

WORSHIP GUIDE: WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2020

GATHERING/WELCOME

Elder Shad

PRAISE SONGS

"O Lord, My God"(Chorus)

TEH#19

Then sings my soul, my Savior God,
to Thee, (How great Thou art!) 2x

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee, How great Thou art!
How great Thou art.

"Open My Eyes of My Heart Lord"

Refrain: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You (Repeat)

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy (Refrain)

OPENING PRAYER

Elder Shad

BIBLE Verses (Unison)

Elder Shad

Matthew 18:20

"For where two or three are gathered in My Name, there am
I in the midst of them.

Psalms 29:2

"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name, worship the Lord in the
beauty of holiness."

OPENING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

TEH #14

Joyful, Joyful, we adoré Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Océan depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the Joy divine.

GREETINGS/CHURCH NEWS

Pastor Cesar

Fellowship Song

"I Love The Thrill"

I love the thrill that I feel when I get together with God's wonderful people
Love the thrill that I feel when I get together with God's wonderful people
What a sight just to see all the happy faces
Praising God in heavenly places
What a thrill that I feel when I get together with God's wonderful people

SHARING OF PRAISES and THANKSGIVING

Elder Vel

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Elder Vel

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:4-7; 11-14

Elder Bernard

MESSAGE

Song:

"Be Strong In The Lord"

Word:

"Living In The Meantime"

Pastor Glo Estrella

ECQ Time - Ellinwood Community Quiet Time

Pastor Leng

CLOSING HYMN

"I Trust In God, Wherever I May Be"

TEH #294

I trust in God wherever I may be...
Upon the land or on the rolling sea,
For come what may, From day to day,
My heav'nly Father watches over me.

REFRAIN: I trust in God, I know He cares for me...

On mountain bleak or on the stormy sea,
Tho' billows roll... He keeps my soul,
My heav'nly Father watches over me.

The valley may be dark, the shadows deep,
But O, the Shepherd guards His lonely sheep;
And thro' the gloom He'll lead me home,
My heav'nly Father watches over me. (REFRAIN)

BIBLE VERSE(unison)

Pastor Bob

Psalm 31:24

"Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope
in the Lord."

CLOSING PRAYER/BENEDICTION

Pastor Bob

RESPONSE

"Trust and Obey"

TEH#239

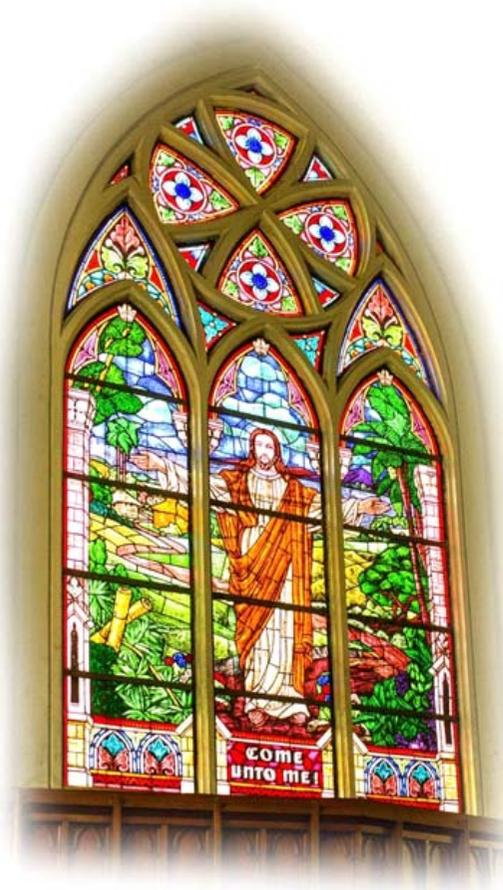
Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, Not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

REFRAIN

Trust and obey, for there's no other way,
To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey. AMEN



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES
ELLINWOOD-MALATE CHURCH**



**MIDWEEK PRAYER
MEETING**

27 May 2020

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“LIVING IN THE MEANTIME”

Good evening! EMC Family. It's my joy to see all of you attending again the Midweek Prayer Meeting. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

The title of my meditation is “Living in the Meantime.”

Learning how to live involves learning how to live in the meantime. A significant portion of life is spent in the “meantime.”

An easy example is waiting for somebody at the mall... In the meantime will you go browse over books and magazines at a bookstore? Window shop? Or probably sit down for a cup of coffee in your preferred coffee shop?

