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EM Youth Ministry website: www.npacemyouth.com
EM Facebook & Instagram page: "NPAC English Ministry"

EM 22nd Anniversary – Worship Order

Prelude

Call to Worship - Psalm 103:22

Praise the LORD,

all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

Songs of Praise

Corporate Prayer

The Apostles' Creed

Scripture Reading - Romans 5:1-11

Sermon – "God has poured out His love into our hearts"

Holy Communion

Response Song

Offertory Prayer

Welcome & Family News

Monthly Bible Verse - 1 Corinthians 15:10a

But by the grace of God I am what I am,

and his grace to me was not without effect.

Doxology & Benediction
Postlude

Speaker: Rev. Stera Chan **Holy Communion:** Rev. Stera Chan

Chairperson: Christina Bruce Praise Leader: Christina Bruce & Team

Scripture Reader: Carman Chan Pianist: Stephanie Poon PowerPoint: Shayne Descartin Communion Usher: Imelda Choi

Welcome Team: Edna Sables, Abelline Quebatay, Wilson Lam

Offering Counters: Howard Liu, David Wong

Sound System: Amanda Chan, Bono Lee, Clarence Fok

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

By Rev Jenny Ching

A sister on wheelchair recently said to me: "I found that lately I have been jealous of others. Our group leader who used to sit with me all the time has been sitting with a brother with greater needs than me ever since he returned to the fellowship. So, our group leader cannot accompany me anymore and I found myself getting jealous of him. I know I shouldn't as he really has greater needs than I do. I want to confess my sin to God and to the brother!"

I appreciate the sister's candidness. She has dealt with her sins seriously, which is good. However, jumping to confession too early would perhaps cause us to miss a good opportunity to know ourselves. Confessing and asking oneself not to be jealous before knowing what is really happening inside or taking care of the inner needs has probably added to the sister's psychological pressure. I asked her, "How do you feel when the group leader cannot accompany you?" She said, "I feel lonely and unhappy... I think my need for others' company is a shame..." I asked whether she was willing to ask the Lord Jesus to first comfort and heal her loneliness and unhappiness because of this change and she said yes. Then, we talked about "not being jealous." The sister said she wanted very much to do that but she could not. I told her that there are also many things that I want to do but I cannot. But we are not hopeless because we can ask the Lord Jesus for the grace of transformation. It is not possible on our own but with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). Having asked for grace, we can then patiently await the Lord's transformation. With the sister's consent, we prayed. The sister looked relaxed after the prayer. Thank the Lord for meeting her inner needs.

What happened to this sister made me think of the book, *Poverty of Spirit* by Johannes Baptist Metz. Through Christ's becoming man, the author tells us that the real nature of humanity is poverty in spirit. Jesus is a perfect man, but He made clear to us that there was nothing He could do but to always make Himself nothing, and rely and obey the Father (Philippians 2:6-8). That was how He could live and work miracles. That was how He could complete the tasks of His life entrusted to Him by the Father. The author also exhorts us to be like Christ and admit and accept that we are poor in spirit. We must not be misled by what Satan tells us and think that we can control everything like God. We need to know the truth – same as Jesus, there is nothing we can brag about before God. Even our being able to admit our poverty of spirit would require help from the Father.

Nevertheless, Jesus has promised us that blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:3). When we admit our spiritual poverty before the Father and admit there is nothing we can do, that would be the time when we can experience the coming of the Heavenly Kingdom. The sister I mentioned above has experienced the Lord's comfort and healing. Her heart is relieved by the care of the Lord Jesus. I trust that at the time designated by God, she will no longer be jealous from the bottom of her heart.

Read the article online: https://npacem.org/ps20221002/

Family News

1. Regular meetings

a. Gatekeepers (secondary school): Fri, 7:30-9:15pm, Rm 219

Oct 7 Bible Study: God 14 Special: Sports day

<u>21</u> Topical: Gaming <u>28</u> Treasure Room: Persecuted Christians

b. Peacemakers (uni students & above): Fri, 8-9:45pm, Rms 217-8

Oct 7 Fellowship Night 14 Bible Study: Jeremiah

21 Prayer Meeting: Supplication 28 Topical: Spiritual Friendship

c. **Tentmakers** (young working adults): 2nd & 4th Sat, 5-6:45pm, Rms 217-8

Oct 15 Social

29 Bible Study: Joshua

- d. **Joint Adult Fellowship**: Prayer Meeting: Seek first His will, on <u>Sun Oct 16</u>, 1:30-3pm, Rms 217-218; Children's Room: Rm 215
- e. Women's Fellowship: OT Character (11): David; Sun Oct 30, 1:30-3:15pm, Rm 219
- f. Couples Fellowship: Book Study: Growing Old Gracefully; <u>Sun Oct 30</u>, 1:30-3pm, Rms 217-218; Children's Room: Rm 215
- g. EM Prayer Meeting: Sun morning, 8:30-9am, Rm 204 (No Prayer Meeting on Sun Oct 9)
- h. Sunday School (Children, youth and adults): Sun from 9:15-10:20am
- i. Children's Program: For children aged 3-10 during English worship service
 - CP2: Rm 219, CP3: Rm 217-218

2. Other meetings

- a. Sunday School Teachers Monthly Prayer Meetings: <u>Sun Oct 2 (TODAY)</u>, after worship service
- 3. New Quarter (Oct-Dec):
 - a. Sermon Theme: "To Light Up Lives with God's Love"
 - b. Worship Serving Teams: Check your emails for the worship schedule. Inform Florence or your praise team leader in advance if you cannot serve as scheduled.
- 4. NPAC 70th Anniversary: Visit the <u>YouTube page</u> for all the videos about our anniversary celebration. You will find the theme song, fun clips, and many more. And don't forget to join us in the following events of celebration too! (Details: https://npacem.org/70thAnn/):



a. <u>Sun Oct 7-8</u> Evangelistic Meeting "New Life Horizon in the Light of Grace": Date & Time: <u>Fri Oct 7</u> & <u>Sat Oct 8</u>, 8pm. Venue: Main Church (with live broadcast). Speakers: Rev Ng Kam Wong for Fri & Rev Lawrence Ko for Sat. Language: Chinese. Enquiries: Resanda Lai (2909-9700).

