



6/7 January 2018
Vol. 40, No. 1

The One We Gentiles Crucified

John 19:17-24

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Worship in Music
Scripture Reading
Anthem
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Celebration of the
Lord's Supper
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Natatanging Bilang
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Elder Dan Andrew Cura
Pagdiriwang ng Banal
na Hapunan
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas

See inset inside for the Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.) program.



The One We Gentiles Crucified

Today's Message (6/7 January 2018) /
John 19:17-24

THE TITLE "KING
OF THE JEWS"
ANNOUNCED
SALVATION FOR THE
WHOLE WORLD,
FOR CHRIST IS THE
WISDOM OF GOD
TO THE GREEK, THE
POWER OF GOD TO
THE JEW, AND THE
JUSTICE OF GOD
THAT FULFILLS HIS
HOLY LAW.

Why do we say that "we" crucified Jesus? If you were ever asked that by one of your kids or by your Sunday School student, the simplest answer is still John 3:16. The "world" and "whoever" in the most famous verse of the Bible means both Jews and Gentiles.

But you can also say that, in a certain way, whoever lived and existed in any era and from any race were represented at Jesus' crucifixion by the people there. Jesus previously told Pilate that the Jews who delivered Him to them were guilty of greater condemnation. But you and I were also represented by Pilate and his men. Jesus is literally the One we Gentiles crucified.

Here are just three of the many things that happened around the cross that involved Gentiles like us:

1. GENTILES CRUCIFIED JESUS (VV. 17-18)

- In 1968, scientists for the first time discovered the remains of a man crucified in Jesus' era. The victim was nailed to the cross in a sitting position, both legs over sideways, with the nail penetrating the sides of both feet just below the heel. The arms were stretched out, each stabbed by a nail in the forearm.
- The victim of the cross represented miserable humanity reduced to the last degree of powerlessness, suffering, and degradation. The penalty of crucifixion combined all that the most ruthless tormentor could desire: torture, exposure, degradation, and certain death, distilled drop by drop. It was an ideal form of torture.

2. GENTILES LABELED JESUS (VV. 19-22)

- The three languages of the title represented three great areas of human life: religion (Aramaic), law (Latin), and philosophy and culture (Greek). The title also announced salvation for the whole

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Giving

Worship in Music

Doxology

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Anthem

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Celebration of

the Lord's Supper

Benediction



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world, for Christ is the wisdom of God to the Greek, the power of God to the Jew, and the justice of God that fulfills His holy law (*1 Corinthians 1:18*). The repentant thief read this title, trusted Christ, and was saved. Without realizing it, Pilate wrote a “Gospel tract”.

- Adamant about the inscription, Pilate had been weak about the crucifixion. It is one of the paradoxes in life that we can be stubborn about things which do not matter, and be weak about things of supreme importance. If Pilate had only withstood the blackmailing tactics of the Jews and had refused to be coerced into giving them their will with Jesus, he might have gone down in history as one of its great, strong men. But because he yielded on the important thing and stood firm on the unimportant, his name is a name of shame. Pilate was the man who took a stand on the wrong things, and too late.

3. GENTILES TOOK EVERYTHING FROM JESUS (VV. 23-25)

- Every Jew wore five articles of apparel: his shoes, his turban, his girdle, his undergarment, and his outer robe. Jesus let go of absolutely everything—even His clothes—becoming completely poor for us so we could become completely rich in Him.
- **The garment was seamless:** Jesus' seamless undergarment reminds us of His role as our great High Priest, because Exodus 28:31-32 tells us that the High Priest wore a seamless garment. The priest was to build a bridge between God and man. No one ever did that as Jesus did.
- **That the Scripture might be fulfilled:** It may seem that Jesus had no control over these events. Yet the invisible hand of God guides all things, so that specific prophecy is specifically fulfilled.

FINAL THOUGHTS

An Afro-American spiritual asks, “Were you there, when they crucified my Lord?... Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?” And of course the answer is yes, I was there. I might as well have put the nails in his arms myself; I might as well have nailed his feet myself; I might as well have scourged Him with the whip myself: I was there.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” ■

WELCOME TO 2018

This is our 40th year as a church. Forty (40) as age is not only a significant year for people (“Life begins at 40”) but a significant number in the Bible as well, representing one generation. That means GCF just finished a generation, and we are about to embark on a brand new one. Praise God for souls getting saved, people getting baptized, disciples and serving, churches being planted, homegrown pastors serving, homegrown missionaries being sent, etc. These all remind us of one thing—all of these is by God’s grace—a gift undeserved, to God be the glory.

We will have a special Anniversary Celebration on February 11. We will integrate all five weekend services into only two on Sunday, February 11, at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. We will prepare for the overflow by opening Auditorium A.

Lord-willing, we will have a year-long celebration with the following activities:

- 40 days of Prayer before the 40th Anniversary, with a Prayer & Fasting Week (ongoing until February 10)
- Church-Wide Training of Disciple-Making Approach and Material (March 11, 17, 18, 24 and 25)
- Disciple Making Conference with Edmund Chan: “Loving God” (May 11-12)
- Whole-day seminar called “The Importance of the Holy Spirit to the Believer” by Dr. Harold Sala (May 26)

- Missions Month: “Loving Others”, with Midyear Prayer and Fasting (July)
- Christmas Celebration/Culmination of 40th Anniversary Celebration (December 9)

SHORT TERM SCHEDULE OF SERMONS

Also, we will have a short series this January again called *Clear the Air: Burning Issues Confronting Christians Today*. Topics are as follows:

- January 14. “**Clear the Air: What are Elders and Deacons For?**” This is about the biblical basis for our leadership structure. It also coincides with the introduction and commissioning of our new elders and deacons for 2018 and beyond.
- January 21. “**Clear the Air: What’s the Fuss About Church Music?**”
- January 28: “**Clear the Air: Are Translations Other Than the KJV Demonic?**” This is also to celebrate National Bible Sunday.