A little harder example would be when applying for a job.... While waiting for the call, what do you do in the meantime?

How about during difficult moments? Such as waiting to go back to work while recovering from a surgical procedure? Or waiting for results of biopsies? What do you do for the mean time?

One of the most difficult waiting time would be during this pandemic... from the time of total lockdown last March 15, 2020 up to the time to a new normal life, what are we to do?

How do we live when a meantime invades our life?

The Scripture text in Jeremiah 29 Verses 4-7 and 11-14 are instructions from the Lord given through Jeremiah on what to do during those so called “meantime” in your life.

Originally, these were words for the Israelites who were captured and taken as prisoners and was brought to Babylon during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar. They were then in exile not knowing when they could go back to their homeland. This account can be read in 2nd Kings 24:11-15.

For the people of the whole world during this Covid 19 pandemic, these words are also relevant and applicable to us.

What is the Lord telling us? How do we live during this meantime of pandemic basing on our text?

FIRST: Do something worth while... Jeremiah 29:5...

To quote C. S. Lewis after the death of his wife, “I never realized that grief has within it such laziness.” “When you are living in the meantime, you may lack energy, the drive and desire to move on.”

During the captivity in Babylon, this is what the Israelites were experiencing. Their harps were hung on the trees. There was no music, no song to lift their spirits. That's why the Word of God through the prophet Jeremiah instructed them to build houses, settle down, plant gardens and eat the produce.

For us, now is the time to do something productive with our time. Write a poem or a song. Rehearse or do better in playing instruments, like the piano, violin or guitar. Do the things that you love doing.. like baking, cooking or gardening.... perfect them and make better. Learn something new. Clean your house. Redecorate.

Share your blessings. Donate meals or relief goods, share financial assistance.

Yes, brothers and sisters, do not allow boredom, discouragement and laziness to overtake you. Do something worthwhile.

SECOND: Find something, a reason to celebrate.... Jeremiah 29: 6

There are ways to celebrate but still following social distancing...

Like last May 25 The EMC Viber Group Chat warmly celebrated Bro Mitch Duran's birthday through messages, prayers, and kulitan.

I know of a member who posts flashback photographs on social media of celebrations of milestones such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, graduation and etc. which always bring good vibes and sweet memories.

We can also be creative like this American family featured on TV where they transform their backyard into vacation spots like hotels, put up swimming pools and alike to make them feel like they can still go on a vacation in spite the current situation we're in.

Brothers and sisters, do not allow depression or sadness to overtake you this meantime.

THIRDLY: Do not forget to pray... Jeremiah 29:12....

Difficult times are not easy times to pray, but pray you must. It takes an effort to find a place of solitude and focus on God. It also has something to do with our relationship with God. There is much time to read the Bible and have a personal devotion in this meantime...

This is the time to gather the family in worship using the prepared liturgy and reading the meditation. This is the time to intercede for others who are sick. This is the time to call your love ones to sing hymns for and with them and pray with them.

Join the online worship to strengthen our faith during this meantime. Yes my church family, it isn't easy to pray when your burdened, when you have anxieties and worries but PRAY you must. God is just waiting for you. He will listen.

FOURTH: Walk through it....

Reading NIV Isaiah 50:7, "Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame."

Isaiah was moving on. He was moving forward. He knew the day would come when the exile would end and hearts would sing again. He knew that the time of sadness, frustration and weariness would end turn to joy and laughter. When it seemed he had come to an end of his rope, he tied a knot and held on.

Now in our meantime this Covid 19...

walk through it with God who is beside us, in front of us and behind us. In the meantime, God is working in your life. Jesus is in charge of His world. He will never leave or forsake you. So light up your face with God's light and grace and walk through it.

In closing, let us thank God through His Word in Jeremiah 29:11. Let us read it together.

"I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for."

Friends, let us lift up our heads and look to the future because God has good plans for us. He can turn all these around. Let hope fill our hearts.

Let us pray,

we are in Your presence O Lord Jesus, with confidence that You care for us all the time, especially this meantime in our life. Yet there are times when we feel this meantime will never end. We feel life will never be the same again. We do not know how to cope with the meantime, let alone survive the meantime.

Therefore, we come to You in total dependence. We believe and trust Your holy Word. We have our hope in Jesus Christ.

Amen.