

牧者的话

吴丽真牧师✍

施比受
更为有福

当纪念主耶稣的话：施比受更为有福。（使徒行传20:35b）

这是使徒保罗在结束他第三次也是最后一次宣教旅程，临别小亚细亚教会时的赠言。保罗本身深深体验主耶稣这句话的威力，并且领受所带给他的无尽祝福。每当他有机会施与、分享或是对教会作出一份贡献时，他深刻体会到喜乐的浇灌与灵里的满足。

保罗回想自己从前一无是处并且迫害教会，然而如今却蒙主拯救、怜悯和恩眷，甚至被选为福音的使者；上帝对他恩深情重，他自知无以为报，因此，他立定决心要把握每一个机会和处境来表达他对主全心的感激、全人的回应和专一地跟从主。

感谢主，基督信仰开启我们人生新的一页，一路走来我们逐渐明白人生的意义；基督信仰也赋予我们全新的角度来看待人、事、物，当我们诚心关爱，真心付出，奇妙的是我们会经历到一份生命的觉悟：人生的意义不在于获得多少，而是施与多少；人生的满足不在于物质的享受，而是在于我们与人分享；人生的喜乐不在于多少的成就，而在于贡献出自己的一点绵力。其外，明白到原来一切都是上主的恩赐，我们受托成为管家，是由于上帝信任我们，托付让我们管理，忠心善用一切祂所赐的。

在我们“施与”的时候，我们才知道原来我们是蒙福的一群。物质上我们是丰足的，关键是我们内心充满从基督而来的信望爱。诚然“施与”是需要信心和爱心的驱动，台湾已故基督徒作家杏林子曾经这样说：“当你说爱的时候，其实你还不爱，只有当你付出的时候，你的爱才开始成熟。”原来“施与”是我们成长的锻炼，展现爱的力量，保罗劝导说：“我们不要单顾自己的事，也要顾别人的事。”顾念别人，看到需要，感同身受，施与援手，因为“爱就是在别人的需要上看到自己的责任”。当我们“施与”的时候，我们成为别人的祝福，成就上帝的美意，这是讨主喜悦的；在我们“施与”的时候，我们会真实经历主的应许。主耶稣说：**你们要给人，就必有给你们**的（路加福音6:38a）。“施比受更为有福”这是多么真实，所得着的喜乐、满足、感恩……非笔墨所能形容，愿您从中细细体尝。



“第三堂崇拜”？！

罗继斌✍

教会在7月13日进行“第三堂崇拜”的试跑（3rd Worship Pilot Run），这引起了弟兄姐妹的疑问：“第三堂崇拜是哪个（哪种）崇拜？如果有第三堂崇拜，那么第一堂、第二堂又是哪个（怎么样）崇拜呢？”本堂共有三堂华语崇拜，习惯上教会把主日早上9点的传统崇拜称为“第一堂崇拜”，11点的现代崇拜称为“第二堂崇拜”，周六傍晚5点的崇拜称为“周六现代崇拜”。7月13日的“第三堂崇拜”试跑就是在“周六现代崇拜”的时段进行。

目前宏茂桥堂每两位会友中就有一位是65岁及以上，每三位会友中就有两位是55岁及以上。教会趋向老龄化，但我们不能成为一个老化没有生气、不适合及不能吸引年轻人的教会。因此教会牧者领袖在两年前就开始思想祷告，要建立一个以牧养年轻人（19-35岁）为主的现代崇拜；教会领袖暂时以“第三堂崇拜”作为这个新崇拜事工的工作名称（Working Title）。

可能有弟兄姐妹会认为：主日11点的第二堂崇拜不是属于较活泼的现代崇拜吗？为什么还需要成立“第三堂崇拜”呢？第二堂崇拜是在1998年成立的，主要是帮助当时年龄介于20至40岁的青成年信徒能更投入敬拜，因为现代崇拜比传统崇拜活泼，更能吸引年轻人。当时参加现代崇拜的会众的平均年龄大约是在20至35岁之间，如今参加第二堂崇拜的会众平均年龄可能是在45至50岁之间吧，对现在的年轻人而言，超过25年历史的第二堂崇拜也许已经没有那么“现代”了。

2000年初的现代崇拜，敬拜音乐还是比较偏向传统的赞美诗歌和一些现代敬拜诗歌（如《赞美之泉》、《小羊诗歌》等），整体崇拜风格较为沉稳（corporate worship）、庄重。如今，全球化的影响和国际敬拜团队如Hillsong、Awaken Generation、Sanctified Vessel等的流行，大大影响这时代的年轻基督徒，也带动了敬拜风格和音乐的更新换代。

