

Sermon Discussion Questions

What did the first people to experience the resurrection of Jesus encounter and what emotions did they have? They were afraid, they were given some instructions, they were joyful, they were obedient and they worshipped!

Questions:

1. Where have you seen God's power at work? How do you respond to the demonstration of God's power?
2. What has God done in your life to fill you with joy? How do you express that joy?

3. Is there an area of your life where you need to be more obedient to God? What motivates you to be obedient to God? What holds you back?
4. How do you worship God? Is it with songs, actions, words or some other way? Read Romans 12:1. In view of God's mercy, how are we to worship to Him? What does that look like in your life?

Prayer Items

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. – 1 John 4:11-12

- Praise the worship team who faithfully serve. God comfort and uplift the spirit of our congregation through the hymns they led.

Pray for

- The Board of Directors as it works to be relevant and bold in serving the church.
- Pastor John Chen as he looks forward to moving in the summer to Trinity Seminary to work on his PhD.
- Brother William Lui as he moves into a new ministry role within the EC as a deacon.
- Young adults of Journey fellowship. May their Christian faith continue to grow while navigating life.
- Wisdom and good time management

for the Sunday school facilitators as they are preparing for the upcoming modules.

- Enthusiasm of brothers and sisters who are launching to the next Sunday school modules.
- Restoration of strained relationship with family members and friends. May we have the heart of forgiveness as God forgives us.
- A prepared heart and spiritual guidance as the team going to Guatemala having a meeting on April 3.
- Protection and good health for Elizabeth, Edith, David, Moses, and Lydia. May they be used by God to advance His kingdom.
- A disciplined heart to set aside time for devotion and prayer despite our business. God's word is vital in our spiritual walk.
- Those who lost their loved ones in Brussel's terrorist attack on March 22. May God comfort them and give them peace.

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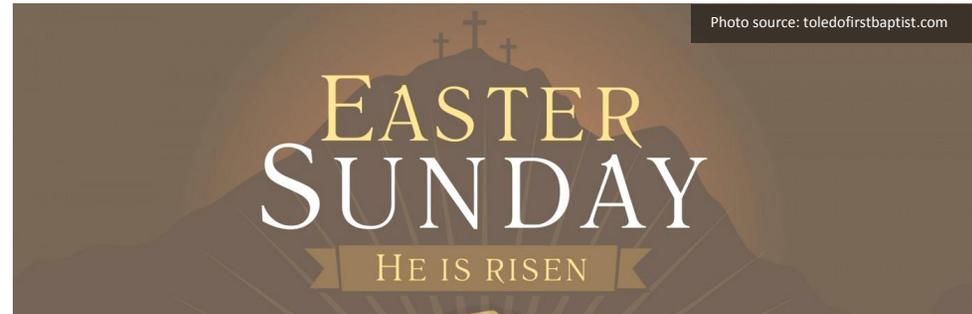
Phone: 604.325.6314 ext. 21; Email: english@vcbc.bc.ca

Sunday Worship at VCBC

27 March 2016

9:30AM English
Worship Service

www.vcbc.bc.ca/english



Order of Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship

Matthew 28: 5-7

Praise and Worship

Christ the Lord is Risen

Today,

Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)

Tithes and Offering

Glorious Day (Living He

Loved Me)

Sharing of

Community Life

Responsive Reading

Scripture Passage and
Message

Matthew 28: 1-9

"He is Risen!"

Rev. Gilbert Nigh

Invitation/Response

This is Amazing Grace,

My Redeemer Lives

In the spirit of unity and family, please sit closer together and please reserve the back rows for parents with young children.

Please feel free to stand or sit as we sing.

Friendly reminder for parents of preschoolers and kindergarteners: please pick up your children downstairs at 10:45.

Word from Pastor Don: "Family pressures"

I have always enjoyed the term that we use in Chinese "Sam Si" (Heart Matter). When a person becomes a Christian and is seeking to be baptized, churches often have an interview with the new believer by asking him/her some "Sam Si" questions. The replies to the questions reveal the understanding of this person's new found faith.