QR code for all 70th Anniversary details

- b. <u>Sun Oct 9</u> Joint Worship Service with Holy Communion: *Date & Time Sun Oct 9*, 9:30am. *Venue*: Main Church. There will be English interpretation. No Sunday School and Children's Program that day. Families are encouraged to worship together.
- c. <u>Sun Oct 9</u> Thanksgiving Meeting "A Date with the Family of 70": *Date & Time: Sun Oct 9*, 3-4pm. *Venue*: Main Church. *Language*: Chinese.
- d. <u>Sun Oct 28-29</u> Anniversary Revival Meeting "LORD! You Are Our Shepherd": *Date & Time: Fri Oct 28 & Sat Oct 29*, 8-9:45pm. *Venue*: Main Church. *Speaker*: Dr Bernard Wong (President of CGST). *Topic*: 1st night: "Follow the Lord before us"; 2nd night: "Walk together all life long with the faithful Shepherd". *Language*: Chinese.
- 5. Public Holiday Opening Hours: All sites will be closed on <u>Tue Oct 4</u> (public holiday)

- **6. EM 22nd Anniversary:** NPAC's English Worship Service started on <u>Sun Oct 1, 2000</u> and by the grace of God, we eventually grew into a ministry with different fellowships and Sunday school classes to serve God and people! Let's celebrate EM's 22nd Anniversary by giving thanks together and asking God to lead and use us for His glory.
- 7. NPAC's Spiritual Legacy Tour: To learn about NPAC's "DNA," come to join the sharing meeting and guided tour of NPAC's "Historical Document Archive Room." *Date & Time*: Sun Oct 23, 2:30-4:30pm. Venue: Worship Hall, 1/F, Truth Centre. Speaker: Rev Raymond Chan (volunteer pastor, former director of NPAC's Communications Dept.) and Ms Esther Wan (person-in-charge of the NPAC Archives). Language: Chinese.
- 8. Let's continue to care for and get involved in Mission!
 - a. **Prayer Tower:** Pray for the salvation of Unreached People Groups. **Response form**, click here: bit.ly/PrayerTower (Submit by: Mon Oct 10). Monthly prayer booklet (in Chinese): download here. You can also check out Prayercast or Operation World for prayer items (in English).



QR code for Mission Month's information

- b. Faith Offering: The budget for the year Oct 1, 2022—Dec 31, 2023 is <a href="https://doi.org/10.2023/jhan.2023/jh
- ★ What's at our Info Table? NPAC newsletter, Barnabasaid, Bible reading plans, devotional materials, gospel tracts, evangelism resources, and much more!

Prayer Corner

We pray for your personal needs, your unbelieving friends, and families. Please find and join our prayer meeting outside the A/V Room after the worship service.

Tithe & Offering

Tithe & offering will be collected in the red offering bags at the end of the worship service at the entrance of the worship hall. Charity offering (every 4th Sun) will be collected in the green bag. Please prayerfully prepare beforehand. For other collection channels, please click here.

Prayer Items

- 1. NPAC: <u>Thank God</u> for using many people before us to build this church in the love of Christ and the truth of God. <u>Pray</u> that we will always abide in Jesus. <u>Ask</u> God to protect us from deceptions and worldly influence, but to follow Jesus and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. <u>Ask</u> God to help us to inherit and pass on our legacy God has given to NPAC.
- 2. EM's 22nd Birthday: <u>Give thanks</u> for God's faithfulness, provision and blessings in the past 22 years. Let us continue to <u>look upon</u> Jesus as the head of the church and the Lord of our lives. <u>Pray</u> for the Sunday School to continue to nurture and bring students to God. May our teachers and their teachings be a precious experience in students' lives. <u>Pray</u> for the **five fellowships** to continue to grow spiritually and in relationship, to walk together in mutual edification. <u>Pray</u> that in our worship service, we will all always worship in truth and spirit. <u>Pray</u> for our heart of serving to be pleasing to God. <u>Pray</u> that the members in EM will continue to draw closer and closer to the Lord, and be diligent in learning the word of God, living out the truth and being joyful in the Lord always. <u>Pray</u> that we are a missional congregation who embraces the Great Commission of the Lord, sharing our testimonies and the gospel to others.

Next Sun Oct 9, 9:30am, Main Church (NPAC 70th Anniversary Joint Worship Service):

<u>Speaker</u>: Rev. Gordon Siu ("His grace to me is not without effect, Acts 9:10-19, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11); <u>Holy Communion</u>: Rev. Arnold Chow; <u>Chairperson</u>: Rev Stera Chan; <u>Scripture Readers</u>: The Chinese Youth Congregation; <u>Benediction</u>: Rev. Chin Wu; <u>Prayer</u>: Deacon Johnny Shih; <u>Sharing</u>: Yat-Lan Tong; <u>Interpreter</u>: Joseph Trinh; <u>Organist</u>: Yan Wang