明年教会要开始的“第三堂崇拜”将会有以下三个特色：



敬拜诗歌和方式的改变——过去敬拜赞美诗歌的内容多集中于对上帝的赞美和敬拜，是正式（庄严）、良好的敬拜规范（good and formal worship standard）。现在的现代敬拜诗歌内容更加个人化，易于理解和引起共鸣，更能表达对上帝的个人情感、生命中的经历以及与上帝的关系。这样的敬拜赞美诗歌能引导年轻人进入沉浸式敬拜（immersive worship）——一个与上帝有更多互动、个人化的敬拜方式。

中英语言的使用——一些年轻人华文程度较弱，他们不能完全理解纯华文崇拜中的诗歌和证道内容，以致无法全然投入敬拜，难以在情感上回应上帝。因此“第三堂崇拜”将采用中英文诗歌，证道以年轻人较能明白的中文或中英翻译，这样可以使崇拜更具吸引力，**满足年轻人的需要。**

多媒体技术的使用——现代的年轻人都能掌握互联网、社交媒体、多媒体设备等，“第三堂崇拜”将融合**多媒体技术的崇拜体验**。除了敬拜赞美时用多媒体投影等来加强崇拜体验，会众也能用社交媒体（Telegram）分享讲道的内容，讨论讲道的反思问题，分享他们对崇拜/讲道的领受。“第三堂崇拜”也会使用更丰富多彩的多媒体技术分享家讯等。



成立“第三堂崇拜”除了要营造一个适合年轻人的崇拜环境和氛围，教会也要：

- 1 藉着现代化和个人化的崇拜注重个人体验和情感的表达，让年轻人通过心灵和诚实的敬拜恢复与上帝亲密的联系（Reconnect with God），帮助年轻人在固定的崇拜生活中建立更稳固的信仰基础；
- 2 藉着全人的崇拜生活让年轻人不只是在敬拜赞美时经历情感的热忱，更是通过与教会青成年人群中的互动（如分享讲道的得着、讨论信仰的问题和实践等）重燃对上帝的爱和激情（Reignite Love and Passion for God）；
- 3 藉着注重年轻人为“第三堂崇拜”的主要崇拜人群，教会期待“第三堂崇拜”能成为年轻人更广的联系和服侍的平台，彼此鼓励固定参与崇拜以及教会各个层面的服侍，让他们重新与教会建立联系，对教会有归属感和使命感（Reengage with the church with a sense of mission and ownership）。

随着社会变迁和文化的不断改变，现代敬拜方式将继续演变，以满足新一代信徒的需求和期望。年轻人在敬拜方式和诗歌音乐上表现出一些独特的偏好是一个不能改变的趋势。没有人把新布补在旧衣服上，因为所补上的反带坏了那衣服，破的就更大了；也没有人把新酒装在旧皮袋里，若是这样，皮袋就裂开，酒漏出来，连皮袋也坏了；唯独把新酒装在新皮袋里，两样就都保全了（马太福音9:16-17）。因此，我们没有办法改变主日11点的现代崇拜以满足这时代年轻基督徒的需要；年轻一代更倾向于互动性强、个人化的敬拜方式，成立“第三堂崇拜”是大势所趋的事实。

无可否认，开始“第三堂崇拜”必定会给我们的教会生活带来许多不便，一些聚会和活动需要重新调整和安排，我们也需要更多的侍奉人员参与新的岗位。成立“第三堂崇拜”是上帝在这个时代赋予教会的使命，我们需要付上代价与上帝同工。我鼓励你藉着你的祷告和实际的行动与我们一起建立“第三堂崇拜”！

Re-connect with God

Through a better experience during worship

Re-ignite your love for God

Through worship + the Word (focused sermon to address issues relevant to Young Adults) + works (service in 3rd Worship)

Re-engage with the church

Through ownership of the 3rd worship service - serving, managing, organizing and coordinating

INFLUENCE



青少主日2024

杨思胜

一年一度的青少主日是教会的重要时刻，它不仅凸显青少年的活力和激情，更是一个肯定和激励他们的时刻。

今年我们特别邀请了叶瑶力传道来证道，讲题是《你会坚持相信多久？》。她带领我们思考马可福音5:21-43中的真理。这个故事不仅是关乎耶稣的神迹，更是关乎人的信心 and 希望，以及上帝在我们生命中的作为。叶传道引导我们去思考：当我们面对个人挑战和试炼时，我们如何能够坚定地信靠上帝，并学习去支持那些在苦难中挣扎的亲友们。她的信息鼓励我们——特别是年轻一代——在信仰中找到力量。

为了增强弟兄姐妹的参与感，今年特别准备了祷告卡片，鼓励会众踊跃领取祷告卡片，填上青少年的名字后常常为他们代祷。希望通过这样的方式，弟兄姐妹能更认识教会的青少年，具体地为他们祷告。

