Dance will be held every Sunday in the gymnasium at 2:15pm.
4. 羽毛球活動於每星期一晚上8:00在教會懷熙中心舉行，由劉鎮康擔任靈修。
Badminton is held every Monday night starting at 8:00 pm. Players of all levels are welcome. Devotion will be led by Calin Lau.
5. 地板曲棍球活動於每星期五晚上8:00在教會懷熙中心舉行，由Bryan Siu帶領本週靈修。詳情請向尹容俊查詢。
Floor Hockey is held every Friday night starting at 8:00pm in the gymnasium. Devotion will be led by Bryan Siu this week. For details please contact Samuel Yoon.

會務消息 CHURCH NEWS :

1. 黎嘉燐牧師新任命 **New Appointment for the Rev. Dr. Alan Lai**

專責委員會和人事組以感恩的心宣佈多倫多議會批准黎嘉燐牧師新的任命，他為多倫多中華聯合教會全職暫署牧師，職期由2014年7月1日至2015年6月30日。

The Commission and the Personnel Task Group are pleased to announce that Toronto Conference has approved the appointment of The Reverend Dr. Alan Lai as fulltime supply minister at TCUC for the coming pastoral year, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

2. “植樹節”四月廿七日 **10,000 Trees for the Rouge on Sunday April 27, 2014 after service**

本堂今年將再次響應市政府舉行的“植樹節”活動，在市郊荒蕪崎嶇不平的地面種植，去綠化地球。活動會提供接送巴士服務，車站位於Walmart Plaza (500 Copper Creek drive, Markham)。義工登記表已張貼在團契事工壁報版上，有意者請在報名表填上你的名字，並可向雷李樹鈴查詢詳情。

TCUC will be participating once again in the “10,000 Trees for the Rouge” Tree planting in April around Earth Day – to add more green to the planet earth. Everyone is invited to join the event. Shuttle bus service is available at Walmart Plaza at 500 Copper Creek drive, Markham. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Fellowship notice board. If you are interested for more details, please contact Alice Lui.

3. 聖週特別崇拜 **Holy Week's Special Services**

本堂將於聖週舉行以下特別崇拜，請預時間攜親友參加。Our church will hold the following special services during the Holy Week. Please mark the dates in your calendar and invite friends and relatives to join us.

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| ☆ 濯足節 Maundy Thursday | 四月十七日(星期四)
晚上6時30分
簡單便餐和崇拜 | Thursday, April 17, 2014
at 6:30 p.m.
Light meal and Worship |
| ☆ 受難節 Good Friday | 四月十八日(星期五)
上午11時
聯合崇拜 | Friday, April 18, 2014
at 11:00 a.m.
Joint Worship Service |
| ☆ 復活節 Easter Sunday | 四月二十日(主日)
上午10時30分
聯合崇拜及午餐 | Sunday, April 20, 2014
at 10:30 a.m.
Joint Worship and Luncheon |

上主日講章簡述

「一個美麗的片段」（約翰福音4:5-42）

真正的美麗能使我們驚訝，擴闊我們的視野，鼓勵我們投入服事上帝的創造。今日的福音經文是有關一個撒瑪利亞婦人與耶穌對話。耶穌打開這位婦人的心門，使她認識耶穌是誰。但最重要的是耶穌讓這位婦人認識她自己是誰。知道耶穌是誰又如何呢？世上有不少人都知道耶穌是誰，但有多少人因為認識耶穌使他們知道自己是誰，可以在世界上作甚麼？這個片段之所以美麗，是因為有有心人能夠看到面孔背後的需要；是因為曾經有人願意推開人為自己所定的界限城牆，包括個人的偏見，宗教及文化的隔膜，以一個尊重的態度，接觸一個曾被傷害的婦人。

