

**FULLERTON ENGLISH**

- 1. Welcome:** thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning. We gather as a family of faith to worship and give thanks to all that the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us. We also seek to encourage one another to live a *"life worthy of the calling you have received"* (Ephesians 4:1), in response to what Christ has done for us. This morning, we continue on our Ephesians series, as Paul continues with very practical ways we can live out our new life in Christ for God's glory. If you have any prayer requests or concerns, please see Pastor David.
- 2. Baptismal Sunday, March 24:** are you ready to publicly declare and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If so, would you consider baptism? For more information, please see Pastor Adam or Pastor David.
- 3. Easter Weekend, Friday and Sunday, March 29 and 31:** we invite you to save the dates on your calendar as we gather to remember our Lord's death and sacrifice for us on Good Friday. And we also come with joy and thanksgiving to celebrate His resurrection on Easter Sunday. We have very special programs for that weekend, and we hope that you and your family will join us. For more information, please ask one of the pastors.
- 4. Upcoming Events:** Good Friday (3/29); Easter (3/31), Love Fullerton (4/20).
- 5. Prayer Requests:** (1) for us to develop a lifestyle of evangelism and missions; (2) for the preparations for Good Friday and Easter Services. Pray for our choir as they practice for Easter Sunday; (3) for safety and health for our sisters and brothers who are traveling; (4) for a speedy and full recovery for those who are dealing with illness or COVID-19; **For Our World:** (a) for the Lord to raise up instruments of peace in all of the places where there are armed conflicts: **Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia**, many countries in **Africa, India, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Mexico, and Colombia** among others; (b) for the hundreds of people have been rescued from a scam center in the **Philippines**: 383 Filipinos, 202 Chinese, and 73 other foreign nationals. They were trapped and forced into criminal activity in a center about 65 miles north of Manila; (c) for the people of **Haiti** as gang violence sweeps through the capital city. (d) for the people of **Gaza** who are starving amidst the war. (e) for the family and friends of least 60 migrants have died after a rubber dinghy ran into trouble in the Mediterranean Sea. Twenty-five survivors were picked up by the Ocean Viking, a vessel operated by the humanitarian group SOS Méditerranée. They had set off from **Zaweyia**, Libya several days before being rescued.

# Worship Service

March 17, 2024 11:00 A.M.

Worship in Song	Congregation
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Worship in Prayer Pastor David Tsai

Worship in Fellowship	Welcome and Announcement
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Worship in Giving	Congregation
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Worship in Word Pastor David Tsai

## "Children of Light for God's Glory"

## Ephesians 5:3-21

Benediction Pastor David Tsai

## FECC FAMILY NEWS

March 17, 2024

- Welcome to FECC:** thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning. We gather as a family of faith to worship and give thanks to all that the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us. We also seek to encourage one another to live a "life worthy of the calling you have received" (Ephesians 4:1), in response to what Christ has done for us. This morning, we continue on our Ephesians series, as Paul continues with very practical ways we can live out our new life in Christ for God's glory. If you have any prayer requests or concerns, please see your Congregational Pastor.
- Baptismal Sundays, March 24 & 31:** are you ready to publicly declare and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If so, would you consider baptism? For more information, please see your Congregational Pastor.
- Easter Weekend, Friday and Sunday, March 29 and 31:** we invite you to save the dates on your calendar as we gather to remember our Lord's death and sacrifice for us on Good Friday. And we also come with joy and thanksgiving to celebrate His resurrection on Easter Sunday. We have very special programs for that weekend, including a Children's Carnival on our Cerritos campus on Easter Sunday. We hope that you and your family will join us. For more information, please ask one of the pastors.

### 4. Attendance for March 9-10, 2024

	Cerritos	Fullerton	Oakland	E. Lansing
Mandarin	133	53	30	10
Cantonese	71			
English	44	41		
Kairos/Youth	70		10	
Children	34		8	2

### 5. Financial Update: Thank you for your faithful giving!

	As of 10/31/2023 (preliminary)				
	Actual Receipt	Budget	Variance	Actual Disbursed	+/-
Gen. Fund	\$1,256,352	\$ 1,571,154	-\$314,802	\$1,369,933	-\$113,581

\*Not including reimbursements and fees from church facilities use, which is not recorded in General Fund.

## Oakland Campus News

- Beloved Children's Academy is now accepting students! The preschool Academy is open to children from 2.5 to 5 years old. With our newly renovated learning environment, large activity space, and rich and diverse curriculum, we welcome families with children in the community to register! For registration and fee details, please contact the Academy Director, Lisi Yu, at (248)635-0722.

