



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：劉雋豪	LEADER: Felix Lau		
宣道：黎嘉燐牧師	PREACHER: Rev. Dr. Alan Lai		
音樂：The Talking Donkeys	MUSICIANS: The Talking Donkeys		
讀經：許宗彥	READER: Chauncey Hui		
司事：黃詠庭、馮錦忠	USHERS: Sarah Wong, Simon Fung		
招待：雷李樹鈴、譚穎嫻	HOSTS: Alice Lui, Wing Haan Tam		
中文崇拜 上午十一時 CHINESE SERVICE 11:00A.M.			
主禮：陳應楠	LEADER: Ying Nam Chan		
宣道：黎嘉燐牧師	PREACHER: Rev. Dr. Alan Lai		
司琴：梁范麗儀	ORGANIST: Lilian Leung		
傳譯：曾陳侃明(國語)	INTERPRETERS: Olivia Tsang (Mandarin)		
司事：陳廷龍 吳純儀	USHERS: Alan Chan Gloria Sham		
林永豐 林蔡佩儀	Alfred Lam Bonnie Lam		
音響：廖永輝	PA SYSTEM: Peter Liu		
簡報：梁范麗儀 譚穎嫻	POWERPOINT: Lilian Leung Wing Haan Tam		
點算獻金義工 OFFERING COUNTING VOLUNTEERS			
鍾國榮	鍾蘇寶珍	Alfred Chung	Frances Chung
李葛燕萍	郭黃潔萍	Claudia Li	Kitty Kwok
區思穎	區賈吟升	Albert Au	Esther Au

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】

復活節第三主日(聖餐主日)

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (COMMUNION SUNDAY)

二零一四年五月四日 MAY 4, 2014

GATHERING AND PRAISE

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of our journeys, we meet in your presence.

We are called by your love.

Open our hearts and minds to your presence in our worship, in the scriptures, and in each other.

We are called by your love.

SONG OF PRAISE:

“We Fall Down” & “O Sacred King”

PRAYER APPROACH

O God, we gather with open hearts ready to receive the new life you give. Open our eyes, we pray, that your presence might be revealed in the community that is gathered here, and in the bread that is broken and shared.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

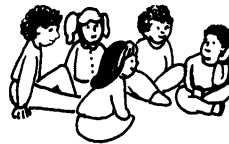
Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, 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

Led by Rev Alan Lai



SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

(please follow the projection screen)

SONG OF PRAISE: VU #649

“Walk with Me”

(Our offering is received during the song)

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(please stand)*

God of our journey, empower us to be a community of invitation, of welcome, and of hospitality. May we respond to your presence in our lives by walking alongside others; especially those who walk in the shadow of

suffering of any kind, those who are bereaved, and those who feel as though they walk alone. Guide us to witness to your work in our lives and to the resurrections we have experienced in ways that deepen community and mutual love. **Amen.**

(The young people leave for their groups after the prayer)

LISTENING TO THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: *(please see p. 6)*

Luke 24: 13–35

REFLECTION

“On the Road to Emmaus”

SONG OF PRAISE:

“We Come to the Hungry Feast”

SENT TO LIVE THE WORD

M&S FUND TODAY – MINUTES FOR MISSION

“Easing Past Ills”

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION *(please see insert)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(please see p. 7–12)*

SONG OF PRAISE: VU #460

“All Who Hunger”

DISMISSAL & BLESSING

May Christ who is with us in our joys and sorrows, at all times and in all places, shine the light of his resurrection on the road ahead, surround you with his grace, and uphold you with his peace and purpose for your lives.

Amen.

After the sung “Amen” we take a few moments of quiet

We thank everyone who shared their ministries in worship today

LEADER: JoAnn Wong

REFLECTION: Rev. Dr. Alan Lai

MUSICIANS: The Talking Donkeys

READER: Alyssa Hum

USHERS: Simon Fung, Matthew Lum

HOSTS: Kenneth & Betty Yip’s family

AV/SANCTUARY: Alexandra Lum/Joanne Chan, Simon Fung, Kin Chan,

John Feng/Chauncey Hui/Chris Tsang

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS: Calin Lau, Maria Wong/Alexandra Lum

