

ST PAUL'S CHURCH



LOVE

BEARS ALL THINGS,
BELIEVES ALL THINGS,
HOPES ALL THINGS,
ENDURES ALL THINGS.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

17 May 2020

Welcome

We hope you will feel at home and be refreshed and renewed by the worship and teaching today.

Easter Five

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and give more than either we desire or deserve. Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which we are not worthy to ask save through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Scripture Readings

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

Second Reading: Mark 12:28-34

Today's Sermon

Serving All: With "Agape"
by Pastor Leon Stewart



THE CHURCH IS CLOSED, BUT WHERE IS MY HEART ?

Article extracted from odb-covid.org

When the church that I worship at had to close in mid-March because of a COVID-19 case, I took it in stride. I was looking forward to the church re-opening on April 4, just before Palm Sunday. Then came the Circuit Breaker, and now, the extension until June 1.

The news was most disappointing. How could I gather with others to worship God when the church was closed?

But I felt God asking me: “Where is your heart? Can you not worship Me even when the church is closed? Can you still worship Me without the tools of worship—no sanctuary, no instruments, no worship slides, no Communion . . . just you and Me?”

He also asked me: “What are you longing for? What is your deepest desire?”

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says,

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Circuit Breaker has prompted me to look deeply into my heart . . . and I haven’t liked what I found. I have discovered that my treasure, the things that I deeply value, is not always with God, but often with the institution of the church.

I long to return to church work. I miss the routine of church worship services. I desire normalcy and the familiarity of church life. You could even say that I love church life more than I love a devotional life with God.

I’ve discovered that I am like Martha, who was too busy serving to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to His heart, like Mary (Luke 10:38-42).

The revelation has made me question my definition of productivity and fruitfulness. Can my service be fruitful for God when I am stuck at home? Can I still help the needy and the vulnerable who have been worst-hit by the pandemic?

During this stay-home period, I’m learning to return to the heart of worship. I’m learning to go back to the true treasure of my heart—God. And

I've come to realise that God is more concerned about the condition of my personal worship life than He is about my public church life.

Our personal devotion to God can never be taken away from us, even by this coronavirus. That's why Jesus commended Mary, saying, she "has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

He also tells us in Matthew 6:19–20:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Where are our hearts during this pandemic? What kind of treasures are we acquiring, and where are we storing them?

In this time, may we not miss the opportunity to slow down, pause, and take stock of our lives. May we allow the Holy Spirit to examine our hearts, so that we will cultivate a true treasure that cannot perish or be taken away.

Father, please bring me back to the heart of worship, and remember that it's not about church services and practices, but about being in Your wonderful presence.

Written by Rev Hambali Leonardi
odb-covid.org

Questions

For individual reflection, family devotion
or cell group discussion



1. In Mark 12:30, Jesus commanded that we must love the Lord with all our heart, our soul, our mind and strength. Reflect on the verse and discuss how you think we can love the Lord in the ways He has commanded us?
2. We are going through a very challenging period currently with COVID-19 always being on everyone's lips. We've been told to practise safe distancing etc. In a time like this, what ways can we as Christians apply Agape love towards our neighbours without compromising our safety or the safety of others?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and write down the different characters of Agape love that Paul has described. Spend sometime in prayer reflecting on those traits and thereafter, see if you have ever been able to apply those traits in your daily life?

Memory Verses

1

Our Vision

To be Ambassadors for Christ in the Community

2 Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are Ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2

First Pillar

Being Spirit-Filled

Galatians 5:16

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

3

Second Pillar

Imitating Christ

Luke 9:23

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

4

Third Pillar

Persevering Prayer

Colossians 4:2

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE



COMBINED

Pentecost

SERVICE

31 MAY, 10.30 AM

SPEAKERS: BISHOP RENNIS PONNIAH
AND BISHOP-DESIGNATE REVD CANON DR TITUS CHUNG

Message will be translated to Mandarin and Tamil.

Online Service

31 May, 10.30 am

Speakers:

Bishop Rennis Ponniah & Bishop-Designate Revd
Canon Dr Titus Chung

Join us for an online service which connects the whole diocese across our 7 nations and across our major language groups. It will be a service that expresses our oneness as the body of Christ and a service in which we are praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit for the times we are in.

What we want to see happen this coming Pentecost:

- God's victory over COVID-19.
- People coming to faith in Jesus Christ through our personal testimonies and online services.
- The Diocese, and the Church all over the world, rising up with a new heart for God and a new power to touch a lost and fearful world with the love of Christ!

Only the Holy Spirit can make that happen! So let us pray beseechingly and prepare our hearts and homes for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on 31st May.

LOUNGE
TIME WITH
ST PAUL'S CHURCH



FRIDAYS, 8PM, LIVE ON YOUTUBE



A grayscale photograph of a person with long, wavy hair, seen from behind. Two hands are placed on their shoulders, one on the left and one on the right, suggesting a comforting or supportive gesture. The background is dark and out of focus.

Pastoral Care

For those who require prayer or pastoral care, do drop us an email at contact@stpaulschurch.org.sg or contact the respective pastoral staff directly.

Rev Jeremy: 9477 5476

Pastor Leon: 9199 3815

Pastor Shalini: 9857 0023

Pastor Leroy: 9710 2900

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

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Made payable to "St Paul's Church" and mailed to our Church address - 843 Upper Serangoon Road Singapore 534683. Kindly indicate English Congregation at the back of the cheque.