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“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.”

(1 Peter 1:3-4)

Many different roles and identities are given to us in our lifetime, or we seek to achieve them with our own efforts. Whatever identity we seek to define ourselves by and whom we allow to provide that identity will determine where we place our energy and attention.

By meditating on the cross and resurrection of Jesus during Lent, I have come to realize again - perhaps with deeper awakening than before - that the greatest gift from God through Jesus Christ is the gift of our identity as a child of God. Peter mentions this in the passage above.

The cost of this identity is incomparably great; it cost the life of Jesus Christ. By giving Himself on the cross, he takes the burden of sin upon Himself and descends into the abyss of death. But this abyss of death was not deeper than that of God’s love for us. By resurrection, Jesus triumphs over sin and death and opens the door to a new life no longer under the slavery of sin but free.

I experience over and over again this freedom and the deep sense of security when I allow God alone to provide my identity. While every other identity demands and seeks value, God’s love creates value in us like nothing else can. As Peter mentions above - “an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.” However, only by placing my energy in knowing God, and thereby understanding God’s love, does being a child of God take its full meaning. Otherwise it does not have much weight or impact. The power of our identity comes alive only when we nourish our relationship with God every day through the Word and prayer. Like any true children living under the guidance of their parents, we need to truly let God change and guide us. Whenever I feel lost or have that desire to be the centre and lord of my own life, I am reminded to turn back to the true anchor that will keep me grounded and in peace - my identity as a child of God, where God increases and I decrease.

Give thanks and praise God for the most precious gift he has given to us through our Lord Jesus Christ!



Hi-C Praise Workshop

by [joshuachung](#)

What is the meaning of praise and why is it so important in Christianity? Why do we praise God in a form of music and singing?

The answer will not come from the influence of other people, but the only true answer lies deep within the heart. In music and in worship, we sing with one voice all in unison, devoting ourselves to God. We create this a singularity in the congregation where we open our hearts and minds to God so that we let the Holy Spirit empower us throughout our daily lives. Music in itself is a fascinating device that allows people to unite no matter what the color of their skin, the language they speak or even the clothes they wear. It has a mysterious capability to bring a community together and to bring the church together. Josh Kim, our church praise team leader, once said this: "Praise is something that leads the congregation, preparing their hearts for God." This statement is very true; Praise prepares the church with an open heart for the sermon in anticipation for the word of God.

The Hi-C praise team has been coming early on Sundays to prepare and create a holy environment for our fellow believers at the church. The main reason why I joined the praise team was because over time I found that the praise team was slowly fading away, and because I wanted to see changes in the church -I joined to make a difference. As the leader of the Hi-C praise team, I am proud to say that the team consists of a dedicated group of very young talented musicians and singers alike, lending their musical talents for God and to the church. Let music and singing allow our community to unite allowing the congregation to praise Him in one voice.



Hi-C Lock-in

by laurajang

St. Tim's came together on March 14-15th to continue our annual Hi-C tradition: the Lock-In! Thanks to the wonderful teachers and YA group who came to spend time with us, we had an amazing time filled with meeting new people who came for the event. The night started at E-Zone, where we played Whirly Ball (a mix of lacrosse and basketball in bumper cars). The game surpassed all of our expectations, and brought out the competitive side in all of us. It was amazing to see everyone filled with energy and enthusiasm. After heading back to the church, the YA and the Hi-C execs led everyone in a fun-filled array of games that brightened everyone's spirits and brought us all so much closer together. As part of our Hi-C tradition, we played numerous rounds of the game Mafia. Other highlights of the night included Jonathan Chung's dancing, egg dropping, and late night ramen eating. The Lock-In provided us with time to talk with one another, and get to know each other on a more personal level. It was a time of great fellowship, and personally it brought me closer with so many more youths.

My favorite part of the Lock-In was being able to meet the new friends that everyone brought, and build friendships with the YA. Just recently, the Hi-C Execs and I realized that our Hi-C is indeed a family where we support and love each other, just as God loves each and every one of us. Keeping this in mind, we will try to get as many of our members as possible to come out to events like this. Thanks to everyone who coordinated this event, it was a great success!





PARKDALE FOOD BANK

REV. SOOJIN CHUNG

One of my favorite hymns goes like this: “Step by step, step by step, I would walk with Jesus, all the day, all the day, keeping step with Jesus.” I can tell you that the whole experience of searching for a new food bank in the Parkdale area, preparing and getting trained for the takeover process from the Red Cross, has been exactly like this hymn: step by step, I would walk with Jesus...

