

FULLERTON ENGLISH

- Welcome to FECC Fullerton!** We welcome you to our corporate time of worship as we gather as a family of faith to praise and give thanks to God, our Father, and His Son, Je-sus Christ. Because of the reality of the Gospel in our lives, we desire to grow in our life of worship, to come together in community and to give our lives for God's mission. This morning, we continue in our series, and we'll dive into the first beatitude. If you have any prayer requests, please let Pastor Adam or Pastor David know.
- FECC Membership Class, Sunday, October 15:** Interested in becoming a member of our church? If you are a baptized Christian, 18 years or older, and have been attending our church, you are invited to apply for membership. The class will be conducted in one of three languages (Mandarin, English, or Cantonese) via Zoom. If you are interest-ed or for an application form, please see Pastor Adam or Pastor David.
- Operation Christmas Child Seasonal Employment:** Samaritan's Purse currently has several paid seasonal positions for their warehouse in Fullerton. If you are interested, please visit samaritanspurse.org, and look under jobs in California. For more infor-mation, please see Pastor Adam or Pastor David
- Church Picnic, Saturday, September 30, 10:30AM:** please save the date for our church wide picnic. As we prepare for the fall, we invite you to join us for a day of fun, food and fellowship at the park. This will be a potluck style, so bring your favorite food to share. It will take place at the Tri-City Regional Park (2301 N Kramer Blvd, Placentia 92870). We will be gathering at Shelter #1. For more information, please see your fel-lowship leader or one of our pastors.
- Upcoming Events:** FECC Fullerton Picnic (9/30).
- Prayer Requests: **(1)**; for our deacons, directors and pastors as they meet today to discuss ministry and church business; **(2)** for the Sim family as many of the members are traveling after attending Carlos Sim's memorial services; **(3)** for the Taiwan Mis-sions team as they prepare to minister to the community at Operation Dawn; **(4)** for God's leading, discernment and protection as our church responds to the lawsuit that has been filed against the church; **(5)** the safety and health of those who are traveling this long holiday weekend; **(6)** for a speedy and full recovery for those who are dealing with illness or COVID-19. **For Our World:** **(a)** for **Libya** and all her people, as they con-tinue to search for more than ten thousand missing people after massive amounts of rainfall caused destruction to the dams outside Derna. More than five thousand people are reported dead, with over thirty thousand more left homeless and in unsafe condi-tions; **(b)** for the people of **Morocco** who experienced a powerful 6.8 magnitude earthquake, with a death toll of nearly three thousand people and more than five thou-sand more incurring injuries; **(c)** for the people of **Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil** who ex-perienced heavy rains and floods, causing the death of over thirty people; **(d)** for the survivors and victims of deadly fires in Vietnam. In Hanoi, a deadly fire at a nine=story apartment tower took the lives of over 55 people and another 39 people have perished in a karaoke complex near Ho Chi Minh City.

Worship Service

September 17, 2023 11:00 A.M.

Worship in Song Congregation

Worship in Prayer Pastor David Tsai

Worship in Fellowship Welcome and Announcement

Worship in Giving Congregation

Worship in Word Pastor David Tsai

" Poor in spirit "

Matthew 5:3

Benediction Pastor David Tsai

FECC FAMILY NEWS

September 17, 2023

- 1. Welcome!** We are glad that you have joined us for our corporate time of worship. As a family of faith, we gather to praise and give thanks to God, our Father, for what He has done for us in the work of His Son, Jesus Christ. If you have any prayer request, please let your congregational pastor know.
- 2. FECC Membership Class, Sunday, October 15:** Interested in becoming a member of our church? If you are a baptized Christian, 18 years or older, and have been attending our church, you are invited to apply for membership. The class will be conducted in one of three languages (Mandarin, English, or Cantonese) via Zoom. If you are interested or for an application form, please see your congregational pastor.
- 3. Operation Christmas Child Seasonal Employment:** many of us are familiar with Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse currently has several paid seasonal positions for their warehouse in Fullerton. If you are interested, please visit samaritanspurse.org, and look under jobs in California.

4. Attendance for September 9-10, 2023

	Cerritos	Fullerton	Oakland	E. Lansing
Mandarin	126	59	50	10
Cantonese	83			
English	45	47		
Kairos/Youth	94		6	12
Children	41	3	10	2

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

	As of 03/31/2023				
	Actual Receipt	Budget	Variance	Actual Disbursed	+/-
Gen, Fund	\$328,679	\$390,858	-\$62,179	\$403,889	-\$75,209

*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 (Poima) 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.



RESETTING OUR EXPECTATIONS

– John 15:4

Pastor David Tsai

Expectations. We all have them. Many of us live with high expectations; expectations define our world. For some, those expectations are a positive motivator. For others, they are a profound burden. Jesus too lived in a world of great expectations. His extraordinary birth raised great hopes as well as created profound fear. Was He the One who would, in the phrase of N. T. Wright, “*set the world to rights?*” And perhaps the unasked and even more weighty question behind that question is, “*What will that world look like?*”

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by resetting the expectations of His listeners. Perhaps a stronger and more accurate verb is “*reverse.*” Jesus reverses the expectations about what the world looks like when it is made right. What is striking is how backward it all seems.

In the opening beatitude, Jesus blesses those who are poor in spirit. That’s not exactly a category for people to aspire to, either in the first century or in the twenty-first. In doing so, Jesus raises the disturbing possibility that our expectation ladders are leaned up against the wrong building.

Or, consider the medical condition called anorexia. Anorexia is “*an eating disorder characterized by an abnormally low body weight, an intense fear of gaining weight, and a distorted perception of weight*” (Mayo Clinic). It is a strange disease. You may be surprised that, for the anorexic, much of life works backward. When encouraged to eat more as they lose weight, they chose instead to eat less even more resolutely, thereby losing more weight. The reason is that their self-perception is reversed from reality. When they look in the mirror, instead of seeing someone losing weight, they see a person gaining weight. Their perception is diametrically opposed to what the rest of us saw to be true.

Jesus’ Beatitudes attempt to address something similar. Like an anorexic looking in a mirror, our views and expectations for God’s rule (and for us as human beings) are deeply distorted. Instead of seeing what God intends for us, we see something quite the

opposite. So, when Jesus declares God’s actual expectations, we come away disoriented and disturbed. Everything seems backward from what we thought was true.

Jesus begins by calling the poor in spirit blessed. How can that be? For both the secular and religious person, “*being blessed*” is usually an indication of flourishing. For those familiar with God’s work in the history of Israel, a blessing is associated with God’s goodness as it is expressed in the bounty of creation, in God’s faithfulness to deliver His people from their enemies, and in God’s affirmation of those who are faithful to God’s instructions. Economic poverty in ancient Israel (as to some Christians today) was a sign of the lack of God’s blessing. Spiritual poverty suffered much the same assessment. Even if the causes of such poverty were debatable, the effects could hardly be described as “*being blessed.*” What was Jesus talking about?

Jesus’ Beatitudes have been with us for two millennia and it is easy to become too comfortable with them. There have been many explanations offered for what Jesus meant. It’s easy for Jesus’ words to lose their edginess. I think it’s worth letting the shock of Jesus’ words disorient and disturb us for a while. In the words of the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, we suffer the “*consequence of the film of familiarity*” where “*we have eyes, yet see not, ears that hear not, and hearts that neither feel nor understand.*” We will delve further into the Beatitudes next week.