



VICAR'S
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WRITE

Alleluia!
CHRIST IS RISEN!

What a glorious Easter because our Lord and Saviour has conquered death and overcome the power of sin. One of my personal favourites during Easter is the hymn "Because He Lives" by Gloria and William Gaither, written in the late 1960s and released in 1971. The hymn was composed in the midst of social upheaval, threats of war, and a time of great uncertainty. Despite the many personal and depressing challenges, the Gaithers were deeply inspired by the words of John 14:19c "Because I live, you also will live", and this beautiful hymn became their source of comfort whenever the days were tough. I share the first two stanzas, which I believe reflect the sentiment of the time we are in as we consider the political situations of our neighbouring countries and the relentless new waves of Covid-19 outbreaks in Asia, Europe and South America:

*God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives!*

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone,
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

Indeed, life is worth living because our Saviour lives. Because He lives, we will press-on with full confidence with our focus for 2021 - and you might have noticed the sermon series "**A Deeper Life in Christ: Knowing Jesus & Doing His Will.**" This is a continuation from the Nehemiah series, to lead us to a deeper knowledge of who JESUS is, and what JESUS' will is for us on earth. This series is based on the Gospel of

John and the Book of Colossians.

This time round we have decided to make it slightly more interesting and meaningful by getting you and our CGs to reflect on a few simple questions. The purpose of the reflection questions is to take us deeper, and at the same time to unify the families and the church with a common "talking-point" regardless of services and ministries that you might be worshipping or serving in.

You may access these questions via our website or like us on Facebook (@standrewcath) or follow us on Instagram (@standrewscathedral) to leave your thoughts and comments. I encourage you to participate actively in the talking-point, spurring one another on in building our relationship with Christ!

Now allow me to address a different issue - a family issue. I am sure you have been blessed by our services whether on-line or onsite. The staff, our lay leaders and volunteers in particular have done a marvellous job in keeping our onsite services running. Since January, we have been running 6 English services (2 on Saturdays and 4 on Sundays) to allow you to worship onsite on weekends.

I wish we could do more. However, with the restriction, only a limited number can worship onsite. While

I am encouraged with the weekly attendance, many have also expressed their deep concern and frustration. Some have tried to get seats for the last 3 months and have not been successful, others have reported that they have given up. *Reasons for their concern and frustration* - services are always fully booked within a few short minutes after they are released for booking on our portal. To ensure that we can return meaningfully to worship onsite, new measures will be introduced in due time to ensure that we have a fair booking system and I ask for your understanding, patience, and cooperation.

Lastly, as I wrap up my Vicar's Write for this month, please join me in welcoming Revd William Chee and his wife, Siew Ngo to the Cathedral family. Together, they have 3 children, Joshua, Joanne, and Jocelyn who are 27, 25 and 23 years old respectively.

Revd William was posted from Yishun Christian Church to the Cathedral from 1 April. His primary duty is to oversee the Christian Education department and I believe with his experience, he will add a rich flavour to the area of

Personal Discipleship within the Cathedral. Do stay tuned for more information. Revd William will also serve as the Service Pastor for the 7.30am service.



Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord.

- J. I. Packer