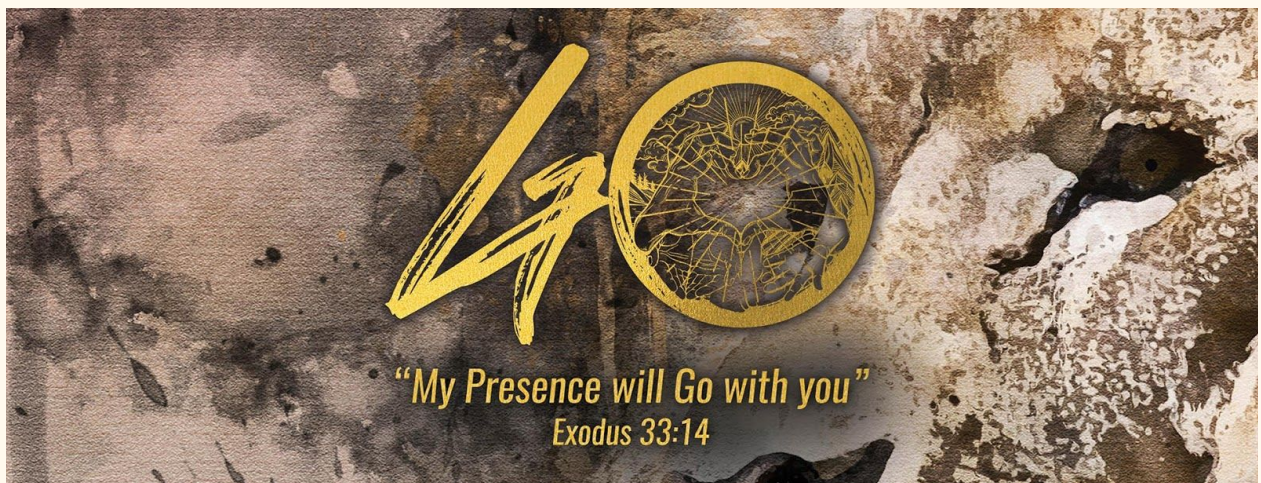

Ignite

“Loving Father, we STILL our souls now and remember that You are here WITH us, You are here IN us and You are here FOR us. Lord Jesus, we worship You. Holy Spirit, we welcome You. We lift up our hands and pray for our community, for our nation, and for the nations of the world. We ask You, Father, to stir the fires of another Great Awakening of Your Spirit in 2021! Amen.”





SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

Final Weekend : Remember. Am I not enough?

Senior Pastor Chris Kam

1 Thessalonians 5 :16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Introduction

As the end of 2020 approaches, it is a good time for us to *recall* and *remember*; to look back to look forward. It also means a new beginning will arise after the end of a phase. So making the right choice would make a great difference as we look towards entering a New Year in 2021. Do we choose love instead of hate; to be better instead of to be bitter; or be grateful rather than be mournful? Are we making good decisions as we move into the new year? Let us be thankful to God.

BIG IDEA: Thanksgiving Invites His Presence into our Lives

How can Thanksgiving invite His Presence? *Psalms 100: 4a,*

When we practice a heart of thanksgiving in our lives, two things happen:

1 **Thanksgiving breaks the power of the enemy over us.** *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

When we focus on God we learn from the circumstances we go through trusting Him to guide us and are thankful for His presence with us. Then we break free from the lies of the enemy.

2 **Thanksgiving brings contentment.** *1 Timothy 6:6*

“Discontentment dries up the soul. To love God is to love His will. It is to wait quietly for life to be measured by the One who knows us through and through. It is to be content with His Timing and His wise apportionment” says Elisabeth Elliot.

Thus remember and do not forget the tapestry of the last 5 years :

Tagline: Love God Serve People Make
Disciples towards Christlikeness
Core Habits : Honour
Humility
Be Real
Pass It on
Have Fun

Step Movement
Step Up
Step Out
Step In
Step Forward

ONE CHURCH
6 vernacular
congregations

40th Year anniversary
My Presence Will Go
With You

Impact 2020

REMEMBERING is such an important part of our discipleship

IMPACTNOW

As we draw near to the end of 2020, can we say with thanksgiving that Jesus has been in the centre of the storm (pandemic Covid 19), that He has guided us to do His will and protected us? What have we and are we learning about Christ in this storm?

What's NEXT?

What's the Role of the Local Church? How can we be thankful in 2021?

Conclusion

When we practise a heart of thanksgiving in our lives, we shift from Superficial Faith to an Authentic Faith.

SERMON REFLECTION

The last two sermons reminded me that in demonstrating love to others, I should not expect anything in return. As I look back over the last 5 years in DUMC, it has been a rollercoaster ride of highs and lows. There are things to be thankful for and things that we may wish to reset just as Pastor Chris Kam had asked, "Do you wish that you could reset the year 2020?"