When I first knocked on the door of Daily Bread Food Bank (DBFB) last year sometime around November, I did not know what would result from this search for another food bank. I felt like Peter who asked Jesus to order him to walk on the water: “Lord, if it’s you, tell me to come to you on the water.” (Matthew 14:28)

After a few meetings with the staff of DBFB, I had a better idea of what this new food bank program would involve. (Parkdale Food Bank is officially known as Sorauren Food Bank.) Thank God for a few committed local volunteers who play a large role in this food bank and the staff from the Red Cross who have been serving the Parkdale Food Bank as its agency. They have been so supportive of the St. Timothy volunteers during the transition process in the month of March.

Yes, every week of March was like “step by step, walking with Jesus.” I did not know who would come out and serve as interviewers, but I kept praying to God to send us volunteers. As a matter of fact, since January, I have prayed to God with this specific prayer request: “God, please send us three hundred warriors of Gideon. We don’t need three thousand or thirty thousand but very few who have the heart to serve you by serving your people.”

From April, St. Timothy’s will take over the Parkdale Food Bank from the Red Cross and run the program as its agency. Are we ready for this? “No” in human capacity but “Yes” with God’s grace. I thank God for His grace that is always sufficient for every moment. To my surprise, God sent a few church members who I would not have pictured to be ideal interviewers. I have to confess that my eyes were opened to a new world God is leading us into. Can you be a part of God’s sufficient grace for this new ministry? We will never discover other shores unless we get out of the boat and walk on the water even though that is a very scary thing to do. “Change” is this year’s theme for our church. Ask yourselves this question: What kind of change do I want to see happening in my life? May God give you courage to try new things and in the process may you experience the abundant grace of God!



sermon titles & summary – march 2014

let us keep powerful important messages close to our hearts in the months ahead...

MARCH 2

Rev. In Kee Kim

Scripture: John 21:15-25

Sermon: Change of Peter 2

Failure is not the end of our journey but only a process of our journey. When it occurs, it simply tells us that we are not at the destination yet. Don't let your failures define who you are. Failures are only a part of your greater self. There is always a second chance and that is the Gospel message. Jesus came to Peter who experienced the pain of failure. When you fail, don't ever forget that God loves you and that you still love God. When you keep the love of God in your heart, you will find the way back.

MARCH 9

Rev. In Kee Kim

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon: Temptation

When we hear the word, "temptation", the associated words that come to our minds are: SEX, PLEASURE, and IMMORAL BEHAVIOUR. But today's passage has nothing to do with them. The devil asked Jesus to turn stone into bread, jump off from the pinnacle and bow to him. So we realize that the temptation is more complex than sex, pleasure and immoral behaviour. What do all three things the devil asks point to? Vanity, bloated ego, personal glory and narcissism, these are what the devil points to. Be great. Be powerful. Be rich. Be cool. Be glorious. Be even God. Jesus said that there are only two things we need to remember to follow Jesus: 1. Deny yourself and 2. Take up your cross. That is how we human beings become true authentic human beings. It is exactly the opposite of what the devil suggests. If we follow what Jesus asks us to do, we will find our true self and along with that, true peace and true happiness.

MARCH 16

Rev. In Kee Kim

Scripture: Romans 4:1-5, 13-18

Sermon: Being Righteous

We don't use the word, "righteous" in modern days. We use words like "good", "decent", and "respectable". But righteousness is a very important theological concept for Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Being righteous means that one's life is acceptable and pleasing to God. Being righteous means that one is ethically, legally and religiously blameless before God so that one is acceptable to God. Blessed people are righteous people and the righteous people are the people accepted by God and God will bless them to prosper. That is the formula but the problem is that we can never be righteous enough to be acceptable to God. St. Paul found this truth: God accepts the unacceptable; God forgives the unforgivable; God loves the unlovable. That is God's righteousness. How do we become righteous? By accepting what God did for us. Namely, forgiving the unforgivable, accepting the unacceptable and loving the unlovable. We are what we are, not because of personal qualities but by God's grace.