撒瑪利亞這個婦人多數曾被排拆及誤解。作為一位撒瑪利亞人，當日同一時代跟隨上帝的人說上帝已經不愛她。說她的文化及生活方式失去上帝的祝福。耶穌並不接納這些可笑甚至是滑稽的觀點。耶穌不一定要經過撒瑪利亞，但耶穌不介意。他沒有“撒瑪利亞恐懼症”。這個婦人成為最佳的傳福音的人，是耶穌並不介意她是撒瑪利亞人。我們在世上見到各樣紛爭，是我們為自己建立的各式各樣的城牆。這些城牆並不容易摧毀，需要從上而來的智慧及勇氣。我們需要耶穌給我們活水洗淨我們的心靈深處，洗淨我們心裏的誤解、仇恨。我祈求上帝首先洗淨我們自己的眼睛，拿走對他人的偏見。突破需要有勇氣拿開這些隔膜，停止審判的心態。反而看對方是一位重要的人物，都有上帝的形象。看見對方是人，一個有尊嚴的人。耶穌看見她美麗的一面，使她看見雖然她曾經被歧視、被欺壓、被排斥甚至被利用；但這並不是她生命的全部，這都不是她一生的結局。她可以有這樣的改變是上帝欣賞她，使她遇見彌賽亞，使到她悲慘的故事有改寫的可能性。

只有恩典可以改變人，曾經被無私捨己的愛接觸的人能夠以無私捨己的愛待人。被傷害的人不一定是他們沒有宗教，也不是沒有聽過宗教。相反有時是有宗教信仰的人的言語與行為使他們受傷害。教會的福音工作需要切實地與有需要的人同行，讓他們經驗愛的行動與生活。過去了的日子甚至是過去了的錯誤，並不一定有彌補的機會。但這都不是最重要的，重要的是我們今天以及未知的未來我們如何與上帝同工。透過我們的生活及言行，讓接觸我們的人感覺到溫馨。我深信透過認識十字架，生命的故事可以有美麗的終結。

LAST SUNDAY'S SERMON SUMMARY

“A Beautiful Moment” (John 4: 5-42)

True beauty allows us to be at awe, expand our horizons, and encourage us to serve God's creation. Today's text is about a Samaritan woman talking to Jesus. Jesus opened her heart and let her see who Jesus is. But most importantly, Jesus let her see who she was. What is gained from knowing Jesus? There are many people who know Jesus. But how many of these individuals know who they are and what they can do in the world because of knowing Jesus? What makes this moment beautiful is that there is a loving individual who can see the needs beyond the face. It is because there is an individual who is willing to push aside the barriers we set up for ourselves, these include our biases, religious and cultural gaps; but willing to meet with respects a woman who had been hurt.

This Samaritan woman most likely had been rejected and misunderstood. As a Samaritan, her contemporary followers of God said God didn't love her anymore. Her culture and lifestyle made her lose God's love. Jesus didn't accept these ridiculous viewpoints. Jesus didn't have to go through the village in Samaria. But he didn't mind. Jesus doesn't have “Samaria-phobia.” This woman could become the best evangelist there is because Jesus didn't mind the fact that she is a Samaritan. We see so many quarrels and warfare in the world because we set up various walls. These walls aren't easy to take down. We need wisdom and courage from above. We need Jesus to give us the living waters to wash our deepest souls, and to wash away our misunderstanding and anger. I pray that God first cleanse our eyes and take away our biases. Breakthrough needs courage to destroy barriers and judgmental attitudes. In contrast, we will then be able to see the person as an important human being, having been created in the image of God. We learn to see a human being behind the face, a dignified human being. Jesus saw the beautiful side of this woman. Although she had been discriminated against, despised, rejected, and even used, Jesus let her see that these weren't the complete defining factors of her life. This was not how her life story ends. She experienced transformation because God valued her and let her meet the Messiah. This allowed her sad story to have a chance to change.

Only grace can change people. People who have been touched by selfless love may love others with selfless love. People who have been hurt may not necessarily be that way because they don't have religion or have not heard about religions. Quite the opposite, sometimes it is what religious people have said and done that hurt them. The mistakes in the past may not have a chance to be corrected. But this is not the most important thing. The most important thing is how we partner with God from this day onward, through our words and deeds to let people who come into contact with us feel blessed. I believe through knowing the cross, anyone's life story can have a beautiful end.