



Westside Baptist Church Bulletin

May 5, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Alan Yu

During Worship

- Be still and prepare your heart for worship.
- Please take care of your personal belongings to avoid theft.

Offering

- Welcome to donate via E-transfer, email: westsidebaptistoffering@gmail.com
- To donate by cash or cheque, please use an offering envelope and put it into the offering bag during worship.
- When making a donation, please indicate the donation envelope number and the full legal name. The offering envelope number can be obtained from the church office.

Notes to CitRUs parents :

- The enrollment age for CitRUs Children's Ministry starts from age 3; one parent can accompany children under 3 to participate in worship in Room B.
- Classes are held on Sunday mornings at 11:30 am at Room E & F.
- After class, please supervise the children who have been picked up from the classroom.

Parking

- The upstairs parking lot (Parking Lot 1) is designated for new comers, people with reduced mobility, the elderly and families with young children.
- Additional parking spaces are available at 8508 Ash Street (Parking Lot 3) and #1-8765 Ash Street (Parking Lot 4) on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. [Maps](#) are available in the foyer.
- Please do not double park.
- When parking in the outdoor parking lot downstairs (Parking Lot 2), please be careful not to block the fire escape and keep a distance of 3 feet from the building's exterior wall so that the fire door can be fully opened.
- **To be considerate of your neighbors, please do not park outside the residential area.**
- The indoor parking lot downstairs (Parking Lot 2) will be closed at 1:00 pm on Sundays. If you exceed the time limit, you will have to wait until 10:00 am on Tuesday morning to collect your vehicle.

Announcements

- The **32nd Anniversary Dinner** will be held tonight at 6:30pm. Please be green & bring your own dinnerware & cutlery if you have already signed up! There will be games with prizes during the dinner, so please stay tuned!
- **Vacation Bible School** will be held from July 2-6, suitable for children from Kindergarten to Grade 5. We are currently **recruiting volunteers**. Members who have a passion to serve the children this summer, please sign up at the following link: <https://forms.gle/cPtJ94nEJrxUvh158> **Deadline for registration is May 5.**
- **Salvation Army Food Bank Volunteer Recruitment.** Starting in June, every Thursday morning. Approximately from 8 AM to 12 PM, the Salvation Army is looking to recruit volunteers to help distribute food to families in need. Location: 3213 Fraser St. Interested brothers and sisters, please contact Tommy or the office to sign up.



Anniversary **The Choice**

[Genesis 12:1-4]

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. [Genesis 12 : 3]

Sermon Outline

Introduction

Content

1. Separation

2. The Beautiful Picture

My Reflection

- What did God tell me through the message today?

3. An Uncomfortable Hope

Conclusion

My Reflection

- What did God tell me through the message today?

My Prayer Response

- Write down your responsive prayer for God's word today.

My Action Response

- What changes will you make in response to God's word today?

New Worship Services Arrangements

If we have enough brothers and sisters who are willing to serve, Westside Baptist Church proposes to start a second Cantonese worship service in July 2024, and to realign the current arrangements of the two worship services on Sunday (Cantonese and English) to facilitate ministry development. The new worship schedule is as follows:

Saturday

4:00 - 4:45 pm	Cantonese Christian Education 1		
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Saturday Cantonese Worship Service	(No CitRUs children ministry for now)	

Sunday

9:00 - 10:30 am	English Worship Service	CitRUs · First Look (preschool & kindergarten) · 252 Kids (Grade 1-5)	(9:30-10:30 am) Cantonese Christian Education 2 & Parent Institute
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	Sunday Cantonese Worship Service	CitRUs · First Look (preschool & kindergarten) · 252 Kids (Grade 1-7) · XP3 (Grade 8-9)	English Christian Education

We will issue a call to everyone in the Chinese congregation during our Anniversary Service on May 5 to consider serving in the Saturday Cantonese worship service. If we have more than 30 brothers and sisters willing to commit, we will proceed with the starting of the second Cantonese worship service in July 2024 as planned. **Congregants in EM do not need to complete the response form** unless you want to serve in the Saturday Cantonese worship service. In that case, you can access the response form using the QR code on the right hand side and submit your response by May 19, 2024.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do we need to start a new Cantonese worship service?

Since the reopening of our church services after the pandemic, the attendance at our worship services has been steadily increasing, driven by a new wave of immigrants from Hong Kong. By the end of 2022, the attendance at the Cantonese service had consistently exceeded 200 people. Our sanctuary can only accommodate 250 people due to fire regulations, which means the Cantonese service is at 80% capacity every week, and sometimes even reaches 90%. This full capacity situation has reduced the desire of newcomers to stay, participate in worship and engage in community life, and also diminished the enthusiasm of brothers and sisters to invite their friends and family to church and share the gospel. In order to create space for new ministry developments, we must launch a new Cantonese worship service.

