

WELCOME to ESC Worship Service of October 1, 2023

Speaker: Rev. Armando Leon Jr.

Sermon: "Where He Leads me, I will Go"

Scriptures: Matthew 16:24-25

Prayer Items of the week:

1. Pray for more connections for Sunday services/ events in our community (i.e. Street evangelism, gospel tracts and invitation postcard distribution) and our on-going bible studies either in person or online. Psalm 128. "Blessed are those who fear the Lord...blessings will be upon you."
2. Pray that God will challenge our hearts, as His word is clearly preached, and encourage us to act accordingly. Matthew 6:33 " Seek ye first the Kingdom of God..." Jeremiah 33:3 " Call to Me and I will answer you."
3. Pray for the 5-week "Gospel Tea party" part 2, starting on October 15. Pray that as the participants learn and review the fundamentals of the Christian faith, they also grow in their faith journey. 2 Peter 3:18
4. Pray for those who are sick or in recovery. May God sustain them with His grace as they receive various forms of treatment/medications and protect them from the side effects! Exodus 15:26 " I am the Lord who heals you."
5. Pray fervently that God will send us to the community in our area to have the opportunity to share the gospel and be part of our church. Matthew 28:19-20
6. Pray that God sends His chosen servant to minister to the Mandarin-speaking community and its transition. Pray for Pastor Frank and his family in the next page of their ministry. May God grant the leadership with wisdom and discernment in this process. James 1:5



ESC Prayer Meeting is in dual format: ONLINE via Zoom rhcbc.org/pme and in-person.

Venue: Room 101 & 102 **Date & Time:** Sundays from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

No prayer meeting today, we will have a celebration of those 3 baptised believers and will resume next week.

Women's group (Josephine Ma) will be facilitating for next Sunday (October 8, 2023)

Welcome! Thank you for joining our worship service today. If you are joining us online, we invite you to email us at welcome@rhcbc.org with your contact information.

News & Events:

1. ** Today is Holy Communion. Brothers and sisters who are worshipping online, please prepare bread/biscuit and grape drink (if possible) at home. After the water baptism, Pastor Armando will lead us to partake of the Lord's Supper together.
2. ** 62nd Baptism today. Praise the Lord that Chloe Chak, Gabriel Wong and Michelle Wang are getting baptised at ESC worship; 陳慧珊Irene、朱彩燕Kanny、何炳焜Ken、鄺王維蓮、鄺北Buck are getting baptised at CSC/MM joint worship. May the Holy Spirit strengthen their faith in their journey with the Lord!

3. ** DB Announcement: Pastor Frank Yao, the Mandarin Assistant Pastor, has resigned from the position. His last working day will be October 4. The church sincerely thanks Pastor Frank for his faithful service and prays for God's blessings in his next ministry. Pastor Hannah Cao, the Assistant Pastor of the Mandarin Ministry, will join the pastoral team on November 1 to serve together.
4. ** We are collecting individually packaged candy and snack donations for our Candy Carnival event on Oct 31. Please leave your donations at the welcome table at the sanctuary's entrance. The last day to give donations is Oct 29, 2023. Note: we will *not* take any candy or snacks that contain nuts. Thanks in advance for your support and generosity!
5. Children Ministry would like to invite all families to join us on Oct 8, 2023, for a Thanksgiving Lunch. It will take place in the church basement at 1pm. Adult & youth \$10 ; kids \$5. Please register before Oct 4, 2023: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfN7-sUWUT9QVYYbaLPNR6h-pAFDKGWpNOx8HVI5kCgJ2wwkQ/viwwform?usp=sf_link
6. ** Child dedication ceremony during ESC Thanksgiving Sunday service next Sunday, October 8. Praise the Lord that two parents will dedicate their baby/child to God and dedicate themselves to raising them in a godly way:
 - Stacey and Josh Ho will dedicate their son, Caleb Emmanuel Ho (立基), born on January 31, 2023
 - Shirley and Clement Chan will dedicate their son, Connor Ka-Lok Chan, born on August 4, 2023
7. **Footprints fellowship. We are starting a new bible study on October 15, "How to Lead in a World of Distractions." Here is the link for registration <https://bit.ly/47JWMYx> and get your own study guide.
8. ** A 90 Day New Testament Reading Plan challenge is back. We encourage you to get a guide at the foyer for your personal reading guide.
9. **Online bible study "Making Your Case for Christ" (6 sessions) on alternating Wednesdays. Next meeting will be on October 11, 2023, Backing Up the Biblical record of Christ (session 3) from 8 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. You can still join us and get your personal study guide. Link for registration <https://bit.ly/3KSPEPE>.
10. We will resume the series of "Back to Basic" sessions part 2 on October 15 after worship from 11am - 12:30pm in basement room 012. The topics will cover those related to the Holy Spirit, Evil, Gospel and the Church. Those who have been attending RHCBC in the past 2 - 3 years are encouraged to join. Those who want to review the basic Christian practice and/or share their experiences are also welcome to join. Invitation cards are available at the reception desk. For registration, please send an email to outreach@rhcbc.org.
11. ESC serving opportunity: We invite everyone to be part of the serving team in the church. To get involved in ESC, please contact pastor Armando, or any of our deacons and leaders, and join one of our serving teams in the Welcoming/Reception team, Music Worship team, Small groups, or Outreach/Gospel team.
12. Information Ministry: we encourage brothers and sisters to register with RHCBC WhatsApp Group to receive church broadcast news. Steps: (1) add new contact "RHCBC Broadcast" with phone number (905) 508-8354; (2) WhatsApp your name to "RHCBC Broadcast"
13. ** Wedding bells: Allen & Nancy Ho are glad to announce the marriage of their daughter Dorcas to Jonathan Loo on Saturday, October 7, 2023. The ceremony will begin at 12:30pm at North Toronto Chinese Alliance Church: 11221 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill. All are welcome! Pray for the couple as they start their new journey together. Congratulations to Allen and Nancy.
14. ** Our condolences: brother Richard Chan's grandmother, late Yuk Heung Chan, went to be with our Lord on Sept 14 at the age of 95. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, Oct 7 at Elgin Mills Cemetery, 1591 Elgin Mills Road East at 10:00 am; visitation at 9:00-10:00 am. If you plan to attend the funeral service, please contact Richard in advance. Please pray for the family as they are grieving the loss of a loved one.
15. Congratulations to Dr. Dennis Ngien who has been appointed Distinguished Professor and Research Fellow at the Christ School of Theology, Institute of Lutheran Theology, Brookings, SD.
16. ** Pastoral staff news:
 - Rev. Jack Yuen will be on vacation from October 3-20.
 - Angela Wong will be on vacation from October 3-5. If you need office assistance, please contact Snowe Li at sli@rhcbc.org.
 - Rev. Armando Jr. will be attending the "North America CCOWE Summit – Reimagining Future Church" on Oct 10-13 hosted by the North American Chinese Congress on World Evangelization (CCOWE)