## East Lansing Campus News

- In-person services have resumed on Saturday mornings at 10 am at Faith Church! Come join us for a time of worship and fellowship! All safety and health precautions will continue to be observed. Services will continue to be live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

## English News

- Saturday Breakfast Club: First and third Saturdays from 7:00 am-8:00 am in the DTC chapel. Breakfast Club is for all brothers and sisters who want to commune with God through worship, Word, and prayer, and then dine together to fellowship and grow in their relationship with Christ.
- Sunday School: the following classes meet from 11:30 am-12:30 pm Women's Study in room D109, PE's One to One Discipleship in room D107, and Brother Stan's study on Tactics-How to Defend Christian Faith in D103.

## Youth (Poimea) News

- We have resumed in-person fellowship. Weekly activities:
  - Friday: 8:00 pm – Fellowship
  - Sunday: 10:00 am - Sunday School
  - Wednesday: 4:00 pm – Prayer Meeting (on Zoom)

## Kairos News

- Fellowship groups have resumed! Contact Pastor Len if you are interested in attending one of the groups.

## Mandarin News

- Let us humble ourselves before the Lord and seek His face for our nation, our church, and our families. Come join us on Wednesday nights, at 7:30 pm, for prayer meeting. For more details, please email txu@fecc.us).

## Cantonese News

- Any Cantonese-speaking person who would like to join our fellowships or worship service, please contact Pastor Godwin Ngai at gngai@fecc.us.



## CALLED TO BE GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE

Pastor David Tsai

<sup>1</sup>Get Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God. To God's holy people [saints, ESV] in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: (Ephesians 1:1)

In many of his letters, the Apostle Paul says of the letter's recipients that they are called to be "*saints*." Even as God called Paul to be an apostle, so God called all of the Ephesians believers to be saints. What did Paul mean by "*saints*"?

Though the translation of the Greek word *hagios* as "*saint*" is traditional and common, I would suggest that it's not particularly helpful in our day. Besides using "*Saint*" as a name for a professional football player from New Orleans, we call someone a saint if that person is truly extraordinary. If we say, for example, "*Anna is such a saint*," we mean that Anna is someone who acts in a particularly charitable and sacrificial way as she does good for others. In the church, "*Saint*" can be used as a designation of a rare Christian whose life of service to God and people is truly exceptional. In 2016, for example, Mother Teresa of Calcutta was declared a saint – "*canonized*" is the official word for it – by Pope Francis for her unique life of service to the poor and suffering.

But this is not what Paul had in mind when using the Greek word *hagios*. The basic meaning of this word had to do with things being dedicated or consecrated to God (or in the Greek word, a god). *Hagios* is often translated in the Bible as "*holy*." Things used in the temple in Jerusalem, for example, were holy in that they were set apart from ordinary usage in order to be used in the worship of God. A person could be *hagios* if that person was dedicated to God. In the Old Testament era, priests were thought of as holy in this sense.

But so were all of God's chosen people. In Exodus 19 God chose Israel to be His "*treasured possession out of all the peoples*" (v. 5). The Israelites would be for God "*a priestly kingdom and a holy nation*" (v. 6). Though some of the people would have an uncommon "*holy*" role as priests, all of God's people were set apart for God and His purposes. In this sense, all of them were holy. Or, if you prefer, all were saints.

What was true of Israel became true for believers in Jesus, according to Paul. They were "*called to be saints*" as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:1. A better rendering in today's English would be, "*called to be God's special people*." All Christians are set apart by God for God and His purposes. This is just as true of teachers, carpenters, and realtors as it is of preachers, priests, and missionaries. To be a saint is a little like being an Olympic athlete who is set apart from the rest of humanity for a particular purpose.

The fact that the biblical title of "*saint*" is not given only to especially worthy people is abundantly clear from Paul's letters. For instance, the church in Corinth was quite a mess, actually. People were not getting along with each other as they divided up into opposing factions. Some were engaging in prostitution while others were getting drunk at Communion. The Corinthian believers didn't earn their sainthood by their good works, that's for sure. Rather, they were "*called to be saints*" by God on the basis of grace offered through Jesus Christ.

And so, it is with you and me today. If you have embraced the Good News of the Gospel, then you are a saint, or as I would prefer to say, you are one of "*God's special people*." You belong to God and are a vital contributor to God's work in the world because God has called you and set you apart through Christ. That is indeed Good News!

***Gracious God, thank You for calling us to be Your saints, Your special people on the basis of Your grace given in Christ. May I see everything in my life as an opportunity to live out my sainthood for your purposes and glory. Amen.***