



Worship @Home

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH KLANG | 28 JUN 2020



DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST,

Transitions...

The first would be moving from the first half of 2020, and into the second half. Because of the pandemic of Covid-10, many people are willing to write off 2020 (not knowing when this menace will finally end, and the world will come back to some normality). For some, it is like a bad dream that must come to an end. For others, it means being realistic and finding a new line of work, even if it means eating humble pie.

The next transition will be on the church theme: *Discipline Ourselves so as to Disciple Others*. Then theme has been put on the back-burner since Rev Benny Ho's inspirational messages on *Mentoring & Discipleship* the weekend (March 14 & 15, 2020) before MCO began in Malaysia. The Think Tank team recently met and are excited about reigniting the church theme in the midst of the people. On a personal note, I believe God has spoken personally to you over these last 3 months when we were locked down in our homes – reminding us that the most important relationship is our personal relationship with God.

The final transition will be opening the church doors again for worship service. Several people have expressed their sheer joy of coming back to their beloved church (building). Unfortunately, due to the lingering threat of Covid-19, the governmental authorities are setting very stringent conditions on how many people can attend one worship service, and setting age limits to prevent the very young and the very old to enter church (at least for the time being). God loves all of us and will never exclude us from God's Kingdom based on age or any other factors – rest

assured. Perhaps the one thing that the authorities are spot on is to highlight that the worship service is only meant for people to worship God and not to socialize after the church service is over.

Hence, we need to trust God to lead us patiently through these transitions and wait for better times ahead of us – especially the wiping out of Covid-19 from planet earth.

May God bless you.

Pastor Ashok

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REFLECTION FOR THIS WEEKEND

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS – A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

What is a Christian response to this Covid-19 pandemic that will shape our world for the months (perhaps years) to come and that is shaping our lives now?

As Christians, how ought we to respond? To feel? To think? To act?

One of the themes of the Book of Esther in the Bible is **the providence of God**. God is the true hero of the book and it is discernible that God lines up circumstances such that Esther is so well placed to act to try to save her people. Ironically, God is never mentioned by name in the book – yet God seems everywhere present behind the events...

In the Book of Esther chapter 4, Mordecai calls on Esther to stand up for her people, to beg King Xerxes to change his edict. She explains to Mordecai that such begging, even an approach to the King, may well cost her life. Then Mordecai messages Esther, ***"Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"*** Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ***"Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law,***

and if I perish, I perish.” Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him. (Esther 4:13-17)

Esther rises to the challenge before her. She steps out in faith. She succeeds in persuading the king, in saving her own life and that of Mordecai, and in saving all of God’s people...and in acting in ways that were consistent with her faith in a unique and threatening genocidal historic moment.

I want to suggest to you that in the midst of this coronavirus we find ourselves in a another threatening historic moment. It is not threatening genocide like it was for the Jewish people in Esther’s Persia, but nevertheless, Covid-19 is life threatening – to some of us, our neighbours, to those in our towns, our nation and indeed to the whole world.

We find ourselves in a moment of high anxiety for the world, and a changing cultural moment. We find ourselves in a time of fear – where people fear each other – because each one might be carrying this awful invisible virus around on their hands or on their breath.

What is ‘*such a time as this*’ calling us to do, to be as God’s people?

Is God providentially backgrounding circumstances for you, for me, for us as a Church...so that we may find ourselves in a position where we, if we act, perhaps at personal risk, may influence the course of events in a way that saves people and brings glory to our God?

I want to make some observations about this coronavirus ‘time’ that we are living through and I want to make some suggestions for you to consider about how you respond to ‘this time’.

1. *SUCH A TIME AS THIS* REQUIRES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TO LIVE BY FAITH

Firstly, we need to have faith in God's continued sovereignty. It's easy to see God at work in hindsight or in other people's lives. We can see God working sovereignly in Esther's life. Right now, we need to see God at work between the lines of the events that are unfolding internationally as well as locally, and we need to see God's sovereignty in our own little lives.