上午十一時中文崇拜程序 CHINESE WORSHIP SERVICE

主禮：招葉中絢	Leader: Chung Shun Chiu
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)	Interpreters: Olivia Tsang (Mandarin)
司事及聖餐襄禮：	USHERS & COMMUNION ASSISTANTS：
何洪標 何李美采	William Ho Amy Ho
鍾國榮 鍾蘇寶珍	Alfred Chung Frances Chung
音響：廖永輝	PA System: Peter Liu
簡報：蕭仁瀚	Power Point: Alfred Siu

電琴序樂	ORGAN PRELUDE
唱詩第193首 「主復活歌」	HYMN #193 "Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now"
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 「基督復活了」 (歌詞請閱大螢幕) 伴奏：梁范麗儀	ANTHEM "Now Is Christ Risen" (by Fred B. Holton) (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116:1-4; 12-19 (舊約第745頁)	RESPONSIVE READING* Psalm 116:1-4; 12-19 (NEB p. 716)
讀經* 路加福音24:13-35 (新約第121頁)	SCRIPTURE READING* Luke 24:13-35(see p. 6)
唱詩第390首 「願主悅納歌」	HYMN #390 "Saviour, Thy Dying Love"

宣道* 「以馬忤斯的路上」	SERMON* "On the Road to Emmaus"
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) - 聖餐捐(藍袋)	THE OFFERINGS - Sunday Offering (red bags) - Holy Communion 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"
唱詩第248首 「靈牧歌」 (同唱第1, 3及5節)	HYMN #248 "Shepherd Of Souls, Refresh And Bless" (Sing verses 1, 3 & 5)
聖餐	HOLY COMMUNION
祝福	BENEDICTION
阿們頌 (第675首)	CHORAL AMEN (#675)
唱詩第451首 「高唱主名歌」	RECESSIONAL HYMN #451 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"
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
： 劉治平牧師、劉高妙玲師母紀念
朱壬阜、余彩珍記念黃楊子潔

本主日獻刊 | 趙柏林、張瑞芳
： 劉治平牧師、劉高妙玲師母紀念

今日講道經文

路加福音24:13-35 (和合本新約聖經第121頁)

正當那日，門徒中有兩個人往一個村子去。這村子名叫以馬忤斯，離耶路撒冷約有二十五裡。他們彼此談論所遇見的這一切事。正談論相問的時候，耶穌親自就近他們，和他們同行，只是他們的眼睛迷糊了，不認識他。耶穌對他們說：「你們走路彼此談論的是什麼事呢？」他們就站住，臉上帶著愁容。二人中有一個名叫革流巴的回答說：「你在耶路撒冷作客，還不知道這幾天在那裡所出的事嗎？」耶穌說：「什麼事呢？」他們說：「就是拿撒勒人耶穌的事。他是個先知，在神和眾百姓面前說話行事都有大能，祭司長和我們的官府竟把他解去，定了死罪，釘在十字架上。但我們素來所盼望、要贖以色列民的就是他。不但如此，而且這事成就，現在已經三天了。再者，我們中間有幾個婦女使我們驚奇，她們清早到了墳墓那裡，不見他的身體，就回來告訴我們說看見了天使顯現，說他活了。又有我們的幾個人往墳墓那裡去，所遇見的正如婦女們所說的，只是沒有看見他。」耶穌對他們說：「無知的人哪，先知所說的一切話，你們的心信得太遲鈍了！基督這樣受害，又進入他的榮耀，豈不是應當的嗎？」於是從摩西和眾先知起，凡經上所指著自己的話，都給他們講解明白了。

將近他們所去的村子，耶穌好像還要往前行，他們卻強留他，說：「時候晚了，日頭已經平西了，請你同我們住下吧！」耶穌就進去，要同他們住下。到了坐席的時候，耶穌拿起餅來，祝謝了，掰開，遞給他們。他們的眼睛明亮了，這才認出他來。忽然耶穌不見了。他們彼此說：「在路上他和我們說話，給我們講解聖經的時候，我們的心豈不是火熱的嗎？」他們就立時起身，回耶路撒冷去。正遇見十一個使徒和他們的同人聚集在一處，說：「主果然復活，已經現給西門看了。」兩個人就把路上所遇見和掰餅的時候怎麼被他們認出來的事，都述說了一遍。

WORDS FOR TODAY'S SERMON

Luke 24:13-35 (New American Standard Bible)

And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. One *of them*, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon." They *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

代禱事項 PRAYER CONCERNS :

