

The Best New Beginning

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. (Titus 3:4-6)

Have you ever wished for a reset? Just rewind to some point in time, then begin again? My wife and I recently attended opening night of a live show. The riveting plot, musical numbers, and choreography kept us glued to our seats. But about 30 seconds into a climactic scene, just 10-15 minutes before the conclusion, the stage darkened and a message flashed to stand by. The crew hit a technical snag and tried multiple times to restart the scene. The audience waited patiently for 40 minutes and was finally rewarded with a smooth and satisfying conclusion to the story.

Redos in theater are possible because the stage is just a simulation. Reality is not always so kind. But the Christmas season is when we celebrate a restart like no other. This past week, we observed the monumental event of God granting mankind a new beginning. He could have left us to wallow in sin and rebellion on a downward spiral toward self-destruction and the darkness of hell. But He chose to send His only begotten Son to live amongst humans and even suffer the penalty of sin in our place. Being granted the opportunity through His incarnation to be reborn and enjoy Him eternally is worthy of commemorating.

In the words of Charles Wesley:

*Mild He lays his glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give us second birth*

May the True Light of Christmas continue to shine brightly in your heart and home, in 2025 and all year round!



REDMOND CAMPUS WORSHIP SERVICE | 12/29/2024

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
"Why the Wise Men Worship"
 Matthew 2:1-11

*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)	Christmas & New Year Break	
YSF (SENIOR HIGH)		
ADULT/COLLEGE		
SERVANT TEAM	TODAY	NEXT WEEK
SPEAKER	Steven MacDonald	Steven MacDonald
WORSHIP	Silvia Juel	Alan Tang
MODERATOR	Priscilla Chan	Paul Yau
DOOR ROTATION	Samuel Kuo	—

Prayers for Our ECC Community

PRaises AND PRAYERS

REDMOND YOUTH MINISTRY

Praises:

- YSF has been more consistent this year!
- YFers have been learning and remembering lots from this year on Fridays and Sundays, making connections and deepening their understanding of the gospel.
- The youth have continued to grow together in the community.

Prayer:

- YSF Retreat is coming up. Pray that it will be a great time of fellowship and learning.
- Pray that YSF Sunday school would be effective in teaching about, and spurring youth into, their spiritual formation.
- Pray that the youth would grow in their sense of community with each other.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

For 30 years, Mawo and Janet Abaya have trained and disciplined church leaders in the International School of Evangelism to reach unreached people groups in the nation of Nigeria, with a special emphasis on discipling Muslim Background Believers (MBBs). He wrote to us to thank God because they have seen God's hands of healing stretched out in Mawo, Janet and many of their staff. He also thanked God for all the fruit that has come out of the Great Commission Challenge camps and for the variety of devotion, zeal and passion shown by the MBB students in winning souls.

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

- Please continue to pray for the many people of Ukraine who must weather winter without light and heat. May the Lord be merciful to protect those caught in the conflict, be gracious to those who have suffered loss, and raise peacemakers who will bring an end to the nearly three-year-long conflict.
- Please pray for the US West and East coasts as they bear the brunt of winter storms this week. May the Lord grant mercy to those who are traveling during the holiday season and provide shelter to those most vulnerable in the communities affected.



REDMOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 BUDGET PREVIEW MEETING

We will have our annual Congregational Meeting for all members on Sunday, January 19, immediately following the Sunday Worship Services at all three campuses. The meeting will include the following items:

- A. Approve the 2025 ECC annual budget.
- B. Re-confirm Elders Elton Lee and Howard Hsu as ruling elders for a three-year term (2025-2027).

Your attendance is essential. If unable to attend, request an absentee ballot by January 13th from your deacon or the church office. Invitation letters with details will be mailed on January 3rd.

Members are invited to attend the **budget preview Zoom meeting** on 1/11 (Sat) at 9:30am to learn more about the various budgets and the modifications on the church buildings.

Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/2025ECCBudget>

Meeting ID: 824 8461 7550, Code: 562715

RECENT GOOD SAMARITAN FUND (GSF) GRANT ACTIVITY

The Care Ministry has approved the following grants:

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

Please consider your year-end giving to help replenish the GSF 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. Learn more and register for the class at <https://bit.ly/3YDndg5>. Discounts and scholarships available! Contact: Esther Chan (esther.c.perspectives@gmail.com)