Secondly, we need to have faith in God's goodwill towards us – as a world and to you and I personally. When we are going through trouble, it is a great thing to know that God is for us, and that nothing can separate us from His love ... not even death. As it is written in 1 Corinthians 15:55, death has lost its sting for us. People around us are afraid of dying – but we do not need to be afraid. Of course, we want to live through this, we want to be spared from this virus. But even if we lose our lives to Covid-19...we still live. We already have eternity! We are God's children – no matter what.

And let us not forget that we will all die a physical death one day – whether by a virus like this one or a cancer or another disease. But we will be raised again – imperishable.

Trust in God – you will have Him no matter what the future holds. We can say, like Esther did *"If I perish, I perish"* – not fatalistically, not without sadness, not flippantly...No, we say it filled with certainty for our future, we say it with hope – for that is what hope is – certainty of what we cannot see. As real as this invisible coronavirus is, equally as real is God's love for us. And you and I may find that in this threatening moment our faith becomes stronger not weaker, our relationship with God closer, our confidence in His love, greater.

2. *SUCH A TIME AS THIS* REQUIRES THAT GOD'S PEOPLE BE PREPARED TO VOICE OUR HOPE

To point people to Jesus and to invite people into the hope that we have. Sometimes we find that it's hard to *get God into the conversation* with our unbelieving loved ones, friends, colleagues and neighbours. The coronavirus is giving us an opportunity, an open door to step through with the Gospel. Normally, life is generally good. But now life is not good. People will question life's meaning. People will fear the future. Be there for them...share with them what casts out your fear. Offer to pray for them. Be ready to listen to them and to gently move them closer to Jesus.

3. *SUCH A TIME AS THIS* FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD CALLS FOR US TO BECOME KNOWN FOR OUR LOVE

This is our mission – to live by faith, to share our hope and to be known for our LOVE. John Calvin once said "*Duty must not be neglected, no more in epidemic disease than in war or fire*". Our duty is to love others. Christ calls us to acts of loving service.

4. *SUCH A TIME AS THIS* ENTREATS US TO BE BOLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE.

Be bold in our own nervous way – just like Esther. Esther was like you and me. Her religion, even her race wasn't something she had ever revealed. She wasn't a risk-taking child of God – until God put her in a place where she could step out in faith and do something really worthwhile for God. What place has God put you in?

Charles Spurgeon put it this way: *Every child of God is where God has placed them for some purpose, and the practical use of this point is to lead you to inquire for what practical purpose*

*has God placed each one of us where we now are? We may wish to be in another position where we could do something for Jesus: **do not wish anything of the kind, but serve Him where you are.***

In a time of coronavirus – what practical purpose can we serve in it? We are the hands and feet of Jesus – what bold things can these hands and feet do in such a time as this?

5. SUCH A TIME AS THIS DEMANDS THAT GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY AND DO THE THINGS THAT CHRISTIANS DO – SING, MEET, PRAY TOGETHER

Esther calls for a fast...we know that prayer and fasting always go together in Scripture.

6. SUCH A TIME AS THIS ENTREATS US TO REMEMBER THE UNCHANGING NATURE OF THE GOSPEL

Whilst culture and the world may change, whilst the way we do church in the coming months will change, the Gospel does not. God is still calling us to new life in Christ, to forgiveness and renewal.

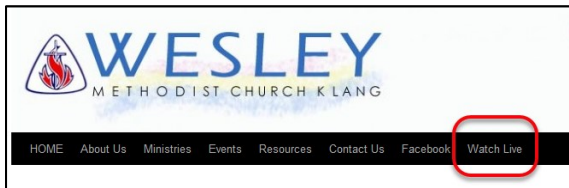
GOD IS THE GOD OF TIMES SUCH AS THIS!