Recently, I have had some "Sam Si" challenges that have come from my extended family. The weight of these issues are not within my direct control and remain heavy as I feel somewhat useless to impact things while, at the same time, I must continue to function in my daily work and daily responsibilities. Is this not something that you too can relate to when you feel stretched in different directions that hold different needs and opportunities? How do you feel when you can see a problem/issue yet know that you cannot complete the task required to make things better? We all, at times, are pushed to continue moving forward with certain responsibilities while family matters or situations involving friends make us not feel we can continue on. We would really rather retreat to a place of rest and find a place where no stress or pressure would be coming in our direction. Yet, such a

retreat to calmness seems beyond our grasp.

Brothers & Sisters, this is where our Scripture has value to us all. Matt.11:28 says, "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest." Physical struggles are obviously real for us but the emotional and spiritual stress points of life's daily grind can overwhelm our desire to keep pushing forward. There may even be a desire to totally surrender our focus and efforts when we concentrate on our difficulties. When our family is involved, there are times when the situation takes us beyond the wisdom of our faith and into dark places. May God grant us the wisdom, spiritual hunger, and commitment to remember that God and his ways are matters of family in the same way that our blood relatives relate to us. My current "Sam Si" is heavy for me to carry alone and sometimes makes it hard to remain focused on church related activities that almost seem irrelevant in comparison to daily things. Thanks are to God that I know that I am never facing problems of any type alone.

Announcements

- 1. March 20, 2016 Members' Bimonthly Meeting Resolutions** - Please refer to the insert for details; it's also posted on the bulletin board in foyer and the VCBC website.
- 2. Offering and Expenditure for February 2016** - Now posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.
- 3. Annie Armstrong North American Mission Offering (NAMO)** - A special offering collection box has been set up in the foyer to collect this offering to support CNBC's mission and church planting work in North America. Please write your name & address and/or VCBC offering number on the Annie Armstrong envelope (for income tax receipt) and drop it into the collection box. Thank you.
- 4. Save the date: Saturday May 28, church-wide prayer retreat at VCBC.** Mark the date on your calendar, more details to come!
- 5. Easter Baptism** - Will take place TODAY at the **11:15** Noon Service. Please pray for those to be baptized: **(Cantonese Congregation) Susanna Choy, Susanna Tso, Billy Tsang, (Mandarin Mission) Jing Wang, Veronica Wang, Yuwen Luo, Luke Lu.**
- 6. Church Office** - Will be closed tomorrow and will resume normal office hours on Tuesday.
- 7. Pioneer Clubs** - Will resume this Friday at 7:30 pm.
- 8. Save the Date for our VBS Day Camp 2016 "No Other Name!"** on the week of July 4-8. Children will experience the thrill of visiting Ancient Egypt with Joseph through a week of fun and lasting Bible learning. The annual Block Party will be held as usual on the last day (Friday, July 8). More information will follow soon.
- 9. When Helping Hurts - how to alleviate poverty without hurting the poor and yourself.** Did you know that 20% of children in BC live in poverty? Join us for module 3 of SLG, starting April 3, to learn from a biblical framework on the root causes of poverty and its alleviation. The course will explore foundational concepts such as "who are the poor?" Intrigued? Come down to the basement for the next few Sundays in March and speak to a PCS member to find out more about the course.
- 10. There will be a meeting for the team going to Guatemala on Sunday, April 3 at 1:00 pm in the Classroom (behind sanctuary).** Lunch will be provided. Please bring your STM handbook along.
- 11. Tsawout Mission Trip (Aug. 7-12):** Tsawout is a First Nation's Reserve on Vancouver Island and is where we'll be running a VBS. If you're interested in this trip and serving on the team or in leadership, please email Brian or Nicole at vcbctsaout@gmail.com