

What Time is It?

Christopher Nolan is one of my favorite movie directors. He is known for his complex, mind-bending use of time in his films. In *Memento* (2000), time is presented nonlinearly, with events unfolding both forward and backward, mimicking the protagonist's suffering from memory loss. Inception (2010) deals with the manipulation of time through dreams, where time moves at different speeds depending on the layer of the dream. In *Interstellar* (2014), the characters' journey through space and the experience of time dilation lead to themes of loss and the emotional consequences of time's passage.

For those of us who live in the modern era, time is often viewed as a resource to manage, utilize, and maximize. A quick perusal of time management related apps, self-help books, and seminars shows us our obsession with controlling time. We strive to be efficient and effective in our usage of time. While I do not advocate being disorganized and wasteful in one's management of time, our modern preoccupation with filling up our calendar is often an indication of over-commitment and leaving little space for margin. We wear busyness as a badge of honor, and sometimes as a status symbol of being "spiritual."

In the past 2 years, my pastoral reflections have been centered around time, specifically around the Christian calendar (two on Advent, one on Ascension day, one on Ash Wednesday, and one on Ordinary Times). Unlike other churches that are liturgical, ECC does not place an emphasis on the observance of the Christian calendar. Most of us are only aware of Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter. However, the early church developed the Christian calendar to center around the history of redemption: the birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and enthronement of Christ, and the sending of the Spirit. The Church calendar inoculates us against reckoning our time and organizing our "time according to our agendas and worldly patterns. Our time is reckoned in a Christian manner. The Church calendar keeps our focus where it should be: on Jesus Christ. It reminds us that the triune God is the main character of history, and we are called into His eternal Kingdom (1 Peter 1:10-15).

So, what time is it? This is the Advent season—a time when we look back at the nativity of Christ and forward in anticipation of His return. Last Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday, is marked by the theme of joy. Let us rejoice in His first coming, through which He brought salvation to all, and anticipate the future joyful celebration when Christ will renew all creation.

REDMOND CAMPUS WORSHIP SERVICE | 12/22/2024

Worship through Praise
 Congregational Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
 Worship through the Word
 Worship in Response
 Doxology & Benediction
 Welcome and Announcements

*Offering is a part of our worship to God.
 Free-will offering box is located on the Welcome Table by the Worship Hall doors.
 Online Offering: <https://eccseattle.org/en/give/>*

Message from Minister Christopher Hui
"Joseph"
 Matthew 1:18-25

*Missed a sermon or want to share it? Listen to it at
www.eccseattle.org/media/sermons*

SUNDAY SCHOOL	TOPIC	LOCATION
CHILDREN	Elementary Worship and Sunday School Message	9:30 AM Room 106
	Preschool	9:30 AM Rooms 114-116
YF (JUNIOR HIGH)	Happily Ever After #1 (Room M101)	
YSF (SENIOR HIGH)	Christian Spiritual Practices: Everyday Spiritual Formation (Room M106)	
ADULT/COLLEGE	No Sunday School	
SERVANT TEAM	TODAY	NEXT WEEK
SPEAKER	Christopher Hui	Steven MacDonald
WORSHIP	Sing Wee	Silvia Juel
MODERATOR	Jeremy MacDonald	Priscilla Chan
DOOR ROTATION	Samuel Kuo	

Prayers for Our ECC Community

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

REDMOND MANDARIN CONGREGATION

Praises:

- Thanksgiving Baptisms: Praise God for the 17 individuals who were baptized on Thanksgiving Sunday. We celebrate their public declaration of faith and the new life they have in Christ!
- Growth of the Second Sunday Service: Thank God for the consistent growth of the second Sunday service, which reflects God's blessing on our congregation and the opportunity to reach more people.
- Missional Engagement: We are grateful for the missional projects undertaken by every small group, demonstrating Christ's love in action and fostering deeper community impact.

Prayers:

- Discipleship for the Newly Baptized: Pray for the spiritual growth and foundation of faith for those newly baptized, that they may be guided in their walk with Christ through discipleship and community.
- Christmas Outreach Initiatives: Pray for the many small groups engaging in Christmas outreach activities. May these efforts effectively share the Gospel and bring hope to those in need.
- Upcoming Christmas and Year-End Services: Pray for the Christmas Sunday services, candlelight services, and the year-end prayer gathering. May these gatherings glorify God, inspire worship, and draw many closer to Him during this season of celebration and reflection.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Based in Florida, Sean and Mandi Miller are

international missionaries and area directors for the North Caribbean and Bermuda with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). Responsible for eight nations of the CEF region, they work primarily with nationals in these countries to "evangelize, disciple, and establish a local church." Praises:

- Thank the Lord, Sean's work trip in November ended successfully.
- Thanks to God for providing nearly 25% of their annual budget in their organization's largest fundraiser!
- Thanks to the Lord for keeping their recognition by the Ministry of Education of St. Lucia, giving them full access to share the gospel in all 85+ public primary schools across the country.

Prayers:

- Pray that the Lord supply all their needs next year so that the gospel can be spread and expanded in their area.

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

- Please pray for the Christmas celebrations around the world by Christians and churches. May they be lights of God's glory in a darkened world and provide hope for the world's billions who suffer from the consequence of sin and death daily.
- Please pray for the millions of travelers this week and their gatherings with friends and family. May the Lord grant everyone traveling mercy and bless their times together with the Holy Spirit's presence and a deeper sense of God's gift to the world. May the Lord help those who are alone find a loving community to experience Immanuel during the holiday season.



Welcome New Member

12/22 Seattle-Cantonese

Teresa Chan 、 Shun Agor Chan 、 Betty Chin

REDMOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEXICO CHRISTMAS SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIP TEAM

From December 26, 2024, to January 1, 2025, six members from the Redmond Campus Mandarin and English congregations, led by Sister Ting Hong, will partner with Casa Dayspring in Mexico to share God's love and the gospel. Please keep them in your prayers.

CARE MINISTRY UPDATE

The Care Ministry team reports the following grants in progress this week:

- World Relief: \$10,000 for refugee resettlement in the Western Washington area.
- Medical Teams International: \$10,000 to provide life-saving medical relief work in Colombia, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Ukraine.
- Starfish Asia: \$15,200 to support two schools in Pakistan: Holy Shepherd Grammar School and RightWay School.

Please consider your year-end giving to help replenish the fund balance. Thank you and may you be encouraged and blessed.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

• GUIDELINES FOR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Please submit all expense reimbursement requests within 60 calendar days after expenses are incurred for accurate accounting. The deadline to submit expense reimbursements for the 2024 fiscal year is 12/31.

• END-OF-YEAR OFFERING

Please be mindful that contributions to be counted toward 2024 must be dated 12/31 or earlier. *We kindly encourage you to fulfill your pledge for the Edmonds Campus purchase by year-end, if possible.* Checks sent via the U.S. Postal Service must bear a 2024 postmark for them to count toward the 2024 offering.

Online Bill Pay service is also available. Please go to

<https://eccseattle.org/en/give/> for instructions.

PERSPECTIVES CLASS

ECC Redmond English is hosting a 15-week Perspectives class, beginning Tuesday January 28th, 2025, from 6:30-9:30pm. Perspectives is a comprehensive course that has profoundly impacted hundreds of thousands of students during the past 45+ years. Through inspiring speakers and biblically based text, students will learn how God moves, how the global Church responds, and the remaining task of world evangelization.

Learn more and register for the class at <https://bit.ly/3YDndg5>. Discounts and scholarships available! Contact: Esther Chan (esther.c.perspectives@gmail.com)