(TRACY LAUERSEN)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The ENTIRE Worship Service is now on video. *Click any link below to watch the Online Worship Service video:*

- [Klang Wesley Online Church Platform](#)
 - Saturday Service starts at 5pm onwards
 - Sunday Service starts at 8am onwards
- [Klang Wesley Website](#)



Once you are in Klang Wesley website, click / tap **Watch Live** to view the Online Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT NOTICE DURING THE RMCO PERIOD

The Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) is currently on until August 31, 2020. There are still restrictions during this period.

1. Only the church office shall function as usual during office hours (Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00am - 5:00pm).
2. The church staff meeting is held on Tuesdays, 2:30pm - 4:30pm. Kindly avoid calling the office staff then, unless it is very urgent.
3. Cell Groups are still *not allowed* to meet in homes. All Cell Groups can continue to use online ways to meet.
4. If you need to contact the church office (Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00am - 5:00pm), please call 03-3372 2698. Otherwise, contact the office staff directly on their mobile phones: Pastor Ashok (012-524 0061) | Jane (017-622 7226) | Pelita (016-625 6188) | Cheng It (012-915 3640) | Yap Chee Kai (012-236 0457) |

- 1. CORPORATE PRAYER MEETINGS** From July onwards, the Zoom Prayer Meetings are as follows:

MORNINGS (8:00am - 8:30am) - Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

NIGHT (9:00pm - 10:00pm) - Thursdays (starting from July 9 only; NO prayer meeting on Thursday, July 2)

For more information, please call the church office.

- 2. WORSHIP SERVICES** Please take note that Klang Wesley will be having online Worship Services for the month of July, 2020.

- 3. CHURCH OFFICE** **The church office is allowed to operate during office hours.** If you need to come to the church office on official business only, kindly contact the church staff, and make an appointment. Otherwise, the church office is only to be used by the church staff.

- 4. ADULT BIBLE CLASS** SATURDAY Online classes will be conducted via Zoom

Topic: Empowered to Influence (The MANDATE to Influence the World)

Dates: Session 1: June 20, 2020

Session 2: June 27, 2020

Session 3: July 4, 2020

Session 4: July 11, 2020

Time: 3:00p.m. - 4:30p.m.

Cost of Workbook: RM25 per copy

For more information, contact the facilitators:

Bro Jesse Teh: WhatsApp: 012-200 3981
Email: jss_ten@yahoo.com

Bro Earnest Lin: WhatsApp: 016-208 8691
Email: ernestlin90@hotmail.com

5. CELL GROUP LEADERS ONLINE MEETING CG leaders can choose ***either one*** of two zoom meeting times:

- July 2, 2020 (Thursday) 8:30pm - 10:30pm
OR
- July 5, 2020 (Sunday) 3:00p.m. - 5:00pm

For more information, please contact church office.

GIVING

While we acknowledge that many people are affected by the current MCO situation, we encourage you to continue giving your tithes / offering during this time through online banking. The details are below:

ONLINE BANKING DETAILS

ACCT #: **171-315-561-1**

ACCT NAME: **WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
KLANG**

BANK: **UOB**

REFERENCE: **TITHE / OFFERING**

PRAYER SUPPORT

Dear friends, I believe God is calling us like never before to take our annual Lent seriously in 2020 in line with personal holiness as the church has called us to "Disciple Ourselves so as to Disciple Others". I invite you to please join the church Prayer Meetings via online Zoom App. -**PASTOR ASHOK**

ONLINE PRAYER MEETINGS

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86879055124>

Meeting ID: 868 7905 5124

Password: 763853

Morning (8am - 8:30am)

TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND

THURSDAYS

Night (9pm – 10pm)

THURSDAY

For any specific prayer needs or request, feel free to drop a message to Sister Mei Fong at 019-313 7793, or email to general@klangwelsey.com