MARCH 23

Rev. In Kee Kim

Scripture: John 4:5-42

Sermon: Being Alone With God

We are born alone and we die alone. But being lonely and being alone are two different things. The Scripture says that Jesus often went to the mountain alone to pray. He was physically alone but not lonely because he was connected with God. Being lonely is the feeling of being disconnected and cut off. Being lonely is having the feeling that there is nobody who cares for you, that nobody wants you and that you are unacceptable. You feel rejected and misunderstood. We are scared of being alone but at some point in our lives we will be alone and we will have to learn to be alone. Jesus was alone when he prayed in Gethsemane struggling with his own death. As he was alone with God, we need to learn to be alone with God. God will help us see what's in the core of our loneliness and will help us deal with our loneliness. Yes, we are born alone and die alone. But we are not alone when we are with God.

MARCH 30

Rev. In Kee Kim

Scripture: John 9:1-41

Sermon: Who Sinned?

Sin is the arrogance to think that you have it all and you know it all. Sin is to reduce God and limit God with our limited thinking. The problem with the Pharisees was that they reduced God and limited God with their limited thinking because of their fear of losing control over its people. Meanwhile, they have become blind and they could not see the work of God. We cannot mold God; God molds us. We cannot reduce God; God is not reducible. Let God simply work in us by putting down our worries, anxieties, doubts and fear. Enter freely into God's mysterious world. We will experience a wonderful new world. "A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." Don't stay in harbour. Take the courage to sail into the ocean where you will experience the mystery of God.



if you have any questions, comments or ideas for our monthly e-newsletter we would love to hear from you.

please email us at:
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eventsinapril

April 11 – April 13:
KSM Happiness Seminar –
“Change”

Fri April 18:
Good Friday Joint Service

Sun April 20:
Easter Sunday Service

Sun April 27:
Spring Celebration

eventsinfuture months

Sat May 31:
Coffee House – a Fund-
raiser for South Africa
Mission

June 20 – 22:
ESM Retreat at The Fair
Havens Conference
Centre

Aug 2 – 17:
South Africa Mission Trip



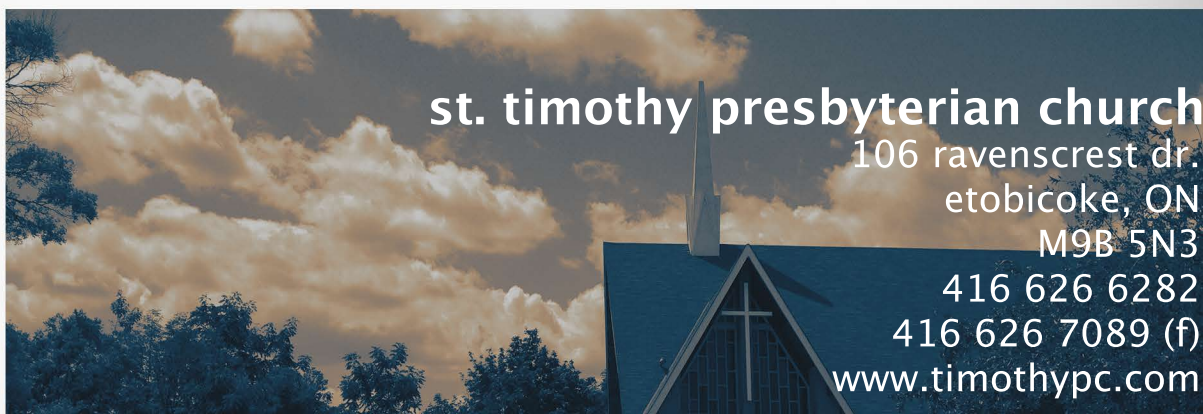
editor'snote

This is the season of Lent when Christians of many denominations around the world prepare for Good Friday and Jesus' death on the Cross – the ultimate expression of love for all of us, his children. Rev Yoon reminds us that we are indeed all children of God and we need to be cognizant and be thankful of the great sacrifice that was Jesus, Lamb of God. We should be proud to call ourselves the children of God and act out this love by serving those in need around us. Parkdale Food Bank project has been the fruit of Inner City Mission efforts headed by Rev Chung. As we take over its agency role, let us all participate to make this a success as we have done with Teesdale Food Bank project.

Church life provides many great opportunities for our Hi-C members to hone their leadership skills. We are proud of our young people who have matured in serving the church in many aspects. We hear from Joshua Chung who leads the Hi-C Praise Team in their worship on the importance of praise in worship. We also hear from Laura Jang who reports from Hi-C Lock-In to give us a flavour of what really goes on during the mysterious event known as the Lock-In. We hope that the meaningful bond of Christian fellowship that is formed during the Hi-C years and carried forth will help to make St. Timothy, our faith community, flourish as Hi-C members grow into young adults.

Happy Easter and Happy Spring everyone!

James Choe

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