

中華基督教循道衛理美以美會
CHINESE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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親愛的弟兄姊妹：

今年的復活節主日是四月十二日。這日子是用來記念主耶穌基督為我們的罪被釘在十字架上，第三天祂從死裏復活。證明祂就是真神。

不過，今年的復活節和過去的很不一樣。因為新型冠狀病毒疫情蔓延全球，多國及地區先後出現搶購廁紙潮！可算得是另類的「受苦節」，金融界的熔断是「釘十字架」，世人就盼望這個疫情盡快過去，好叫各行各物都歡渡「復活節」。

這樣的描繪並不過份。灣區九個縣宣佈由 3/17 起，各人要留在家居防疫，除了緊急服務行業外，其他的都要停止運作，包括教會在內。從當天的新聞報道中，得悉眾人都守規矩，在家工作。這時候，三藩市的華埠和金融區就水靜河飛。各行各業都叫苦連天，大呼經濟何時可以「復活」？

各位兄姊，我們在過去的日子過得實在太幸福了。當其他各地戰火連天、災鴻遍野時，在美國生活的我們，仍能舒適輕鬆地過日子。這種生活模式，對我們來說是必然的。然而當瘟疫來臨時，我們就驟然醒覺，斷乎不是。看來，中國人的智慧--「居安思危」實在有其道理。

這個瘟疫所帶來生命威脅和經濟下滑，對我們作為基督徒來說，有很大的挑戰。第一、就是我們真的相信神在掌權嗎？當然，在居家防疫的大前題下，為了自己和他人的生命，減少外出是應當的。但同時我們有沒有減少對神的信心？第二，在經濟下滑時，我們對神的信心會如金融指數下滑？還是會逆市上升？

教堂的大門因防疫的原故要關閉至四月七日(暫時)，但教會仍然存在。我們主日崇拜將在網上面書(Facebook)轉播。英文堂為主日上午九時，中文堂為主日上午十一時。網址如下：

- https://www.facebook.com/pg/ChineseUMCSF/posts/?ref=page_internal

如你是面書(Facebook)會員，可直接登入 Facebook 搜查：Chinese UMC, San Francisco

想翻看以前主日崇拜的，可到教會的網址去尋找：<http://cumcsf.org/sermons-2020/>

盼望我們於四月十二日主日早上十時半，可以回到教堂，同心慶祝主耶穌得勝死亡，從死裏復活！

祝主恩滿溢！

主僕 簡祺輝牧師

二〇二〇年三月十八日

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March 18, 2020

Dear brothers & sisters,

May the Peace and Joy brought by the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

This year, Easter Sunday falls on Sunday, 4/12. The purpose of celebrating Easter every year is to help us to remember that Jesus Christ died for our sins on the cross, was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day. His resurrection proves that He is God.

This year in this Lent season, we are having a new experience. The world is infected with the COVID-19. The side effect is unbelievable. People are rushing to the store and market to buy toilet papers and rice! This frenzy hunting is another kind of 'suffering'. The melting down of the stock market is really some kind of 'crucifixion' to the American. People everywhere are praying for the quick recovery from the COVID-19, so that all kind of business may joyfully celebrate Easter.

Starting from 3/17, 9 counties in the Bay Area are implementing the 'Shelter in Place' policy. The church is no exemption from this. Chinatown and the financial area in San Francisco are very quiet. People in all kind of business are crying out, 'When will the business come back?'

Dear brothers and sisters, we had been very lucky for a long time since WWII. We have been relaxing all the times even when people in other side of the world are crying, mourning and suffering. We take it for granted that this kind of life style should last forever. So, have we been awakened by COVID-19? Life is always full of surprises. Let us keep watch and be vigilant. Get prepared!

In what way should we Christian stand in this hour? First, do we really believe that God is in control? Did you notice that the White House always hold prayer meeting in times of national emergency? Let's keep praying at home for others. Let us hold each other close with prayer. Second, to whom we look up to for our help? The Dow Jones Industrial Index or the Resurrected Lord Jesus?

The building is closed by the order of the 'Shelter in Place' but the Church is still alive! Please join our Sunday Service through FACEBOOK at https://www.facebook.com/pg/ChineseUMCSF/posts/?ref=page_internal or you can search your FaceBook for "Chinese UMC, San Francisco". English Service at 9:00 am and Chinese Service at 11:00 am. You can also enjoy our past Sunday Worship at our website : <http://cumcsf.org/sermons-2020/> .

Hope that we can have Easter Service on 4/12 at church but please pay attention to the 'Shelter in Place' notice.

In Christ,

Pastor Ernest Kan