2. Why did it take until now to start a new Cantonese worship service?

Indeed, the shortage of seats at the Cantonese service has been evident since the end of 2022, but at that time, we did not have the conditions to start a second Cantonese worship service. The conditions for opening a new worship service mainly involve three aspects:

First, having enough manpower to serve: Although the congregation was growing by 2022, the number of people willing to join membership and serve was not sufficient. For example, in the current Cantonese worship service, we need about 40 brothers and sisters to serve in various positions each week for the worship service to operate, which means we need about 120 brothers and sisters to rotate. To expand to two Cantonese worship services, we would need to recruit dozens more brothers and sisters to

1. serve; however, at that time, almost every service position had vacancies, and we had difficulty recruiting enough service personnel, let alone expand. Newcomers often need time to decide to join membership and serve, which is normal and understandable. Therefore, there may be a time gap between the increase in worship attendance and the increase in the number of people available to serve. But by this year, more brothers and sisters are finally willing to become members, and the potential manpower available to serve has increased, making the conditions ripe for starting a new Cantonese worship service.

Second, having enough pastoral staff: Since Pastor Anders retired in 2018, we have been calling for new pastoral staff, but we have not encountered any suitable candidate, so Pastor Anders had to come back as an interim pastor. After the pandemic, the workload of the pastors continued to increase, and we could only maintain the basic operation of the church without room to develop new ministries. However, by the end of 2023, God led three suitable pastors to us, and they started to take office one after another at the beginning of 2024, bringing our pastoral team to 4.8 FTE. As I mentioned before, this number of pastors is barely enough to maintain the basic operation of the church, and there is still a shortage from the ideal number of pastors for developing new ministries; but the pastors are willing to give extra to start a new Cantonese worship service as soon as possible.

Third, having enough brothers and sisters willing to commit to serving: Having enough members and pastors alone cannot support the starting of a new Cantonese worship service; if there are not enough brothers and sisters willing to commit to serving in various positions at the Saturday Cantonese worship service, it still cannot operate. Therefore, we will call for 30 members to commit to serving in the new Cantonese worship service during the May anniversary celebration; if enough people respond to the call, we would then be able to start the new Cantonese worship service.

2. Why not schedule all three worship services on Sunday morning?

Because it is not practical. Three worship services would take a total of over 4 hours, including the half-hour needed for each transition, totaling more than 5 hours. To finish the last worship service before 1:00 pm, the first one would need to start at around 7:45 am, and the praise team

would need to start practicing at around 6:15 am... Additionally, holding three worship services on Sunday morning would exacerbate the already insufficient parking situation.

3. Why not put the English service in the Gallery? Then all three services could be held on Sunday morning.

The Gallery can accommodate about 60 people when fully seated. The English service already has over 40 attendees weekly and is rapidly growing (in fact, over the past year, the English congregation has been growing faster than the Cantonese congregation in terms of membership increase). The Gallery cannot meet the developmental needs of the English congregation. Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, we do not have enough parking spaces for all three congregations to meet on Sunday morning.

4. Why choose to have the new Cantonese service on Saturday late afternoon?

We considered having the third service on Sunday afternoon or evening, but due to our current shortage of pastors, most of the time, one pastor would have to lead two Cantonese services in the same week, possibly also leading the English service. Leading three services in one day would be too demanding physically. Putting a service on Saturday also allows us to reach people who cannot attend on Sunday mornings. Many people have commitments on Saturday mornings and evenings, but the late afternoon to evening time slots are often the most convenient for most people, as they fall between daytime and evening activities. We looked at several popular churches in Vancouver, and most of their third services are also held on Saturday late afternoon.

5. Why switch the order of the Cantonese and English services on Sunday mornings?

The main reason is to provide a better time slot for the English service to develop its Christian education ministry. Currently, English Christian education classes can only be held during Sunday afternoons; yet when there are other activities (such as various meetings), they would have to be suspended, lacking continuity. Additionally, many members find it cumbersome to return to church for classes after having lunch on Sundays. However, given the current stage of development for the English congregation, the demand of Christian education ministry is increasing. We must find ways to provide better opportunities for

the English congregation to develop its Christian education ministry. Reversing the order of the two services allows members of the English congregation to attend both worship service and Christian education courses in one morning, making participation in Christian education courses more feasible for them.

6. Is 9 am too early for the English service to start?

We have taken reference from several of Vancouver's most popular churches, and their Sunday morning services are typically scheduled at 9 am and 11 am. We have consulted with leaders and small groups in the English congregation, and the new meeting time has generally received positive responses and support. Starting the service earlier allows members to participate in Christian education courses, have lunch earlier, and free up the entire Sunday afternoon for other activities. In fact, 9 am is not particularly early and is comparable to weekday work or school hours.

7. I am a teenager who attends high school and speaks English. My parents attend Cantonese service. How should our family arrange our worship time?