今年还有一个亮点——我们首次与青成事工合作，这次合作不仅仅是形式上的结合，更是实质上的创新。青成年在敬拜团队中的参与为我们带来了新的活力和热情；他们也设立了两个展览摊位，展示他们的才艺和创意。这不仅为大家提供了一个欣赏和了解他们才华的机会，也让青成年和青少年之间建立了更深的联系，体现了教会是基督身体的精神。

青少主日对青少年而言，不仅仅是一个特别的主日礼拜，更是他们展示信仰、承担责任的机会；对于教会会众来说，这是一个提醒：我们要激励和培育下一代信徒。通过今年的青少主日，我们希望能看到更多的青少年积极参与教会的事工，因为他们不仅是教会的未来，更是教会不可或缺的部分。青少主日不仅仅是一场属于青少年的崇拜，更是整个教会的联合，体现了不同时代的信徒在基督里的合一。

青少主日的成功不仅在于活动的组织和执行，更在于它能激励会众，尤其是年轻人，在他们的信仰旅程中更加坚定；愿上帝继续引导我们在祂的爱和恩典中彼此扶持一同前行。



上帝感动我们去宣教

今年的布道与宣教主日，我们特别邀请了“云彩行动”的创办人杨伟基（Chris）宣教士来与我们分享他在缅甸的经历。Chris提到，在缅甸宣教时，他曾遇到一位年龄大概9岁的小女孩抽烟，他却没上前与她交谈。隔天想要找她，却找不到了。他非常难过，他为自己没有把握机会向那位女孩传福音而感到自责。这次的经历，让他感受到上帝正呼召他，要他到缅甸设立孤儿院，帮助这样的小孩。我想当上帝呼召他去缅甸时，他的内心该有多么挣扎啊！上帝感动了他，他就坚定地回应上帝！



光明和在T国的团队

当天我们也播放了光明弟兄和家人在T国的视频。他们的事工策略是得人、造就、训练和差派。他们透过活动俱乐部的方式与学生交流，在相处中展现基督的美善，依靠圣灵，主动向人分享福音，以活出属基督的生命为主作见证。他们与教会配搭一起完成造就基督徒的工作，也训练学生领袖对福音有更大的使命感。

我们的禾场 —— 三合港

今年开始，本堂和更新传道会一起认领三合港为我们的宣教禾场。三合港是在马来西亚昔加末的一个小镇，从新山开车要两个多小时。

参加三合港教会崇拜的人数不多，二十多人。不过，因为教会也是当地的幼儿园，所以吸引了很多小孩来上主日学，聚会人数五十多位。但是教主日学的导师人数不够，有些导师并不是基督徒。试想想，一位不是基督徒的导师该如何教导学生祷告、读经文，培育对上帝有信心的信仰呢？我们愿意与更新传道会一起帮助三合港教会的儿童事工，每两个月到三合港帮忙儿童主日学的特别节目。每一次短宣，我们会与孩子们玩游戏和分享圣经故事；希望透过游戏让孩子们喜欢参加教会活动，透过有趣的故事让孩子们认识真理。

事工的另一个重要部分是与三合港教会的执事一起探访当地家庭，提供精神和情感支持。团队拜访了几户人家，包括年长者、信主已久的信徒以及面临各种挑战的家庭。这些探访显示出社区对福音的接受度各不相同：有些对基督教表现出兴趣，有些则在长期的信仰和传统中挣扎。对这些已经远离信仰的个人，持续地跟进和支持尤为重要。愿上帝感动更多的弟兄姐妹愿意委身在三合港事工，这样我们每个月都可以派短宣队来更好地服侍和帮助三合港教会。



与小朋友解说游戏规则



徐来妹

因耶稣而 欢唱的人生

5月25日的乐龄布道会，有幸邀请到因耶稣而欢唱的牧师——张汉林。

我年轻时听过张汉林的名字，他当时只是一位普通的歌手，唱的是流行歌曲。虽然布道会当天他也唱了许多耳熟能详的老歌，并非都是有关耶稣的诗歌，但从他的分享，字里行间中述说的都是上帝的爱；上帝是爱，这就是他信主后的人生。不论是吃、喝、玩、乐，还是舞台表演都是为了要归荣耀给主名，即使他一直要求给他掌声，也不外是要荣神益人。

来参加乐龄布道会的多数是乐龄人士，歌手张汉林牧师曾几何时也是年轻小伙子，如今大家都一同步入乐龄了；头发白了，身体也发福了，但内心却是充满喜乐与感恩。看到圣殿内那些被爱他、关心他的人邀请来的乐龄朋友，我心中默祷：主啊！巴不得这些新朋友也能饱得祢的慈爱，好叫他们欢呼喜乐！感谢主的大爱！

老人爱唱老歌，但老歌“心”唱，唱出内心的感受也是另有一番滋味。在汉林牧师的带动下，大家都兴致高昂地融入歌曲的旋律：“当你老了，头发白了，睡意昏沉；当你老了，走不动了……”，这些都是乐龄人士的写照。

