

Announcements

1. **Baptism**- Brother Nathan Yee was baptized on April 27. Sister Maddie Farkas was baptized this morning. In 2018, there have been 6 saints being baptized, including 3 brothers and 3 sisters.
2. **M/P/R Brothers blending** will be held on the coming Saturday from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm at Plano meeting hall. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up at the service office.
3. **Ministry book reading** - We will have one week break for saints to review and share on what you have enjoyed. Our next ministry book reading "The Knowledge of Life" will start next week. If you would like to have a hard copy of this book, please purchase it from book room.
4. **Annual Meeting** - The Church in Richardson annual meeting will be held at 1701 N Jupiter Road, Richardson 10:30AM on May 13, 2018. The meeting agenda includes the approval of restated article of incorporation (AIC) and amended by-laws (BL), and election of board of trustees. Both clean and redlined versions of documents are available for review on the Church in Richardson website. To access these files please go to www.churchinrichardson.org => Announcements => Charter and Bylaws. Please contact Yun-Han Chen or Jonah Kao if you have any questions.
5. **2018 International Memorial Day Conference** will be held in Kansas City, Mo from Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28. We will have 15-passenger vans going and taking lodging at the conference reserved hotels (Now Sheraton Kansas City Hotel At Crown Center is still open for booking). Today is the last day to sign up for van riding.
6. **Bible Camp** - Please use the following link to register children : <http://churchinrichardson.org/biblecamp/>. For serving ones, today is the deadline for sign up, please sign up at service desk.
7. **Cleaning** --Chinese-speaking District

Nourishment

- **Holy Word for Morning Revival:** *Crystallization-Study of Leviticus, vol.1, Week 12 - Enjoying Christ as the Reality of the Peace Offering at the Lord's Table to Present the Total Picture of God's Economy*
- **Ministry book reading:** *Review and share on "The Economy of God"*
- **Scripture Reading**

	L.D.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
OT	Isa. 38:1-40:31	41:1-42:25	43:1-44:28	45:1-46:13	47:1-48:22	49:1-26	50:1-52:15
NT	2 Tim. 1:1-18	2:1-3:13	3:14-4:22	Tit. 1:1-16	2:1-15	3:1-15	Phm. 1:1-25

Regular Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting	Place
Lord's Day	09:30AM	Lord's Table and Prophesying	meeting hall
	04:00PM	PSRP	meeting hall (by language)
Wednesday	07:30PM	Prayer and Service	meeting hall
Thursday	10:00AM	Chinese Speaking Sisters	meeting hall
Saturday	06:30PM	Young People	Homes or meeting hall

Prayer Burden

1. Please pray for the practice of God-ordained Way through the small groups in 2018. Pray for the new ones recently moved to Richardson or came to our meetings that they could fully enter into the church life.
2. Pray for the saints' job and health situations so that the saints will be freed from distractions to take care of God's move in Richardson.
3. Pray that all the saints will spend adequate time before the Lord everyday to build an intimate relationship with the Lord to live an overcoming God-man living.
4. Pray for the building project in London to take care of the urgent need for perfecting saints for God's move in Europe.
5. Pray for God's move in Frisco.

Attendance Last Week

Group	E1	E2	E3	E4	C1	C2	C3	C4	Total	Wed. Prayer (E)	Wed. Prayer (C)	Young People	LD Children	Lord's Day (E)	Lord's Day (C)	Total
#	15	13	6	15	12	9	10	14	94	13	12	8	16	49	63	122

Hymn 958 HOPE OF GLORY-LONGING AND PRAYING

- 1 Since long ago at Bethany we parted,
Within my heart there is a ceaseless void;
How can I take my harp down from the willow?
How can my songs without Thee be enjoyed?
And when at night I'm keeping lonely vigil-
Grown numb alike to sorrow and to cheer-
Then I recall the promise of Thy coming,
But sigh: O Lord, why, why Thou dost not yet
appear?
- 2 Thy manger wakes the thought: I too am
homeless;
Thy cross strips earthly pleasures from my soul;
Thy coming bids me seek a better country,
For Thou Thyself art now my final goal.
Since Thou art gone my joy has lost its flavor,
My song the sweetness I would fain convey.
Since Thou art gone the sense of void
o'erwhelms me.
Oh, how I long that Thou wilt come and not delay.
- 3 Though even now I know Thy loving presence,
Yet in my heart there's still a sense of lack.
Enlightening and tenderest sustaining
Can no more satisfy: I want Thee back.
Despite Thy peace within, I still feel lonely;
Despite Thy joy there still remains a sigh;
When I feel most content, the silent yearning
To see Thee face to face becomes an uttered cry.
- 4 What exile cannot but desire his homeland
And long his people once again to greet?
What soul on alien soil forgets his kindred?
What parted lovers never yearn to meet?
- 5 O Lord, how can these earthly loves and pleasures
With all the joy of Thy return compare?
Then, if I cannot here behold Thy countenance,
What can I do but sigh till Thou, my Lord, appear?
Could'st Thou, O Lord, forget Thy word of
promise
Soon to return and take me unto Thee?
Yet day by day and year by year I've waited
And still I wait, and no return I see!
Remember, Lord, the years I have been waiting
While Thy dear footsteps linger far away.
How long? How long? Oh! must I wait still longer
Till Thou shalt come again in glorious array?
- 6 From generation unto generation
Thy saints have come and gone, but have not seen
Thy glorious promise pass into fulfilment.
How long, how very long the time has been!
Why cannot we, dear Lord, discern Thy footsteps?
Why are the heavens still so closely sealed?
Oh! must our waiting be prolonged still further
Before Thou in Thy matchless splendor art
revealed?
- 7 Lord, I recall the many years I've waited
For Thy return-yet, Lord, not I alone,
But Thy dear saints through many generations-
Beseeching Thee to come back for Thine own.
To countless tears and countless fervent pleadings,
By Thine appearing haste to make reply.
Oh, may Thou come, the echo of the ages,
Come, come and answer now this mighty
corp'rate cry!

Brief Background of the Hymn

This hymn is called “the king of the hymns”. It expresses brother Watchman Nee’s deep longing for the Lord’s return. This hymn was inspired by the sentiment expressed in psalm 137, in which it says, “By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down; indeed, we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows in the midst of it We hung up our lyres,...”. In the hymn, brother Nee mentioned different kinds of earthly loves and longings, such as the one exiled desiring his homeland, the soul sojourning on alien soil missing his kindred, and the parted lovers yearning to meet one another. However, all these cannot compare with our longing for “all the joy of Thy return”. The feelings expressed in this hymn are very tender and transcendent. Brother Nee longed for the Lord’s return, not because that he had harsh environment and afflictions so he was looking forward to the Lord’s return to release him from the sufferings. On the contrary, he had “Thy loving presence”, “Enlightening and tenderest sustaining”, “peace within”, “Thy joy”, and “most content”. However, all these are not the best. What he earnestly desired and his “uttered cry” was “To see Thee face to face”.

Today, no matter how rich and how high of our experience and enjoyment of the Lord, we are still limited by our flesh as the veil, “For now we see in a mirror obscurely”.(1 Cor. 13:12) But that day, “We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.”(1 John 3:2) May we all have such a strong longing for the Lord return as our brother Nee had, consecrating ourselves to the Lord for the building up of the church and for the preparing for the Bride to hasten His coming back. May “Thine appearing haste to make reply” to answer “the echo of the ages” and the “mighty corporate cry” of the church!