



First Evangelical
Community Church
蒙愛羅省基督教會

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Senior Pastor
Rev. Joseph Lao
劉華梁牧師

February 25, 2021

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It's been a long while since we last had our corporate worship. Because we clearly understand the meaning of worship, we long to resume such discipline in our lives earnestly. Worship came from the original word "worship"; to worship God is to ascribe the proper worth to God, to magnify His worthiness of praise, or to approach God as He is worthy.

Believers are expected to participate regularly in corporate worship as commanded in Hebrews 10:25: "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." "Meeting together" means to worship God in the presence of other believers. There are good reasons for the broadcast and tape recording of church worship, but none includes the idea of substituting media ministry for church attendance by those who are able.

Christianity focuses on community relationship. The New Testament describes the church as "body", "building" and "household", each speaks of the relationship between individual units and a larger whole. To experience Christianity on an individual level only will needlessly miss much of the blessings and power of God. Corporate worship brings together God's word, adoration, prayer, fellowship, discipleship, service and outreach, and so makes for the greatest means of God's perpetual grace in the Christian life.

In addition to following God's instructions, we are also observing the guidelines set by the state and health agency. The State of California has already canceled its stay-at-home mandate and revised its policy regarding in-person indoor worship service after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the churches. Now churches are free to worship corporately with a 25% capacity. The local Health agency has also updated the coronavirus numbers for positivity rate and cases per 100k; it showed a significant drop in numbers and demonstrated a continuous downward trend since January.

Listed below is a general overview of our "coming back" plan. **Most of our congregations will welcome those who desire and are ready to come back effective March 7, 2021.** With a few exceptions, due to special circumstances, our East Lansing campus, Cerritos Cantonese congregation, and Kairos congregation will start their in-person worship on March 6, March 28, and April 4 respectively. For more details, expect a communication from your congregation pastors.

1. CDC and other health agencies' protocol guidelines will strictly observed, including 3W's: Wear mask, wash hands and watch your distance. Besides, we will implement temperature checks at the entrance, sanitizers for clergy and parishioners, one-way directional signs for ingress and egress, application of high-grade disinfectant after each service, each bathroom is limited to 2 persons at a time, and other procedures.
2. Worship services will continue to be streamed online on our YouTube channel for those who are unable or not ready to join for corporate worship. Printed bulletins will not be distributed, but will be available at our website (www.fecc.us).
3. Offering bags will not be passed around. Tithes and offerings may be deposited in the offering box within the worship centers. Online giving is also made possible through Venmo, tithe.ly and bill pay through your bank.
4. Sunday School classes, prayer meetings, fellowships, discipleship training and other activities will continue to be held online over zoom. Sunday Fellowship (Agape) lunch will not resume at this present time.

Let's remind ourselves of Paul's admonition: "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love Do not fall into the reproach and snare of the devil whose primary scheme is to create disharmony and destroy God's church. And so, "whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17). Moreover, "whatever you do, do all for the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31)

May the Lord rekindle our spiritual fire and keep it burning!

Pastor Lao



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www.fecc.us

在基督裡親愛的弟兄姐妹們：

距離上次教會實體的主日崇拜已經有一段時間。我們渴望恢復群體敬拜的操練，因為敬拜有其特別的意義。“敬拜”(worship)源於“配得”(worthship) 這個字；敬拜神是將神所配得的歸給祂，彰顯祂所配得的讚美。我們親近祂因為祂配得。

“聚會”(meeting together)是與其他信徒一同敬拜神。線上的敬拜有其價值與理由，但不能取代教會的集體敬拜。希伯來書 10:25 教導我們，應該固定參加群體的敬拜。“你們不可停止聚會 (meeting together)，好像那些停止慣了的人，倒要彼此勸勉。既知道那日子臨近，就更當如此。”

基督信仰強調群體的關係。新約聖經將教會描述為“身體”，“建築物”和“家庭”；每處經文都談到單獨的肢體與整個身體之間的關係。我們若僅在個人層面上經歷神，將會錯失許多神的祝福。集體敬拜匯集了神的話語，敬拜，祈禱，團契，門徒造就，服侍和外展，並成為神給予基督徒生活長久不斷的恩典的最大媒介。

感謝神，美國的疫情逐漸降溫。自今年 1 月份以來，衛生部門所發表的新冠病毒的陽性率和每十萬人的新病例數據，都顯著下降，並且持續下滑中。你可能已經知道，加州取消了居家令，並且最高法院裁定允許教堂實體敬拜，州政府也修改了有關室內崇拜的規定。現在，教會可以在室內容量的 25% 為上限的情況下自由敬拜。

因此，我們計劃近期恢復實體崇拜。大多數堂會歡迎大家在 3 月 7 日回到教會參加實體崇拜。由於個別特殊因素，東蘭辛牧區是 3 月 6 日，喜瑞都廣東堂是 3 月 28 日，Kairos 則在 4 月 4 日開始實體崇拜。有關更多詳細信息，期待你的堂會牧師的聯繫。

以下是教會“恢復實體崇拜”的計劃：

1. 我們將嚴格遵守 CDC 和其他衛生機構的指南，包括：戴口罩，洗手，保持安全距離。我們也將在入口處進行溫度測量，提供洗手液，進出的指示牌，洗手間一次限 2 人使用，每次崇拜後使用清潔劑消毒等。

2. 主日崇拜將繼續在教會 YouTube 頻道上提供直播，幫助那些無法或尚未準備好參加群體崇拜的弟兄姊妹。

3. 我們將不會傳遞奉獻袋。奉獻請自行放在奉獻箱中，或通過 Venmo，tithe.ly 和銀行付款來奉獻。我們也不會分發紙印的程序單，你可以從教會網站 (www.fecc.us) 下載。目前不提供午餐。

4. 主日學，禱告會，團契，門徒訓練和其他活動將繼續在線上進行。

讓我們切記保羅的勸勉：“既然蒙召，行事為人就当與蒙召的恩相稱，凡事謙虛、溫柔、忍耐，用愛心互相寬容，用和平彼此聯絡，竭力保守聖靈所賜合而為一的心。”不要陷入魔鬼的詭計和圈套中，魔鬼的主要目標是製造不和諧並摧毀神的教會。因此，“你們無論做什麼事、說什麼話，都要奉主耶穌的名而行，並藉著祂感謝父神。”(西 3:17) 並且“無論做什麼，都要為神的榮耀而做。”(林前 10:31)

願主重燃我們的靈火，並保持它燃燒！。

劉華梁 牧師 敬上 (02-25-21)