不只是年轻人喜爱音乐，乐龄人士也同样喜爱，年老了仍可以因耶稣而欢唱，何乐而不为？藉着歌声可以唤醒教会内、外沉睡的灵魂：快跑跟随主！

感谢主！当天受圣灵感动信主而得新生命的共有七位，荣耀归主名！



爱的盛宴—— 教会大家庭的温馨相聚

教会爱宴由妇女服务会在小莉干事的协助及立约小组的热烈支持下，终于在7月20日如火如荼地举行了。上午9时，爱加倍厅就热闹起来了，加才弟兄带领弟兄们摆好桌椅，并协助姐妹们铺好桌布。

起初，参与爱宴的回应不理想，我们有点担心弟兄姐妹们提不起劲儿来参加这次的聚餐。有些组长的反应冷淡，确实令人担忧会友们是否失去渴慕彼此相聚和交流的热忱，或是身心疲惫导致失去凝聚力。感谢上帝的保守，在临近爱宴的前几天，圣灵触动弟兄姐妹的心房，大家“火热”起来了。弟兄姐妹散发出一股爱心：正如腓立比书2:4-5所说：**各人不要单顾自己的事，也要顾别人的事。你们当以基督耶稣的心为心。**诚心感激大家的“爱心奉献”。

爱宴让会友们聚集在一起享用美味佳肴的同时，也能和不同崇拜时间的弟兄姐妹彼此交流、互相认识。在玩游戏和聊天中，大家交换信息，享受美好的团契时间。感恩上帝赐予我们“五饼二鱼”的恩典，食物美味丰盛，有鸡肉、鸭肉、牛肉、猪肉、咖喱杂菜、蔬菜、炒饭、炒米粉、炒面、有味饭、三明治、水果、糕点甜品等等。大家吃得津津有味，边吃边聊，非常享受，其乐融融！

餐后，大家移步到圣殿唱诗赞美主。继斌主席分享了教会的异象——“同心建造我们的家园”。最后吴牧师为美食创意名称的获奖者颁发奖金，作为对“用心思和脑力”的勉励。愿弟兄姐妹们在爱宴中享受彼此交通，感恩主恩典，用爱心彼此联系。一切颂赞荣耀归于主！



柯碧琴





成年事工外展活动—— 水果大会



今年7月，成年事工举办“水果大会”外展活动。有十多位新朋友参加了这次的活动，大家聚在一起，享受了一场特别的榴莲和其它水果的盛宴。我们一同唱诗歌，用心灵和歌声赞美上帝，每一个音符都在空中飘扬，触动人心。

在水果大会上，我们还观看了感人至深的福音见证视频，内容真实感人，让大家更深体会到信仰的力量和上帝的恩典。对于一些新朋友来说，这也是他们第一次认识上帝。

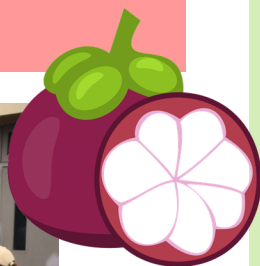
我们分成小组享用美味的榴莲，并一起玩游戏，现场气氛十分热闹。有些弟兄姐妹分享了他们的感受，彼此鼓励，信心倍增。通过交流，大家加深了对彼此的了解，也让新来的朋友被教会大家庭所吸引，愿意参与教会的其它活动。整个活动在欢乐与感动中圆满结束，大家都期待着下次再聚。-何宗晔

在这榴莲飘香的季节里，教会举办了以榴莲为主的水果大会。当我品尝着令人如痴如醉的榴莲时，往事也一幕幕涌上心头。

记得我第一次踏足新加坡时，正值榴莲的旺季，无论是超市还是水果摊都摆放着各种品种的榴莲。当时的我无法接受这种难以形容的“臭味”，赶紧退避三舍，躲得远远的。当我第二次来到新加坡时，好客的房东大方地用榴莲款待我们，我勉为其难地品尝了一口，没想到比想象中的好吃！从此，榴莲那妙不可言的丰富风味在口中淋漓尽致地散开来，仿佛在口腔中展开了一场味觉盛宴；我再也闻不到榴莲的“臭味”，闻到的只有那浓郁的奶油加酒的醇香。

南洋流行的一句话是：“你若能吃榴莲，便能在这儿落地生根。”我也应验了这句话，留在了新加坡，一晃儿，我生活在这块土地已经二十七年了。然而，我在这里最大的收获就是认识了主耶稣基督，因着祂，我的生命得到了翻转，我懂得了生命的真正意义。

