



North Point Alliance Church

English Worship Service

July 18, 2021 (10:45-11:45am)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Arnold Chow

Pastors: Rev. Stera Chan (stera@npac.org.hk),

Pastor Liona Fok (lionafok@npac.org.hk)

Pastor Lawrence Choy (lawrencechoy@npac.org.hk)

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EM website: www.npacem.org; email: em@npac.org.hk

EM Youth Ministry website: www.npacemyouth.com

EM Facebook & Instagram page: "NPAC English Ministry"

Worship Order

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 8:1, 3-4

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

Songs of Praise

Corporate Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading – Luke 8:1-15

Sermon – Persevere and bear fruit

Response Song

Offertory Prayer

Membership Transfer

Welcome & Family News

Monthly Bible Verse – Luke 6:49

But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.

Doxology & Benediction

Postlude

Chairperson:	Moses Chen	Speaker:	Rev. Stera Chan
Praise Team:	Moses Chen & Team	Scripture Reader:	Jeremy So
Pianist:	Carman Chan	PowerPoint:	Shayne Descartin
Welcome Team:	Jasmin Delos Reyes, Kent Ang, Timothy Ng		
Offering Counters:	Lily Cheung, Vincy Ng		
Sound System:	Amanda Chan, Bono Lee, Clarence Fok		

Faith, Hope and Love Will Remain and Last Forever

By Rev Patrick Wong

For two years, we have lived under the influence of the pandemic and socio-political issues, which are still unsettled now. Our habitual way of life – that which we took for granted – is gradually changing. We used to meet face to face, eat together, and talk freely together. Now we have masks, partitions, and gathering restrictions as visible or invisible barriers between us. Many families used to go on camps, travels or self-guided tours as their favorite vacation activities. Now they can only stay home reluctantly or go on staycation to spend their long vacation. Indeed, we have experienced loss these years: some freedom, some options, some changed or broken relationships. For some people, the “words of the mouth and meditation of the heart” are about whether to leave or stay. Saying sad goodbyes or leaving without saying so has become our recent shared experience.

In the face of change and loss, I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth: *“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love”* (1 Corinthians 13:13). Paul has deliberately put 1 Corinthians 13 (which Bible scholars call the Love Chapter) in the middle of the passage on spiritual gifts (Chapter 12 and Chapter 14). His purpose was to make clear that alongside all the spiritual gifts, love is indispensable (1 Corinthians 12:31). That was why he concluded the Love Chapter with *“But the greatest of these is love.”* But why did Paul specially mention *“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love”*?

“Remain” in the original language appears eight times in 1 Corinthians. Judging from the context each time the word is used, the word means remaining unchanged in a changing, trying situation. In other words, Paul was stressing this to the problematic Corinthian church: The circumstances may be complicated, always changing and challenging. Yet, faith, hope and love will last forever. They are what Christians should hold on to. Christians are not to choose from among the three. They must have all three.

I am also reminded of a family I know: The father at mid-life had a stroke at home one day and was sent to intensive care in hospital for emergency rescue. The doctor said it was unlikely that the brother would resume consciousness and the family needed to prepare for the worst. His wife was heartbroken but she did not give up. She asked brothers and sisters and the pastoral staff to pray for her husband’s recovery, and explored all sorts of therapies. She tried her utmost for the best care possible for her husband. Even though she had to work and at the same time take care of young kids, she had hope for her husband to resume consciousness and to recover. She had faith in the Heavenly Father’s lovingkindness and might.

Some days later, the brother could finally open his eyes. He has recently been transferred to a rehabilitation center. With the relaxed anti-pandemic restrictions, the wife could visit him every day, talk to him, massage him and feed him (the brother has learnt to swallow on his own). Her love for her husband has added to her faith and hope in God and in man.

In the face of change and loss, faith, hope, love will remain and last forever.

Family News

1. **Regular meetings (Education Centre)** [Note special venue arrangements in Jul]
 - a. **Gatekeepers** (secondary school): Fri, 7:30-9pm, Rm 219

<i>Jul 23</i>	Topical: Self-management IV	30	Treasure Room: One hour
<i>Aug 6</i>	Bible Study (NT): Revelation	13	Special: So Long Farewell
 - b. **Peacemakers** (uni students & above): Fri, 8-9:30pm

<i>Jul 23</i>	Bible Study [Hall & Rm 218]	30	Fellowship Night [Rm 211]
<i>Aug 6</i>	Topical: Human Flourishing	13	Bible Study: Hebrews
 - c. **Tentmakers** (young working adults): Every 2nd and 4th Sat, 5-6:30pm