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

1. Praise the Lord that He is the God of times such as this. Pray that for such a time as this, we will have faith in God's continued sovereignty and know that He is at work between the lines of the events that are unfolding in the world, even though we may not see or understand what is happening. Pray that as we choose to trust in Him no matter what the future holds, our faith will become stronger, our relationship with Him closer and our confidence in His love, greater. Pray that we will be alert to the opportunities the Lord has opened for us at such a time as this, that we will be bold to reach out to people who are anxious and fearful because of the coronavirus, to listen to their fears, and gently point them to Jesus, and invite them into the hope that we have. Pray that we will reach out to people, not just with words of hope and encouragement, but also with acts of love, compassion and kindness. Pray that we will continue to have virtual meetings with one another, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:19-20).
2. Although the Covid-19 pandemic has made it impossible for group meetings in church and homes, praise God that we can hold these meetings via Zoom. Praise God for many of the Cell Groups that are meeting online every week. Pray that the Cell Leaders and cell members will continue to connect well with each other, and be edified and built up

spiritually. Pray for several small discipleship groups that are also meeting online that the participants will be committed to meet regularly despite their busy schedules. Praise God for the Adult Bible Classes (one is ongoing every Saturday till July 11, 2020), that has blessed those who participated. Pray that more people will join these online classes. Pray for the Zoom meetings for the Sunday School, Youths, Boys' Brigade and Dance Ministry, that these online meetings will be as effective and edifying as the face-to-face meetings they used to have, and that the children and youths will continue to grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus. Praise God for the Zoom Prayer Meetings that have been on-going since March 22, 2020, that many people have participated in these prayer meetings. Pray that the Lord will continue to sustain these prayer meetings as we continue to meet.

3. After almost three months of closure of schools due to Covid-19, 2,440 secondary schools in the country reopened on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 to enable 500,444 students sitting for their SPM, STPM and equivalent examinations to catch up with their studies. Praise God that the reopening of schools ran smoothly in compliance with the recovery movement control order standard operating procedure (SOP). Pray that the teachers and students will not be distracted by the new normal of school life, that they will be able to adapt to the new ways of teaching and learning. Pray that they will continue to be vigilant in complying strictly with the SOP in the days and weeks following, and that God will keep them safe and healthy. Pray for the government as it evaluates the effectiveness of the SOP in schools, and have wisdom to know whether the SOP should

be changed and made stricter, of if the current one is good enough, and from there to decide when other students should return to school. Pray also for discernment for the Education Ministry to do what is best for the present school system as teachers are urging the ministry to consider a staggered timetable and shorter school hours. Churches in Malaysia were forced to close doors for worship service since the MCO began in mid-March 2020. Since then, churches were forced to do online worship services using different means over the internet. However, recently, the Malaysian government has opened the doors for churches to be used for worship services again under strict obedience to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Pray that churches in Selangor especially will be bold to reopen the church doors soon. Pray that the SOP will be strictly followed. Pray for understanding by church members that these SOP will mean that some inconveniences have to be tolerated for the time being. Above all, pray that God's name will be glorified, and that people will truly appreciate all the freedom given to Malaysians to worship God, all these many years. Pray that they will not take corporate worship in church for granted, but will make it a priority to come every week to worship God together with the church family.

4. Pray for the Orang Asli (OA) that comes under our church Missions Committee, during this time of the pandemic. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance upon the two OA pastors, Pastor Rezo and Pastor Noraini, as they learn to cope with leading the adult and children's worship services, without help from the teams from Klang Wesley. Pray that when Pastor Noraini teaches the children (as they are unable to go to school), they will be obedient and attentive. Pray for

all the OA – adults, teenagers and children to be diligent in reading God's Word and connecting with Him in prayer, so that they will continue to grow in their faith. Pray that they will continue to reach out to the pre-believers in their community, especially for such a time as this. Pray also for the OA ministry in Carey island: for good health for Pastor Rizal, and God's healing upon those who are sick. Pray that the OA believers there will learn to depend on God, rather than on NGOs to provide for their needs. Pray for wisdom for our TRAC leaders regarding the re-opening of the OA students' hostel in Raub, and that the students will be motivated to study on their own for the time being. Pray that God will bring a spirit of revival to the Orang Asli in Semenanjung Malaysia, and for a mighty harvest of souls among the OA community.