上帝创造了一切，主耶稣将丰富的恩典充充足足地浇灌在我日常的生活中，我每天感受到祂的爱！我除了感恩，就是跟随祂，行祂喜悦的事。-王阳



福音小先锋，“袋袋”皆传承

林芸先



儿童圣经共赏主日，我们的孩子们满怀热情，创意十足，以行动告诉我们：上帝的话语将代代相传。

申命记6:8说：**也要系在手上为记号，戴在额上为经文。**上帝提醒我们，要把祂的话刻在心里，时时记得祂的教导。

7月21日，我们欢庆儿童圣经共赏主日。孩子们勇敢站出来，背诵金句，展现了他们对圣经的热爱和理解。

在创意环节中，孩子们将喜欢的金句写在布袋上，并用画笔来诠释上帝的话。出埃及记35:31-32说：**又以上帝的灵充满了他，使他有智慧，有聪明，有知识，能作各样的工。**孩子们展现了上帝赐的才华，用色彩和想象力，将经文变成一幅幅生动的画作——创意满满，福音满满，经文袋袋！

小小的他们，是我们未来的基督精兵，是福音的小先锋。他们将上帝的话语传递给更多人，让福音继续传播下去。

孩子们的感言

“我很喜欢这个活动，因为我可以把喜欢的经文画成图画。当我拿着这个包包出门时，别人也会看到经文，想知道经文的意思。” -P3爱明



“老师们，谢谢你们为我们准备的活动！我很喜欢制作环保袋的活动。我希望藉着这样的活动，能够把上帝的话藏在我心里！” -P4芷蕾



“不要快快生气！” -P4韩毅

“我选了这个图画，因为我想要保护地球；我写了这段金句，因为我想要记住上帝的话，让我更听话。” -P4宣义

“好！” -P3家荣

“谢谢上帝的话语！谢谢老师们为我们预备的活动！我非常喜欢，因为我可以学上帝的话，而且可以在包包上写上上帝的话，涂上美丽的图案和颜色！” -P3友睿



“我很开心😊，因为可以拿到礼物，还能在袋子上画画，我也很喜欢画画” -P2雅慧



“遇到你们真好，帮助我们认识上帝，教会我们在学校学不到的真理。” -P2天恩

老师的寄语

感谢每一个参与的孩子，你们的创意和热情让这一天变得特别和有意义！

老师为你们感到自豪，要继续为主做工哦，到老也不偏离！

节目策划：兆琼，芸先，儿童主日学老师们 摄影：芸如

见证

主的安慰

我们的女儿凯旋在两年前的一个早晨突然离世，当时她年仅十五岁。那天早上，学校来电告知她在课堂上昏倒，正在紧急施救，但是当我们赶到医院时，医生却无奈地告诉我们，她已经永远离开了我们。

凯旋从小就乖巧懂事，对上帝有着深厚的信靠。即使学业繁忙，她每天仍坚持灵修，认真阅读圣经，并在日记中记录心事。在生活中，她也以行动来关心周围的人，向他们传递上帝的爱。在丧礼上，她的同学们都痛哭流涕，分享了凯旋如何关心她们，写信息鼓励她们，以爱心陪伴她们度过困难时刻。在丧礼上，我们分享了上帝在凯旋生命中所成就的奇妙工作，感谢主，这深深感动了很多。她的表姐更在复活节那天决定信主，成为了基督徒。

凯旋是我们如天使般的女儿，她的孝顺和贴心给我们带来了无尽的快乐。她的离世对我们来说是沉痛的打击，让我们心碎不已，整个世界仿佛都失去了色彩。每天回忆起与她相处



陈志群、卢家兰夫妇

的点点滴滴，我们总是泪流满面，生活也仿佛失去了意义。

然而，在这无尽的悲痛中，上帝并没有离弃我们。每当我们感到无助时，上帝的话语成为我们最大的安慰。**祂医好伤心的人，裹好他们的伤处。**（诗篇147:3）

我们感受到上帝用祂的慈爱，一点一点修复我们破碎的心，让我们在痛苦中仍能感受到祂的爱，我们也因此更加亲近主。过去两年是我们生命中最艰难的时刻，但靠着上帝赐给我们力量，使我们能够继续向前行。

上帝也赐给我们一个新的使命：通过我们自己的经历，去安慰那些失去亲人的人，让他们感受到来自上帝的爱与平安。正如哥林多后书1:3-4所说：**愿颂赞归与我们的主耶稣基督的父上帝，就是发慈悲的父，赐各样安慰的上帝。我们在一切患难中，他就安慰我们，叫我们能用上帝所赐的安慰去安慰那遭各样患难的人。**

人生路上尽管有风雨，但主的爱永不止息。祂是我们的山寨、避难所，即使我们走过死亡的幽谷，主也必与我们同在。我们也深信，有一天我们会在天堂与凯旋重逢，那将是最美好的时刻。