<i>Jul 24</i>	Guys & Girls Social	31	Retreat & Dinner
<i>Aug 14</i>	Bible Study: Revelation	28	Sharing
 - d. **Joint Adult Fellowship (*Mixed mode*)**: Doctrine on Sun Aug 8, 1:30-3pm, Rm 211; Children's Room: Rm 210
 - e. **Couples Fellowship (*Mixed mode*)**: Book Study: *Shepherding a Child's Heart*; Sun Jul 25, 1:30-3pm, Rm 211; Children's Room: Rm 210
 - f. **Women's Fellowship**: Old Testament Characters (1) on Sun Jul 25, 1:30-3pm, Rm 215
 - g. **Sunday School** (children, youth, and adults): Sun from 9:15-10:20am
 - h. **Children's Program**: For children aged 3-10 during worship service
2. **Others (*Onsite unless otherwise stated*)**
 - a. **Yunnan Prayer Group** prayer meeting: After worship service on Sun Jul 18
 - b. **Peacemakers** committee meeting: Sat Jul 31 at 2pm (online)
 - c. **Study Group "1 Peter for You" (Last session)**: Sun Aug 1, 2-4pm, Rm 215
3. **EM Sunday School (2021-22) new student registration.** For students of international schools aged 5 or above (as at Aug 2021). Obtain application form by enquiry email below or from the church's info. rack. Return completed form before Sun Jul 25:
 - a. By email to em@npac.org.hk
 - b. By hand to the church's reception (Main Church, Truth Centre, Education Centre)
 - c. By mail to North Point Alliance Church (English Ministry), 1/F Fortress Metro Tower, 238 King's Road, North Point, HK

Enquiries: em@npac.org.hk or Pastor Lawrence
4. **EM's Holy Communion Worship Service on Aug 1 & Sept 5**: Collect the communion packs from the reception of the Main Church by Sun Aug 22 during office hours.
5. **Membership Transfer**: If you have been regularly worshipping at NPAC for at least one year and wish to transfer your membership to NPAC, obtain an application form from the church's info rack or email info@npac.org. *Submit by:* Sun Jul 25. *Enquiries:* Pastor Ellice Lau (2979-3600)
6. **Mission Movie Appreciation Meeting -- "A Cry From IRAN"**: The movie (in English with Chinese subtitles) is about how faithful Christians stand fast in the midst of Islamic persecution. The meeting (in Chinese) will be guided by staff from Christian organization "Open Doors," with situational activities. *Date & Time:* Sun Jul 25, 2:30pm. *Venue:* Hall, 1/F, Truth Centre. *Live broadcast:* Scan the QR code or visit the Mission Department website.



7. **NPAC's 14th Winter Camp "Hope Against Hope"**: *Speaker*: Rev. Gordon Siu (蕭壽華牧師)
Date & Time: Dec 26-27, Sun 2:30pm-Mon 5pm. *Venue*: NPAC. *Language*: Cantonese.
Fee: Freewill offering. More details to come.
8. **"Health and Joy" Caring Day for Indonesian Domestic Helpers**: *Organizer*: C&MA Indonesia Faith Church. *Activities*: Basic bodycheck, nutrition advice, handicraft, etc.
Date & Time: Sun Jul 25, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45pm (Reservation needed). *Fee*: Free.
Venue: North Point Community Hall. *Enquiries*: Indonesia Faith Church (2503-1155 or WhatsApp 5405-0519)
9. **"Holistic Development Scheme for Young Students" Volunteer Recruitment**: *Needed*: Teachers, teaching assistants, administrative support. Nurture children of newly arrived and low-income families (personal growth, character formation, English and other abilities and relationship with Jesus). *Time*: Every Sat from 2:30-4:30pm. *Venue*: Education Centre. *Enquiries*: Mr. Edmond Choi (2807-5200)

	Prayer Corner : <i>Need prayers for unbelieving family and friends, or your personal needs?</i> Come to the Prayer Corner (on the side of the AV Room in the worship hall) right after the worship service. The Prayer Corner Group will be there to pray for and with you!	
	What's at our Info Table? <i>barnabasaid</i> , devotional materials, gospel tracts, evangelism resources and much more!	
	Tithe and offering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offerings will be collected at the end of the worship service in offering bags at the entrance of the worship hall. Please prayerfully prepare beforehand. Other channels: www.npac.org.hk/notices/2020/doc/202005_offering_en.pdf 	

Prayer Items

- China**: *Pray* for Christ's salvation work in China and the edification of His people all over the state despite restriction, materialism and national prosperity are in view. *Pray* for the work of the Holy Spirit to unveil the hearts of many, calling out for God's mercy and truth. *Pray* that God will continue to equip local disciples to teach and shepherd the lost souls, to testify for God by their good deeds. Also *pray* for God's protection of His people from false teaching and oppression in order to sustain them for spreading the gospel.
- DSE Results on Wed Jul 21**: *Pray* for HK students, who will receive their DSE results, to experience God's guidance in their path and His goodness in all kinds of situation. *Ask* for God's help in their search for the next step and encouragement to grow in faith. Also *pray* for the youth ministries in HK for their strength, wisdom and faithfulness in preaching the gospel to these students, in order to help them to learn about their purpose of life in Christ.

Next Sun July 25: Speaker: Rev. Stera Chan ("The good seed is a citizen of heaven", Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43); Chairperson: Joseph Ho; Praise Leader: Sarah Chow & Peacemakers; Pianist: Lilian Chow; Scripture Reader: Claudia Chan; Welcome Team: Peacemakers – Vincy Ng, Beatrice Wong, Jason Choi; Offering Counters: Veronica Tamondong, Nathaniel Brace; PowerPoint: Kent Ang.