Last Week's Attendance		ESC	CSC	Mandarin	Total	Youth	Children	Nursery
Worship	In-person	54	154	31	236	23 +3 leaders	22 +4 leaders	3 babies+5 toddlers +7 parents +4 leaders
	Livestream				156			
	Total				392			
Sunday School		12	55	18				
Prayer meeting		cancelled	11					
No prayer meeting; ESC was celebrating September birthdays and wedding anniversaries. About 70 attendees								

Next Week's speakers: ESC: Pastor Jeffrey Cornfoot (Gideons) CSC/MM: Pastor William Wong

Chloe Chak - testimony

I was in Grade 9 when my friend invited me to Richmond Hill Chinese Baptist Church. Although I didn't think much of it then, this invitation led me to salvation. I originally went to Sunday school every week not for the right reasons, but to hang out with the friends I made. During this time, I learned about God and knew of Him, but I didn't have a relationship with Him. I refused to surrender my problems to God because that meant also surrendering my control.

Back then, I was having issues with my parents. My heart was full of selfish thoughts and I would ask God "Why am I put into this family". With no control of the situation whatsoever, I started to pray. I prayed for healing and change. This was the first time I truly surrendered to God and put my trust in him. Although I doubted God's power, I knew He was the only one who could do what felt impossible to me and He did it by changing my attitude. I learned about how sinful I was in God's eyes and I realized that if He loved me enough to send his son to die on the cross for my sins, I could extend that grace and love to my family. My anger for my family turned into appreciation of how they work through their own brokenness and try to provide however they can for me.

Now I can confidently say that I walk my life with Christ beside me. He has shown me that (1 Corinthians 13:4-8) "Love is patient, love is kind, It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and [emphasis on] it keeps no record of wrongs". God has shown me that even in the times when I wasn't faithful, His love never fails. I am getting baptized today as a declaration of my faith in God and salvation through Christ.

Gabriel Wong - testimony

When I was an infant my mother took me to church every week. At first, I thought that church was a second school to teach me about what something in a book meant. But as I went to church more and more, I slowly began to realize that everyone there was really into God's word and what it meant to be a Christian. So, I started to listen to the teachers there and when I was listening it got me thinking about these questions: about the bible every day like "why did God put the tree of good and evil?" or "why did Abraham have to wait so long to have a child?".

It was only then when I reached the book of John, I realized all those events in the Bible led up to Jesus. Jesus was the answer I was looking for. The reason I knew it was Jesus was because in Ruth 4:18-22 "This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, 19 Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, 20 Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, 21 Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, 22 Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David." This family line of the widow Naomi lead up to King David which led to the ultimate King Jesus. You can find this all over the Old and New Testament too, for example, in the parable of the mustard seed of how faith the size of a mustard seed will grow into the biggest plant of them all. In the Old Testament, we could see that the faith of Abraham's wife in God giving them a child was small, but God really gave them a child and now they make up a whole nation.

After I realized that Jesus was the answer, I began to learn more and more about the things He had done and how God helps us fight back against sin. Jesus has helped me build my life toward the path God wants me to take and has helped me realize how much God is important and why He wants to have a relationship with me.

Now that I am a Christian, I know God will put me on the right path and help me through the toughest of times. In Proverbs 3:5-6 “5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;6 in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”. This tells me to trust in the Lord and to live my life out knowing He is watching and guiding me and I pray that I will follow God’s word to my best.

Michelle Wang – testimony

Good morning brothers and sisters, thank you all for coming today. Before receiving Christ as my saviour, I had always felt alienated by my environment. I wasn’t raised in a Christian household and struggled to make friends with kids at school. As I matured and entered high school, things only seemed to decline. I found myself caught in abusive relationships and a turbulent home life. In my sophomore year of high school, I was diagnosed with depression, anxiety, and OCD. During COVID, my mental state continued to deteriorate as I watched everything that I dedicated myself to, whether it was academic achievements or friendships, they all crumbled before me. Between 2021 and 2022, I overdosed on two separate occasions. By God’s miracle, I managed to graduate high school. At the same time, I was battling my own demons. My parents began coming to this church. I witnessed the transformation of my parents which brought me hope of salvation. I remember crying out “Father, forgive me for trying to throw away the life you have blessed me with”. On June 17th 2023, I read the sinner’s prayer and accepted Jesus into my heart. It is by God’s grace, that a sinner like me, can have the privilege to stand here today. The blood of the cross is my redemption. Amen.