凯旋15岁生日时与家人合照



以信仰为指南，探索生活

姚劲信 ✍

我是姚劲信，一位积极参与教会活动的21岁青年。当我第一次听说Finding Your Place (FYP) 门徒训练计划时，很是心动想参加。这个课程为期三个月，上课时间是从早上8点30分到下午1点，有时甚至到下午4点30分，并且课程是在工作日进行的。了解了情况，我有所保留；但在参加过FYP的同龄弟兄姐妹的鼓励下，我终于下定决心冒险尝试。

刚加入计划时我感到参与者之间的差异很大，很难找到共同点。然而，通过共同讨论和课后的午餐时光，我们发现了共同的经历，尤其是我们在各自教会和个人生活中面临的挑战促进了彼此之间的团结。每天轮换带领崇拜和相互帮助进一步加强了我们的联系，建立了超越想象的信任。

FYP的学习经历与我之前的任何经历都不同。我们接触到各个领域的专家，从艺术到经济学都强调了与上帝的联系。与同龄人一起探索生活之谜引发了对创造的奥秘和其与上帝的联系的敬畏之情。来自各行各业的客座讲师，包括法官、电影制作人和牧师，传授宝贵的生活智慧，强调了信仰、与上帝的关系和对圣经价值观的践行的的重要性。

今年三月份，我们在槟城进行了服务学习之旅，在槟岛山上进行了一次灵修，重新点燃了我们寻求上帝的热情。与当地企业家互动展示了信仰行动的转化力量，在罗兴亚难民学校做志愿工作促进了文化交流和相互理解。这些经历得益于无数的课堂和小组讨论，受到吉利安（Jillian）老师精辟指导的推动。每次交流都拓展了我们的视野，加深了我们的理解。

这些只是我三个月转变之旅的片段。我邀请您探索上帝智慧的深度，无论您是在军队服役或求学中的青年，还是在寻求灵性充实的人，我都鼓励您加入我们。让我们一起以信仰为指南，探索生活的奥秘。



It is more blessed to give than to receive

You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
(Acts of the Apostles 20:35b)



These were the words of the Apostle Paul at the end of his third and last missionary journey, when he left the churches in Asia Minor for the last time. Paul himself deeply experienced the power of these words of the Lord Jesus, and received the endless blessings they brought him. Whenever he had the opportunity to give, share, or make a contribution to the Church, he experienced a deep outpouring of joy and spiritual fulfilment.

Paul recalled that he was once a good-for-nothing. Despite persecuting the churches, the Lord had saved him, shown mercy and favour, and even chosen him to share the gospel. God had treated him with such abundant kindness and affection that he knew he could never fully repay. Therefore he resolved to seize every opportunity and situation to express his wholehearted gratitude to the Lord, by responding and following God wholeheartedly.

We thank the Lord that Christianity has opened a new page in our lives, and along the way, we have come to understand the meaning of life. Christianity has also given us a new perspective to view people, matters and affairs. When we care sincerely and give with all our heart, we will come to a marvellous realisation: the meaning of life does not lie in how much we get, but rather, in how much we give. Additionally, the satisfaction of life does not lie in material enjoyment, but in our sharing with others. The joy of life does not lie in the number of accomplishments, but in contributing our efforts, no matter how insignificant. Those who give will also come to realise that everything is a gift from God and that we are to be stewards, because God trusts us, entrusts us with responsibility, and tasks us to faithfully use the gifts that He has given us.

When we "give", we realise that we are a blessed group of people. We may be abundant materially, but the key is that our hearts be full of faith, hope, and love from Christ. Undoubtedly, "giving" needs to be driven by faith and love. The late Taiwanese Christian writer Liu Hsin, 杏林子, once said, "When you say you love, you don't actually know love yet; it is only when you give that your love begins to mature." It turns out that "giving" is an exercise for us to grow and show the power of love. Paul exhorts: "Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too" and to look out for others, to see their need, empathise with them, and give a helping hand, because "to love is to see one's responsibility in the need of others". When we "give", we become a blessing to others and fulfil God's goodness, which is pleasing to the Lord. When we "give", we will truly experience the Lord's promise, just as Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you" (Luke 6:38a), "It is more blessed to give than to receive!" No words can adequately describe the joy, fulfillment, and thanksgiving that you receive when you give. It is my hope as your pastor that you will have the chance to experience this. Amen.



3RD WORSHIP

George Loh ✍

Ang Mo Kio Chinese Methodist Church (AMKCMC) conducted the first Pilot Run of the “3rd Worship” on July 13, 2024, which led to some questions among congregants: “What is 3rd Worship? If there is a 3rd Worship, then where are the 1st and 2nd Worship [Services]?” AMKCMC currently has three Chinese worship services. We commonly refer to the 9 a.m. Sunday Traditional Worship Service as “1st Worship,” the 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service as “2nd Worship,” and the 5 p.m. Saturday Worship Service as “Saturday Contemporary Worship.” The pilot run of the “3rd Worship” on July 13 took place at 5 p.m., the usual timeslot of the Saturday Contemporary Worship.

