

Dear Cathedral community,

Happy New Year! I feel both privileged and humbled to be addressing you as the Acting Vicar of SAC.



THE VICAR WRITES

REVD CHRISTOPHER CHAN

Many of us will remember the end of 2023 as the time when the Nave restoration works were finally completed after almost two years. It has been a long journey, but looking back we clearly see God's hand at work in many ways, and we are deeply grateful for His blessing and favour. It is by His grace that we were able to hold a meaningful and moving dedication service on the night of Christmas Eve. The service was a celebration of God's goodness, and it was filled with much anticipation and excitement. I am certain that we would have heartily echoed the words of Psalm 69:9, "Zeal for Your house has consumed me!"

Now, what next?

When we began the restoration project, we spoke of it as a symbol of the work of spiritual renewal that we longed for God to do in our midst. So let us continue to cry out to Him for renewal and revival! Our zeal for His house must not focus merely on the physical church building; we must be zealous for God's work and, indeed, for God Himself! Let us renew our passion to pursue Him and bear fruit that will glorify His name. Let it be our heart's desire to see the work of God flourish here in SAC! This must entail our recommitment to the mission and ministry that He has entrusted to the Cathedral.

During the Covenant Service last Sunday, I exhorted us to see our worship services as a time of gathering to worship and serve God together. We must come not primarily to receive, but to give. Our foremost concern should not be to please ourselves, but to please God. Our service to Him must extend

beyond the worship gathering; it must be our way of life. At the end of the Holy Communion service we hear the words, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Not only during but also after the worship service, we are to love and serve God, often doing so by loving and serving others within and without our church walls.

The apostle Peter exhorts us in 1 Peter 4:10: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." I pray that many more in our community will step up and answer the call to serve. This will enable SAC to be a healthy and strong church, because what really counts is not our seating capacity, but our serving and sending capacity! So will you do your part, as an expression of your zeal for God's house, to increase SAC's serving and sending capacity? If you are already serving, will you encourage and equip others to join you? If we would commit ourselves to doing this, I firmly believe that at this year's end we will be able to look back and say that it truly has been a happy year for us! May it be so, to the glory of God!