1. 請為居住長期護理院／醫院或身體軟弱之弟兄姊妹禱告：
陳劉錦桃、張趙小蓉、賈王素蘭、趙柏林、蔣星榆、朱三多、許伍美珍、江瑞蓮、梁麥淑勤、廖歐美珍、巫區煥珍、潘倩、冼黃寶珍、蘇秀橋、譚何順萍、衛簡民慧、衛尚義和黃鄭珍珠，願他／她們早日康服。

Please pray for those who are in long-term care facilities/hospitals or have health problem: Kam To Chan, Joanne Cheung, Su Lan Chia, Pak Lam Chiu, S.Y. Chiang, William Chu, Mei Chuen Hui, Shui Lin Kong, Sook Kwan Leung, Mee Chen Liu, Woon Jan Moe, Chun Poon, Po Chun Sin, Sau Kiu So, Stella Tam, Katie Wai, Richard Wai and Chun Chu Wong.

2. 復活的主，你呼召我們成為你的寬恕和改變生命的工具。你如此信任我們去做福音的使者，與人分享我們心中的盼望。求主幫助我們以智慧、溫柔和恩典去過見證的生活。將我們的恐懼轉變為謙遜的事奉，並幫助我們使陌生人、貧窮人，和孤獨人的身上去感受你的臨在。

Risen Lord, you have called us to be your instruments of forgiveness and renewed life. Incredibly you have confidence in us to be evangelists sharing the hope that is within us. In our life of witnessing, help us to do it with wisdom, with gentleness and with grace. Transform our fears into humble service and help us recognize you in the faces of the strangers, the poor, and the lonely.

3. 我們為本堂各項球類及外展事工禱告，包括羽毛球、壘球、團契健康排舞、寒冬送暖流活動，以及其它社區服務等等。願每一個想來了解我們的人都感受神的國度。願這些事工有如同主上帝歡迎我們一樣的果效。

We pray for the sports and outreach ministries of our congregation that no one would come to know us and feel they are unwelcome in the kingdom of God. We pray for the badminton ministry, softball ministry, line dance ministry, English classes ministry, Out-of-the-Cold program, and other community serving activities. May the ministries be as welcoming as our Lord is to us.

歡迎 WELCOME :

1. 歡迎您參加本堂的主日崇拜！今天是聖餐主日，凡尋求耶穌基督的愛者都在被邀請之列，一起分享這個聖禮。

Welcome to our Sunday Service! We are glad you have come to worship with us today. **Today is Communion Sunday.** All who seek to love Jesus are invited to share in this sacrament.

2. 英文崇拜後，歡迎參加在懷熙中心舉行的茶聚。
After 9:30am service please join us for fellowship and refreshment in the T.H. Chan Memorial Hall.

3. 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. 9:30am students will meet in Room 5-6 and in Room 9. 11:00am students will meet in Room 14-17 & 20. Everyone in the ages 2-17 is welcome to attend.

4. 本堂網頁<http://tcuc.ca>重新啓用，教會消息、事工、活動及宣道已上載供瀏覽。

The **church website is online.** Please visit <http://tcuc.ca> to keep up-to-date with events and resources.

本週聚會與活動 ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK :

1. 康體瑜珈活動於今主日上午11:30至下午1:00在教會一號室舉行。詳情請向張林素恩查詢。

Yoga Session for Wellness & Fitness is held today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Room 1. Please speak to Ingrid Chong for details.

2. 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 be rehearsing promptly following the close of the 11am worship service.

3. 教會詩班練習於下午1:30在正堂舉行。

Church Choir will be rehearsing at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary.

4. 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 in the gymnasium at 2:15pm.

5. 羽毛球／其他球類活動於每星期一及星期五晚上8:00在懷熙中心舉行。星期一靈修由劉鎮康擔任。

Badminton/Sports are held every Monday and Friday night starting at 8:00 pm. Players of all levels are welcome. Monday devotion will be led by Calin Lau.

1. 問卷調查 Questionnaire

為解決目前常務基金財政狀況面臨挑戰，財務及行政組今日發出問卷給大家，以集益廣思，協助本堂選擇可行的方案。請大家於 2014 年 5 月 18 日或之前將問卷放入設置友誼廳的收集箱內。

In order to address the current financial situation in our Operation Fund, the Finance and Administration Task Group asks for your participation in a survey. Please provide your feedback by returning the completed questionnaire to the collection box in the Fellowship Lounge on or before May 18, 2014.