Currently, one out of every two members in AMKCMC is 65 years old or older, and two out of every three members are 55 years old or older. The church is ageing, but we cannot become a lackluster church that no longer attracts or appeals to young people. The pastors and leaders began praying and thinking about this challenge two years ago. We planned to establish a contemporary worship service primarily focused on young adults (ages 19-35). The leaders have, for the time being, named this new worship service the “3rd Worship” as a working title.

Some church members may wonder: Isn’t the 11 a.m. Sunday 2nd Worship already a lively contemporary worship service? Why then do we need a “3rd Worship”? In 1998, to help the young adults between the ages of 20 and 40 participate more actively in worship, the 2nd Worship was established as contemporary worship, which was livelier and more attractive to young people than the 1st Worship’s traditional style. Back then, the average age of the 2nd Worship congregation was around 20-35 years old. But the average age of the congregation today is around 45-50 years old. After more than 25 years, the 2nd Worship may no longer be so “contemporary” to the younger generation of today.

Contemporary worship in the early 2000s was still relatively traditional, with the music largely focused on hymns and some modern worship songs (such as “Stream of Praise” and “Lamb Music”). Although the worship was lovely and energetic, it still followed a clear, organised, and formal approach. However, the global influence of international worship teams such as Hillsong, Awaken Generation, and Sanctified Vessel has greatly impacted today’s young Christians, leading to a renewal of worship styles and music

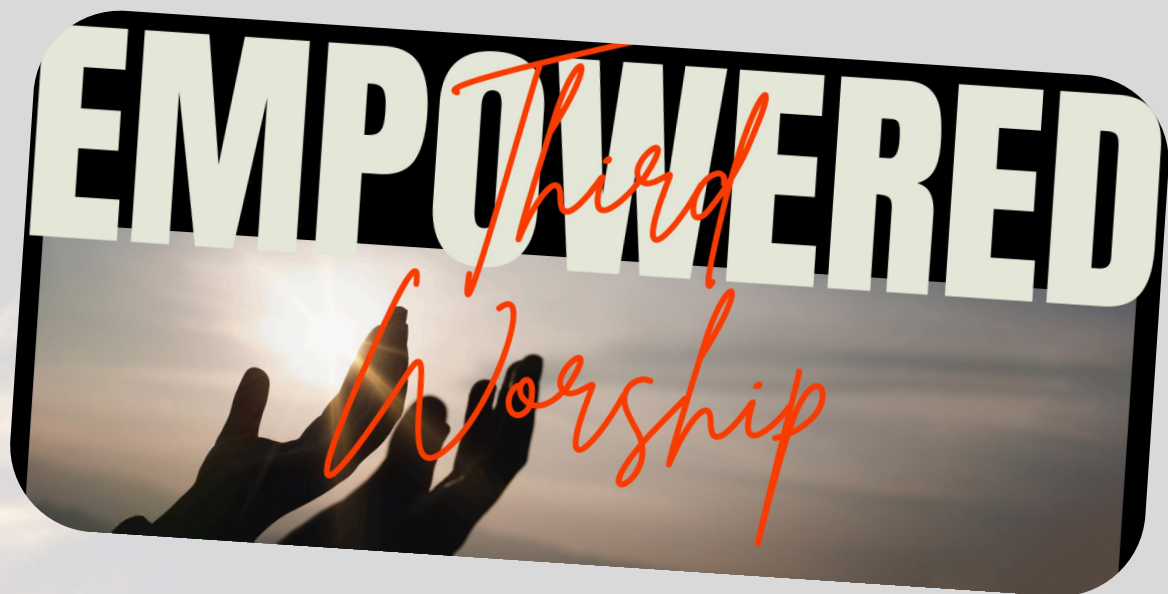
The “3rd Worship”, which mainly caters to young adults, will start next year and have the following characteristics:



Immersive worship style and music – the music and songs of yesteryear’s contemporary worship followed a structured and formal standard while praising and worshipping God. Now, modern worship songs are more personal, easier to understand, and resonate more with our emotions, life experiences, and relationship with God. Such immersive worship is attractive to young people as it is a more interactive and personal experience of worshipping God.

Use of both Chinese and English – Most young people today struggle with the Chinese language. A pure Chinese worship service makes it difficult for them to fully appreciate the worship songs and understand the sermons. The language barrier prevents full participation in worship and complete emotional involvement with God. The “3rd Worship” will use both Chinese and English during praise and worship and the sermons will either be preached in Chinese that young people can understand, and/or with Chinese-English translations. This will meet the needs of the young people with a worship service that they can relate to and fully engage with.