5. Malaysia has gone through a difficult time in 2020. In recent times, a few people charged with corruption have had their cases dismissed by the court. Pray that justice will be served in the future, that God will grant wisdom and courage to the people representing the justice system, and that the courts will thoroughly evaluate all the charges laid forward. Pray that people who have robbed the nation of money for personal gain will eventually be convicted and they will face the consequences of their greed and evil acts. Pray that money robbed will be retrieved by the Malaysian government through men and women who will pursue justice and righteousness at all cost.
6. Praise God that with regards to the daily Covid-19 new infections, Malaysia is now in a recovery phase. As such, the government has allowed several social and economic

activities to resume in July, after they were suspended for about 4 months, including public and private swimming pools, kindergartens and preschools, social activities like weddings and other celebrations, cinemas, theatres and live events, meetings that include conferences and seminars. Pray that God will give wisdom and guidance to the authorities to implement detailed and appropriate standard operating procedures (SOP) for every single event. Pray that Malaysians will understand that the pandemic is not over, and will acknowledge our vulnerability by humbly complying strictly to all the SOPs set by the authorities. Pray that God will give wisdom and discernment to the government to know how and when to reopen borders for the business and tourism sectors to boost the economy in the nation. More than 50% of self-employed Malaysians are out of work since the MCO was imposed in March. Praise God that about 40,000 jobs will be created for jobless Malaysians through the Human Resources Development Fund's National Economic Recovery Plan. Pray that God will grant the jobless creative ways and a willingness to work outside of their comfort zones to earn a living.

7. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to devastate the world, some countries are continuing to see a rapid increase in cases and deaths, some countries that have successfully suppressed transmission are not seeing an upswing in cases as they reopen their societies and economies, while other countries have experienced a spike in Covid-19 cases when they relaxed their lockdowns. All countries are facing a delicate balance, between protecting their people, while minimizing the social and economic damage. Pray for the

governments of all countries to make wise and practical decisions between lives and livelihoods, to be careful and creative in finding solutions that will enable people to stay safe while getting on with their lives. Pray that the health authorities in all nations will double down on the fundamental and workable public health measures to contain the coronavirus and reduce the number of daily infections, and to also invest in strong health systems in their respective countries to protect their citizens. Pray that the public will also do their part to comply with the health measures to protect themselves and others, and to prevent the spread of the disease. Pray too that God will grant wisdom to scientists to understand the nature of Covid-19, and be able to quickly develop a vaccine to defeat the coronavirus.

OTHER RESOURCES

Online Worship Services

Church	Link	Service Time(s)
DUMC	http://dumc.my/watch-live/	Saturdays 5PM Sundays 9AM
DUMC Children's Church		
Little Lambs (Age 2-3)	http://bit.ly/CCLittleLambs Activity Sheets http://bit.ly/LLM-Activities	Saturdays 2.15PM
Explorers (Age 4-6)	http://bit.ly/CCExplorers Activity Sheets http://bit.ly/EXP-Activities	Saturdays 2.15PM
Venturers (Ages 7-9)	http://bit.ly/CCVenturers Activity Sheets http://bit.ly/VEN-Activities	Saturdays 2.15PM
Trailblazers (Ages 10-12)	http://bit.ly/CC-Trailblazers Activity Sheets http://bit.ly/TRB-Activities	Saturdays 2.15PM

Articles

Christianity Today <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/march-web-only/coronavirus-churches-christians-news-advice-covid-19.html>

Prayer Guide by 24-7 Prayer Asia

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1HurYr2GI2ntRJnI5iKj8LD9quYwB820d>

Devotional Material

Our Daily Bread <https://odb.org/>

Praise & Worship Songs

Integrity Music <https://www.youtube.com/user/integritymusic>

Hillsong <https://www.youtube.com/user/hillsonglive>

Gateway <https://www.youtube.com/user/gatewayworship>

Bethel <https://www.youtube.com/user/ibethelmusic>

Worship Central <https://www.youtube.com/user/worshipcentral1>