

Lord, You Are the Good Shepherd

At the end of August this year, God blessed our family with a third grandson. Once again, I got to experience the joy of being a grandfather, including the busyness and every little detail of a baby growing up. His name is Ezra, meaning “helper.” The biblical Ezra, in his time, made a firm commitment to study the Scriptures and led God’s people back to the temple to worship the Lord. This name also reminds us that God is always our helper. Indeed, we often face the unknown with uncertainty, anxiety, and worry. Raising children nowadays is no longer an easy task for young parents, as they are bombarded with conflicting opinions from online sources, shared experiences, cultural differences, and countless baby products. As I was preparing to welcome Christmas, writing this reflection led me to think about the birth of our Lord Jesus in a manger. Was the environment clean? Was it warm enough? Did Mary have enough milk? Who prepared her nourishing postpartum meals? Yet, our Lord Jesus quietly lay in the manger, and the place was filled with God’s glory as angels sang praises to Him.

As I reflect on the contrast of these situations, I deeply realize how humble our Lord was, condescending to be born as a vulnerable child rather than as a mighty king. He grew slowly into adulthood to complete redemption for us at the age of thirty-three. During this time, He endured and faced many hardships: the injustice of the Roman government, the loss of His earthly father, and the need to work as a carpenter to support His family. He truly experienced the weakness of human nature, the chaos of political society, and the helplessness of reality. Yet, through prayer and reliance on the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator, He demonstrated obedience and accomplished the perfect and glorious salvation on the cross.

As we approach the new year of 2025, what do you plan to ask God for? How will you entrust your anxieties about the unknown? Are you confident that God’s faithfulness is based on His omniscience and the certainty of His promises? Let us encourage and pray for one another, trusting in God’s complete grace and sovereignty, so that we can transcend our desire to control the future and receive true freedom from Him. God is the Good Shepherd. In the New Year, He will lead us to lie down in green pastures, guide us beside still waters, protect and comfort us, and lead us on paths of righteousness.

(Translated by Chet/Mabel Siew)



REDMOND CAMPUS WORSHIP SERVICE | 12/15/2024

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 Pastor Steven MacDonald
"The Power of Submission"
 Luke 1:26-56

*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)	When Adults Don't Agree (Room M101)	
YSF (SENIOR HIGH)	Christian Spiritual Practices: Prayer (Room M106)	
ADULT/COLLEGE	Joint Sunday School — The After Party (English Worship Hall)	
SERVANT TEAM	TODAY	NEXT WEEK
SPEAKER	Steven MacDonald	Christopher Hui
WORSHIP	Marissa Yap	Sing Wee
MODERATOR	Jeremy MacDonald	Patrick Lee
DOOR ROTATION	Samuel Kuo	

Prayers for Our ECC Community

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

SEATTLE ENGLISH CONGREGATION

- Praise God for the completion of the Alpha Class at the UW campus and that nine CG members completed the course. It is wonderful to see that some of them have started to attend Sunday worship at ECC and participate in CG fellowship and accountability groups. Please pray for the smooth transition of the Alpha Course from the UW campus to the Bethel House in 2025.
- Praise God for the many young people who have been attending the 1st Step Class. We are grateful that they are contemplating getting baptized. We hope that the spiritual truths they've learned in the class will encourage them to eventually profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior by getting baptized in the near future.
- Praise God for the meaningful fellowship between the Classic Fellowship and various LW fellowships in the last couple months. We feel so blessed that we have multiple generations in our midst and the leaders are intentional in coordinating these gatherings. We pray that the Lord will enable the legacy of faith to be passed down from generation to generation through this ministry.
- Praise God that Living Water members have completed a preliminary study on interpersonal relationships. May the Lord use these principles to bless all their relationships. Please pray for the upcoming study as they focus on Lamentations and then the minor prophets Habakkuk and Zephaniah.
- Please pray for those who have decided to get baptized this Christmas season. May the Lord confirm their decision and use their testimonies to encourage more people to commit their lives to Christ.
- Please pray for those who will be traveling during this holiday season, many of

them internationally. May the Lord watch over them and grant them travel mercies.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

In his role as the Associate National Director of Arts Ministry with InterVarsity (IV) Christian Fellowship, Calvin is covering some art schools in addition to the music schools in New York. Calvin recently shared with us how one of his IV student leaders and a few other students led classmates/friends on their own campus to know Jesus and come to faith in the Lord. We praise our Lord and thank Him for His work. Pray that the Lord will continue to use Calvin's ministry on campus and lead more students to believe in the Lord.

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

- Please pray for Syria as the rebel coalition strives to form a new government. May the Lord comfort those who have suffered over the past 14 years and help the rebel groups to continue to work together and not to spiral into civil war and anarchy. May the Lord grant wisdom to the six million refugees worldwide to discern whether they should return to their home country.
- Please continue to pray for the humanitarian crisis in Haiti, especially after the massacre of nearly 200 elderly this week. Please pray for God to protect the Kenyan peacekeepers and strengthen them with courage and resolve to stop the gangs and restore order to the nation. May the churches and missions agencies be salt and light to give hope in the midst of anarchy.



REDMOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 TAIWAN MISSIONS INFORMATIONAL MEETING

TODAY (SUN) | 12:40PM - 2:30PM | RED CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HALL (ROOM W106)

2025 Taiwan Missions currently plans 7/7-7/18 at Bethany Children's Home (VBS, High School Leadership Character Camp) and 7/14-7/25 at Pinglin Jr. High School (English Character Camp). We welcome Christians with a missional mind and servant's heart to join the team. If you have any question, please contact Joseph Wang: (425) 241-0008, ccw25426@yhoo.com.

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, starting Tuesday, January 28, 2025. Perspectives is an awe-inspiring comprehensive course that has profoundly impacted hundreds of thousands of students during the past 45+ years. From Genesis to the prophets, Jesus to the early Church, and St. Augustine to the present, students learn how God moves, how the global Church responds, and the remaining task of world evangelization.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3YDndg5> for details and to register. Contact: Esther Chan (estherc11@gmail.com) or Patrick Lee (pat.k.lee@gmail.com).



CONGRATULATIONS!

BAPTISMS TODAY

Seattle English

Amy Wang · Michael Lee · Rodney Johnston

Seattle Mandarin

Ava Yang · Shujie Wang · Yi Lin Liu