2. 感謝你愛護地球 Thank you so much for loving our Earth

感謝所有參加上週植樹節活動的兄姊。當日風和日麗，空氣清新，大會提供的小蛋糕美味可口，團契生活其樂融融。

A big thank you to those who joined the tree planting event and had fun on Sunday. The weather was good and the air was so fresh. The cup cake treat was delicious. The fellowship was lovely and warm.

3. 正堂外借 Using our church premises

堂址管理小組批准堅尼地公立小學於2014年5月8日(本星期四)使用教會正堂舉行兩場音樂會，下午一場給予學生及教師們，晚場供家長及社區欣賞。

Our Building Management Task Group approved the use of our Sanctuary by the Kennedy Public School for their Spring Concert on Thursday, May 8, 2014. One performance will take place in the afternoon for the school students and staff, and another will be in the evening for parents and other family members.

4. 原創短片比賽 Video contest

加拿大聯合教會為6月27日的加拿大青少年多元文化節舉辦短片創作比賽。年齡屆乎14-25歲的青少年人可以藉此提交原創短片的機會贏取豐富獎品。詳情張貼在牆報版上供大家察閱。

The United Church of Canada is launching a video contest for youth and young adults, aged 14-25, in connection with Canadian Multiculturalism Day on June 27, 2014. Youth and young adults can submit an original short video for a chance to win exciting prizes! Details posted on the notice board for your information.

「記念猶太人的悲哀」(約翰福音20:19-31)

復活節的第二個主日必定是讀出約翰福音第二十章第十九節至三十一節。經文一開始就這樣說：那日晚上，門徒所在的地方因怕猶太人門都關了。耶穌來站在當中，對他們說：願你們平安。為何約翰說：門徒懼怕猶太人，把門都關了？甚麼是猶太人？門徒不是猶太人麼？耶穌不是猶太人麼？我們讀的這本聖經由頭至尾都是以猶太人的思想形態及文化背景而寫成的。忽略猶太人的社會文化及政治背景，錯誤明白聖經的機會就越大。從非猶太人的角度來讀這篇聖經，曾經帶給基督信仰的人對猶太人最大的誤解。就是以為基督信仰與猶太人及其宗教文化是敵對的。今日稱為(Yom HaShoah)，是猶太人紀念六百萬猶太人在納粹黨時代被殺 (Holocaust)，其中一百萬是孩童。六百萬猶太人在納粹時代被屠殺。學者指出，這並不是基督信仰的作為。但他們也指出，基督信仰為大屠殺提供一個信仰的根基，或者說是一個錯誤的假設。大屠殺之所以發生含有重要的信仰因素。

今天有很多華人信徒接納的基督信仰也基於這個假設，說：猶太教是一個不合神心意的宗教信仰。雖然他們也讀聖經，但是猶太人對信仰的理解是不完整的。又因為他們不接納耶穌是彌賽亞，沒有新約，上帝已經離開了他們，不用他們。耶穌來的其中一個目的是要指出猶太人及猶太教的錯誤。今天我要問華人信徒這個問題：是誰人教導華人認識基督信仰的呢？我們是如何認識耶穌的呢？我們是如何認識猶太教的呢？對猶太人的認識是否與過往的西方教會的假設一樣呢？若我們跳過嚴謹地處理猶太人被屠殺這件事，華人教會及信徒有可能會重複基督信仰過去的錯誤，我們就必要面對評價尊重傳統的得與失。另外，幫助當日的猶太人有非常切身的生命危險。研究這群人的學者指出，他們能夠有這份的勇氣，是因為他們有獨立思考的能力。雖然他們活在一個社會氣氛說猶太人是次等的民族，他們能夠運用理志及能夠分辨是非，願意運用個人理解的途徑。華人信徒需要問的是，群體意識有沒有限制？當群體意識帶我們到一個地步，對他人的苦難沒有感受，這類群體意識在上帝的角度來看有甚麼作用？我們的文化，以及整個信

仰表達，如何給我們勇氣去更改一個錯誤的信仰教導。無條件接納社會的制度甚至是教會多年的教義，是一個非常危險的心態。

約翰福音第二十章的結束提及多馬的疑惑。我們一般的感覺都是覺得多馬是一個少信的人，不是信徒的榜樣。但當耶穌在他面前顯現的時候，耶穌並沒有責罵他。雖然耶穌說那些沒有看見的人便相信是有福的，但耶穌並沒有輕看一個真誠尋求真相的心。疑惑並不一定是差的事。有些人是爲了疑惑而疑惑。但有些人疑惑是因爲他們希望對福音忠心，對生命有抱負。疑惑可以是愛上帝的表現。有一類的疑惑是令你灰心喪志，但有另一類的疑惑是令你愛主更深。