The honest truth is that we cannot undo what has been done but we can look to Him to lead us when we **reflect** on the past so that we can **recalibrate** and **reinvent** for the next 5 years, 10 years, even 15 years. **For it is only when we wait upon Him to lead us, will we be able to do what is right!**

We may find a short spell of happiness which pleases our flesh, as our human love can grow cold when we are faced with human injustice. **It is only superficial**; but when the storm hits, we truly find **His Peace** to be the stable factor for **He is in control**, not us. He loves us no matter the condition we are in and no matter what we have done.

As for me , I am thankful for the year 2020. I do not wish to reset it as there are invaluable experiences which drew me closer to Him and to people around me. I am thankful for our Midweek Moments group of sisters that would uphold one another in prayer and share their life's experiences through our discussions in the book of Malachi. I am also thankful for His providence in the midst of the pandemic and protection upon me and my family members daily. I am learning each day to trust in Him; to lead and guide me in all circumstances.

As for 2021, only He holds the future . I know He will never leave me nor forsake me and my family. I look forward to His guiding Hands for each new day.

Contributed by Michelle Chuah



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Questions / Activities

- Share one thing that you are most thankful for in 2020.

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- As we spend the last week of 2020, share a reflection about any expectations that were not met this year. Do you feel a sense of contentment as you prepare to begin the new year?

Suggested Questions linked to main point:

Thanksgiving breaks the power of the enemy over us

- In what ways will thanksgiving break the power of the enemy over us? Share an example from your own life
- In Pr. Chris' recap of the tapestry of the last 5 years, which is more significant and relevant for you in thanksgiving and why?

Thanksgiving brings contentment

- Can you apply 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 into your life intentionally ?
- Being thankful is a virtue that we can develop. Which core habit do you think is in line with thankfulness?
- In view of what is happening , share from your heart your outlook of 2021- how thanksgiving can bring contentment to you.

Question Bank *(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

1. Share from your heart your outlook of 2021 in view of what has been happening and your understanding of what God is doing in your life and DUMC through it all.
 2. Think of something you have never tried or done before or have never gone to before. Has God called you into these areas? Will you Go and not say No?
 3. Do you have a big dream for 2021 , which only God can see you through ?
 4. Reflect on the circumstances in your life. Are you moving accordingly towards God's direction in 2021 ?
 5. Do you need to recalibrate on what you have been doing in 2020 and would you allow His "Reinvention" to take over?
-



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Photo by Judit Peter from Pexels

Story of the week...

"I was generally feeling better after being put on the IV drip. However, on the subsequent days, when I started coughing in the night and found blood mixed with my phlegm in the morning, I started to worry that I might really have the coronavirus after all. I spent time reading the Bible, praying, and worshipping God to build up my faith and to anchor on peace. It was a good thing that I was placed in an isolation ward, for I could pray and worship in the privacy of my room...."

- Anthea, PJN1

*Read the rest of Anthea's story on dumc.my/blog!

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

- Maya Angelou

If you or your CG member(s) has a story to share related to today's Word or any other story that speaks of His goodness or of IMPACTNow, **share their/your story** [\[HERE\]](#)



PRAYER

Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

As we end the year 2020 by giving thanks to God, let us also pray and recite the renewal covenant together as we begin 2021 as a cell group.

People: O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.

Leader: God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

People: I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.

Leader: Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

People: Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

Leader: God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

People: Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.

Leader: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

People: I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.

Leader: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

People: I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

Leader: The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

People: O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Saviour and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God. O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen

Covenant Prayer from Wesleyan Covenant Renewal



OTHER RESOURCES

Below are some links to resources for you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!

FEATURED

In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!



Waiting in the Dark: Why We Need Advent T...

1 hour

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Prayer & Spirituality

Video Clip



Breathe: Being with God in Silence

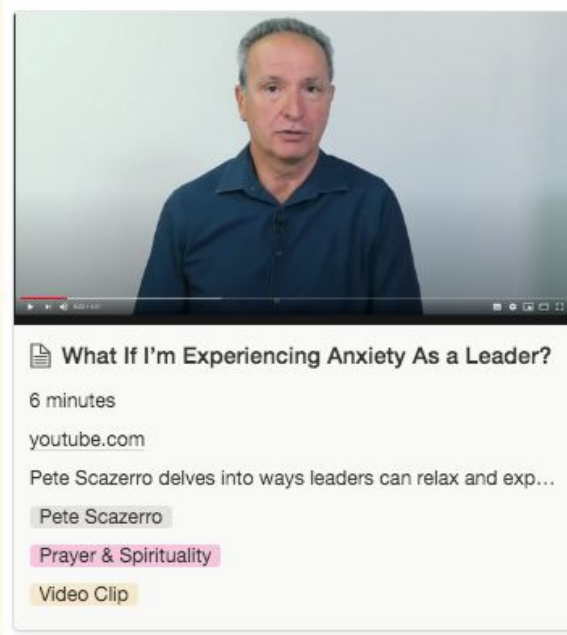
15 minutes

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

This 15 minute experience was created to provide a guide...

Prayer & Spirituality

Video Clip



OTHER RESOURCES

Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!



DUMC STORIES

Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!

