

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)



SEATTLE CAMPUS WORSHIP SERVICE | 12/15/2024

Call to Worship
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 boxes are located at the sanctuary entrance and exits.
Online Offering: <https://eccseattle.org/en/give/>*

Message from Pastor Solomon Liu
"Surprised by Grace"
Luke 1:22-38

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

| | TODAY | NEXT WEEK |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| SPEAKER | Solomon Liu | Steve Moy |
| MODERATOR | Grant Kwong | Grant Kwong |
| WORSHIP | Amanda Shu | Amanda Shu |
| PA TECH | Michael Nguyen, Titus Goh | Ray Li, Titus Goh |
| LIVE STREAM | David Li, Ruth Hui | Rachel Leung, Roland Zou |
| DOOR ROTATION | Samuel Perng | Bruce Chang |

Prayers for Our ECC Community

PRaises AND PRAYERS

ECC REDMOND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- We thank and praise God for Sister Ying Lu, who has accepted the position of 2nd Service CM Coordinator. We are grateful for God's faithfulness in raising up brothers and sisters to help us serve the children of ECC even more effectively.
- Praise God for the wonderful teachers and teaching assistants who are completing our first 4-month teaching semester. Their dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.
- We give thanks for the continued partnership with Child Evangelism Fellowship. They will return in 2025 to provide an all-day teachers' training, equipping us further for ministry.
- Please pray for the recruitment efforts as we seek to fill positions for helpers in the spring semester, especially during the 2nd service hour.
- Pray for the safety of families who are traveling for Thanksgiving, that they will have safe journeys.
- Please pray that God will raise up a CM director to oversee the SEA and EDS campuses, guiding and strengthening the ministry.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Originally from Hong Kong, Wendy Wong has been a missionary in Chiang Rai, Thailand, for 13 years. Along with her husband, Anawin, and two children, they serve the Akha people through a children's home for broken families and orphans, three local churches, and Chinese schools. As the coffee ministry, the student center, and one of the Chinese schools are severely affected and have closed temporarily after the floods, please pray for guidance from God to

overcome the many problems. Minister Anawin will complete his degree in March 2025, but he is very stressed at this time. So please pray for his health, strength, and faith to cope with everything. Wendy also plans to visit the USA next summer; please pray that God will lead her and provide everything she needs for her trip.

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

- Please continue to pray for Ukraine as it suffers under Russia's crippling attacks. With the increasing damage to its power grid, many Ukrainians are suffering in the midst of the bitter cold. May God hear their prayers and protect them from the violence of the conflict and raise peacemakers who can bring an end to the nearly two-year war.
- Please pray for a peaceful resolution to Korea's crisis of leadership. May the Lord grant wisdom to its leaders to find a path forward to good governance for the welfare of its people. May the Lord use the church communities to be salt and light for peace and unity to the nation during this troubled time.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEATTLE ENGLISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

TODAY | 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM | GYM

Come join our unforgettable annual English congregation Christmas Celebration on Sunday Dec. 15th during the Sunday school hour for a time of Christmas festivities and remembering our blessings from 2024.

Please contact Elder Eric Hwee at (206) 390-1098 for any questions.

Please email photos and videos for the end of year slideshow here:

ECCChristmas2024@submit.memento.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 have 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (BILINGUAL)

12/24 (TUE) | 7:30 PM | SANCTUARY

You are warmly invited to join the Christmas Candlelight Service hosted by the Seattle Mandarin congregation. The program will include a choir performance, Scripture readings, and a short gospel message. All are welcome to attend—feel free to invite your family and friends as we celebrate the joyous news of Jesus' birth, bringing peace and joy to every heart!



CONGRATULATIONS!

BAPTISMS TODAY

Seattle English

Amy Wang · Michael Lee · Rodney Johnston

Seattle Mandarin

Ava Yang · Shujie Wang · Yi Lin Liu