LAST SUNDAY'S SERMON SUMMARY

“Yom HaShoah” (John 20:19-31)

The gospel text for the Second Sunday of Easter has to be John 20:19-31. The text says, “...when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”” Why did John say “fear of the Jews”? What Jews? Were not the disciples Jew? Was not Jesus a Jew? Our Bible from the beginning to the end was written with Jewish frame of mind and cultures. Failure to understand the political and socio contexts of the ancient Jewish world, the chance to misunderstand the Bible increases. To read today’s text from a non-Jewish point of view has provided Christians an erroneous assumption about Jews. That is, to assume the Christian gospel is against Jews and their religion. Today is “Yom HaShoah”, the day Jews commemorate the Holocaust, where six million Jews perished; among them, one million were children. Scholars have pointed out: Christianity is not responsible for the Holocaust. But they also pointed out Christianity had provided the theological foundation, or an erroneous assumption, for the occurrence of the Holocaust.

Today, many Chinese Christians still accept this assumption, it says: Judaism is not a God-pleasing religion. Although they read the Bible, their understanding of faith in God is incomplete. Since they do not accept Jesus as their Messiah, they don’t have the New Testament. God has departed from them. God doesn’t use them anymore. The reason Jesus came was to point out the sins of Judaism. My challenge to Asian Christians is this: Where do Asians

learn Christianity and Judaism? How do we know about Jesus? What do we know about Jews and Judaism? Are we having the same assumptions concerning Jews the classical western Christianity made? Without paying attention to the history and the problems of the Holocaust, Asian churches could

perpetuate the sins of the Christian past. During the Holocaust, there were rescuers who faced the danger of risking their lives to save Jews. The reason why they were able to do so was because these individuals were able to think critically and possess the ability to think independently. Even though they have learned that Jews and Judaism were inferior as preached by the church and societies in ages, they were able to think for themselves. The question for Asian Christians becomes: Are there limitation concerning collective ethics? If communal ethic leads one into social indifference, what good is that? How can our culture and the whole expression of faith provide us courage to change mistaken doctrines? Uncritical acceptance of norms prescribed by society, church, or any community is extremely dangerous.

John 20 ends with the story of “doubting Thomas”. Our usual understanding is that Thomas possessed little faith and he isn’t an example for Christians. Yet, when Jesus appeared to him, Jesus didn’t scold him. Although those who believe without seeing are blessed, Jesus doesn’t condemn those who search with sincere hearts. Doubt may not be bad. Some doubt for the sake of doubt. But some doubt because they want to be true to the gospel. Doubt can be a genuine expression of faith in God. There are doubts that can lead you astray; but there are doubts that can deepen our faith.

Celebration of Holy Communion for English Service

May 4, 2014

Invitation to the Table

This is the table not of the Church but of Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome to come to the table and to experience the grace of God.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O God most mighty,
O God most merciful,
O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise,
call us to your table,
grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,
you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
you sent them a child;
When the Israelites were enslaved,
you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,
and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor,
he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.
For this we give you thanks and praise.

(All sing VU#466)

Eat this bread, drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God most majestic,
O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song,
Life in you, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread, Pouring into the Cup, Receiving the Elements

The bread of life, broken for you and me.

Thanks be to God.

The cup of blessing, poured out for you and me.

Thanks be to God.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Now come and eat, for the table is ready.

(Communion will be served by Intinction. Please come forward to the front station through the centre aisle as you are able. Take a piece of bread and dip it in the juice and say, "Amen" or "Thanks be to God," before eating. Please return to your seat through either side aisle. The musicians and singers will be served first followed by people at the front pew. If you wish to be served in the pew, we will come to you.)

Prayers for the World

Prayer after Communion:

The kingdom of Love is coming because:

Somewhere someone is kind when others are unkind.
Somewhere someone shares with another in need.
Somewhere someone refuses to hate, while others hate.
Somewhere someone is patient - and waits in love.
Somewhere someone returns good for evil.
Somewhere someone serves another, in love.
Somewhere someone is calm in a storm.
Somewhere someone is loving everybody.
Risen Jesus in whom we trust
Make that someone me. Amen.