We encourage English-speaking teenagers from

Grade 8 to Grade 9 to start attending the English service, while those in Grade 10 and above should regularly attend the English service. Here's a suggested schedule for Sunday mornings:

Parents and teenagers return to church together at 9 am. The teenager can join the English service while parents join Cantonese Christian Education courses or participate in the Parent Institute programs. At 11 am, parents can attend the Cantonese service, and teenagers in Grade 8 to Grade 9 can participate in CitRUs - XP3, while teenagers in Grade 10 or above can join the English Christian Education classes.

Of course, if your family has one child in secondary school and another in elementary school, it may be a bit more challenging. We would suggest having elementary school-aged children also participate in the English service (possibly accompanied by a parent). Parents might feel that they are too young to understand what is going on in the English service, but participation in worship is not just cognitive but also spiritual. Even if they don't fully understand, their attendance in worship will still edify their spirits.



1. What if there are fewer than 30 people willing to commit to serving in the Saturday Worship service?

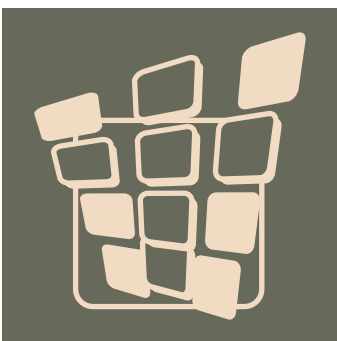
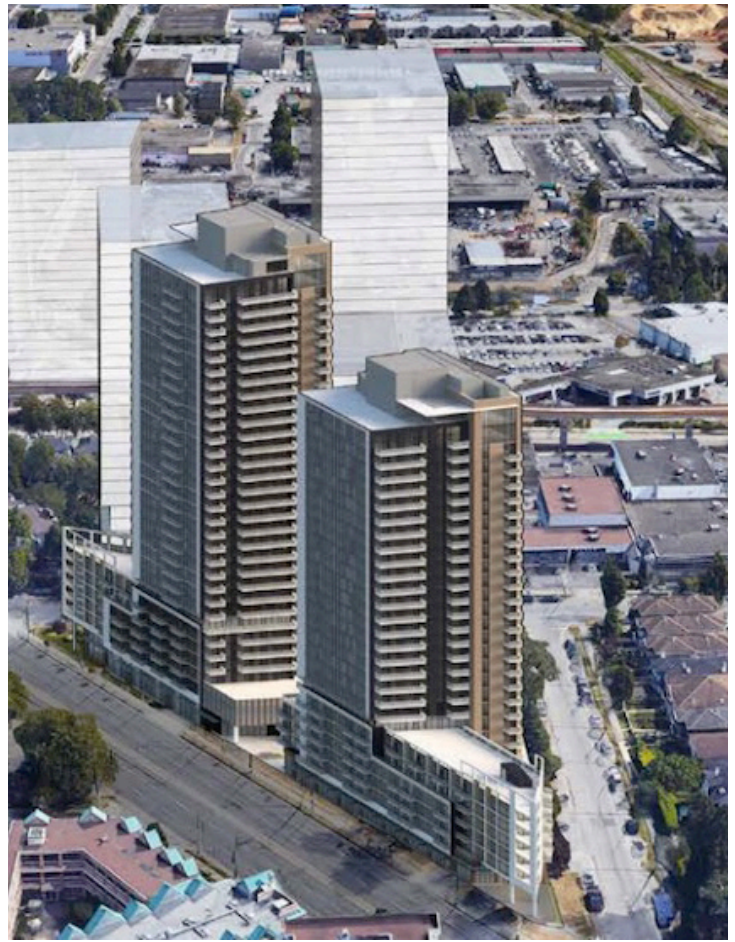
If fewer than 30 people are willing to commit to serving in the Saturday worship service, we may reconsider starting the second Cantonese worship service. Currently, we do not have a Plan B in place. However, even if we do not proceed with the second Cantonese service, we will still make adjustments to the Sunday morning schedule. The English service will be moved to 9 am, and the Cantonese service will be scheduled for 11 am, to accommodate the needs of the English congregation's development.

2. What did the decision-making process look like among the church leaders?

The decision to start a second Cantonese worship service was initially proposed within the pastoral team in 2022. However, it wasn't until the arrival of three new pastors that the pastoral team formally presented the proposal to the Deacon Board. The deacons privately consulted various members of the congregation for their opinions in February, and consensus was reached during the board meeting in early March. Soon after, Pastor Alan met with the CM small group leaders to introduce the new arrangements, and asked them to seek feedback from their small group members. In mid-April, after gathering and considering all the feedback, the pastoral team and the Deacon Board made the final decision.

- On the right are architectural drawings of the buildings currently under construction in our neighborhood. Above is 622-688 SW Marine Drive, where Denny's restaurant formerly stood; below is 8460 Ash Street, the property to the right of our church. In about a year, over 2,000 new neighbours will move in; all of them we look forward to reach out to and serve.

If you have any question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact any pastor; we would love to hear from you.



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