We will resume our series *Genesis: Grace from the Beginning*, on March 11 onwards.

THANK YOU FOR THE GIFTS

On behalf of my family, please accept our sincerest gratitude for the gifts that you gave us this Christmas season. Pardon us for not being able to thank each of you personally, and allow us to say “Thank You” through this ■

2018 PRAYER JOURNAL

A 40-day prayer journey to GCF's 40th Anniversary

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. - Psalm 121:1-2

The Lord watches over us, and the nearness of God is the strength of our hearts. May we, as one body, continue to ask for His kingdom and His will to be at work in our lives.

As one community of faith centered on the Lord Jesus, we begin in an expression of utter dependence on God through prayer and fasting. Let us be strengthened even as we ask for strength for the coming days. As we seek God in prayer and fasting, let it cause us to find comfort in Him.

Let us turn away from any sense of self-sufficiency. Let us trade our weariness in needing to share and serve for the light and easy yoke Jesus offers. Let us lay at the throne of grace our bitterness against those who take from us, being thankful still knowing that our service reaps a greater and lasting reward. As we receive God's good gifts, His grace transforms our receiving in an ability to give. God's grace opens our hands to serve with the King, as it opens our eyes to His creative and redemptive work ■

TODAY IS ALSO FASTING DAY 1

Start reducing food intake this afternoon in preparation for a gradual fast during this week.

Regular Prayer Gatherings

- GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.
- Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Concert of Prayer
January 27 (Sat.), 5-6 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



ELECTION RESULTS

We praise our Lord Jesus Christ for these newly-elected church officers who will start their term of service in January 2018:

ELDERS: Ed Dames, Bong Durana, Dan Guina, Aris Lumague, Marlon Roldan, Ed Trono, and Eugene Villanueva

DEACONS: June Acebedo, Norman Armonio, Levi Fabellar, Nemy Miguel, Arnel Nuñez, Jeff Tan, and RJ Yu

Pray for God's wisdom, love and grace to fill the minds and hearts of our leaders.

2018 PRAYER JOURNAL

A 40-day prayer journey to GCF's 40th Anniversary

We encourage you to continue reflecting and praying through our Prayer Journal. If you haven't gotten a copy yet, please visit the booth at the lobby to get yours. Limited copies available.



Would you like to read our weekly church bulletin on your mobile device? Just sign-up with your e-mail address at the Ministry Information Booth at the lobby and we will send it to you.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

December 2017

	November Budget	Received, Dec. 1-31
General	8,126,504	11,019,334
Missions	825,500	1,596,866

	Jan. - Dec. Budget	Received, Jan. to Dec.
General	99,974,570	85,325,617
Missions	9,906,000	11,044,659

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His love and blessings from Alexander Nunez, Shella Mortell, the Valera family and the Messiah College.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



Love God, love others.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT



Chad Pineda is blessed to serve alongside the ministry servants of Carelink, the “follow-up” team who make sure that visitors, who eventually become attendees, become involved in the membership and discipleship classes of the church. This opportunity has awakened in him

the reality of loving God and loving others, and continuously inspires him to live out the greatest commandment.

A full-time staff of the church, Chad has been active here in GCF since 2008, in the youth ministry. But it is through his work with Carelink that he came to understand “Loving God and loving others” to a fuller extent. Loving God is surely not easy if you cannot love His people, and God helped him love the people he is serving through Carelink, even though most of them are complete strangers to him, and even though they used to be nobody to him.

Chad’s work with Carelink involves following-up, handling membership applications, scheduling membership interviews and baptisms, and introducing new members to the church family. These things satisfy him, because he was able to create lasting relationships with all of the new members through these. This is how he knows he has done his ministry to them, and he commits to taking care of those relationships as part of living out his love for God and for others ■

ON THE COVER: The rotunda of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, at the Christian quarter in Jerusalem (pixabay.com). At least six different Christian denominations share this millennium-old structure as a place of worship. They believe that it houses both the place where Christ was crucified, as well as his burial place. *Consider praying for:* The peaceful coexistence and effective witness of these Christians to non-Christians in Jerusalem, despite their differences. May the truth of Christ’s sacrificial love be reflected in their service to whoever visits this place of pilgrimage.

Join a GROWTH GROUP

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUPS

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., and 4:30-5:30 p.m.
At GCF (Youth Center, 6th flr.)

ICU (Intimacy Care Unit) GG

for Couples aged 30 up
Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. at GCF (Rm. A109)

GREEN MEADOWS GG

for Couples aged 40 up
Every other Thursday, 8-10 p.m.
at Green Meadows Subdivision

NEW GG (GATHERING CONTACTS)

for Single Men and Women aged 21-30
Tentatively scheduled on Sundays, 3-5 p.m. at GCF

YACIES TUESDAY GG

for Single Men and Women aged 30 up
Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m. at GCF (Rm. BM07)

SPORTS GGs (THREE GROUPS)

for Boys aged 11 to 18
Saturdays, 12 nn.-3 p.m. at GCF Multi-purpose Gym (6th flr.)

Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B123
Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship Know Christ and Make Him Known

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Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **6/7 January 2018**, and I attended the **8 a.m.**, **10:30 a.m.**, **3:00 p.m.**, **5:30 p.m.** or **6:00 p.m. (Sat)** (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.