Incorporation of multimedia technology – Young people are adept at using the internet, social media, and multimedia technology. The “3rd Worship” will integrate multimedia technology into the worship experience. In addition to using multimedia during worship, the congregation will also be able to share sermon content via social media (e.g., Telegram) to discuss the sermon, and share their experiences from the worship service or sermon. The “3rd Worship” will also use interactive multimedia presentations for church announcements.



In addition to creating a worship environment suitable for young adults, AMKCMC also aims to:

- 1 Reconnect the young people with God:** The “3rd Worship” will be a personalised contemporary worship which focuses on personal experiences with God and genuine emotional expression during worship. The young people will be able to reconnect with God in a closer relationship and fellowship through worshipping in spirit and truth, building a more solid faith foundation through regular worship.
- 2 Reignite the young people’s love and passion for God:** Through immersive worship, young people will not only experience emotional fervour during praise and worship but also, through interacting and sharing with other young adults in the church (e.g. sharing sermon insights, discussing faith questions and practices), rekindle their love and passion for God.
- 3 Reengage the young people with the church with a sense of mission and ownership:** With the young people as the core group for the “3rd Worship”, AMKCMC is hopeful that the “3rd Worship” will serve as a broader platform for the young people to encourage each other to participate and serve in the “3rd Worship” and in AMKCMC, and to reconnect with the church as the young people participate and serve in the “3rd Worship” as well as other areas of church ministry. This will give them a sense of belonging, ownership, and mission.

As society and culture continue to evolve, worship styles will continue to change to meet the needs and expectations of the newer generation of believers. Young people have distinct preferences for interactive and personalised worship styles, which is a trend that is irreversible. ***No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved*** (Matthew 9:16-17). Therefore, it is not possible to change the current 11 a.m. contemporary service to meet the needs of today’s young Christians. The “3rd Worship” is an inevitable necessity.

It is undeniable that the “3rd Worship” will bring many inconveniences to our church. Some programs, meetings, and activities will need to be changed and reorganised. More volunteers will be needed to serve in new roles. However, the “3rd Worship” is a mission God has given to the church in this era, and we need to make sacrifices and work with God to make it happen. I encourage you to join us in the “3rd Worship” through your prayers and actions!

Re-connect with God

Through a better experience during worship

Re-ignite your love for God

Through worship + the Word (focused sermon to address issues relevant to Young Adults) + works (service in 3rd Worship)

Re-engage with the church

Through ownership of the 3rd worship service - serving, managing, organizing and coordinating

INFLUENCE



My transformative journey with FYP

Yao Jin Xin ✍



Hi, I'm Jinxin, a 21-year-old serving in the church actively. When I first learned about Finding Your Place (FYP), I was initially surprised by the commitment of three months' worth of weekday lessons, running from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm, and sometimes until 4:30 pm. Despite my reservations, encouragement from my peers who had previously participated in FYP convinced me to take the plunge.

When I first entered the program, I felt a stark contrast among the participants, making it difficult to find common ground. However, through discussions and post-lesson lunches, we discovered that experiences we shared, especially concerning the challenges we faced in our respective churches and personal lives, fostered a sense of unity among us. Our bonds were further strengthened by daily rotations of worship leadership and mutual assistance, resulting in trust that extended beyond the program.

The learning experience in FYP was unlike anything I had encountered before. From arts to economics, we heard from experts in diverse fields highlighting God's connection to everything. Collaborating with peers to unravel life's mysteries across different areas and subjects evoked awe at the intricacies of creation and its inherent ties to the Creator.

Guest speakers, including judges, filmmakers, and pastors, imparted invaluable wisdom on living faithfully and stewarding God's gifts. Despite their varied backgrounds, their unified message underscored the essence of a Christ-like life.

In March, our service trip to Penang included a spiritual retreat at Penang Hill, which reignited our spiritual fervour. We also engaged local entrepreneurs who showcased the transformative power of faith in action. Volunteering at a Rohingya refugee school helped us foster cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

These experiences were enriched by countless class and group discussions, facilitated by the insightful guidance of Teacher Jillian. Each interaction expanded our horizons and deepened our understanding.

These are mere glimpses of my transformative journey over three months. I invite you to explore the depths of God's wisdom and embrace a richer understanding of His purpose. Whether you're a youth transitioning from national service or academic pursuits, or simply seeking spiritual enrichment, I encourage you to join FYP. Together, let's navigate life's complexities with faith as our compass.





家有喜事



父亲：丁华富
母亲：倪敏溶
宝宝：丁博宇
出生日期：15/7/24



新郎：刘奇鸿
新娘：林纯爱
结婚日期：26/10/24



妇女服务会常年大会暨选举



2024-2026年新会长——王淑慧姐妹（前排右一）

《磐石》工作小组

顾问

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