



**2/3 February 2019**  
Vol. 41, No. 5

## Your Worship is Holy and Heavenly

**(The Account of the Tabernacle Construction)**

*Exodus 26*

### **English Services**

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

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Anthem

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

*Pastor Larry Pabiona*

The Lord's Supper

Worship through Giving

Response Song

Benediction

### **Filipino Service**

*(3 n.h.)*

Paghahanda

Tawag sa Pagsamba

Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan

Pagkilala sa mga Bisita

Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos

Pakikingig sa Salita ng Diyos

*Pastor Emer Manaloto*

Banal na Hapunan

Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay

Tugon na Awit

Bendisyon



# Your Worship is Holy and Heavenly

(The Account of the Tabernacle Construction)

Today's Message (2/3 February 2019) /  
Exodus 26

Where do you worship? In one sense, when as Christians we worship God as He commands in His Word, we are worshipping in the tabernacle. The book of Hebrews explains, "Therefore...since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience" (*Hebrews 10:19–22*).

As Christians, we move past beyond the great veil into the Holy of Holies. We do this because, on the cross, Jesus tore the veil in two (*Matthew 27:51*). As we look at the construction of the Tabernacle, we will learn in depth what it is to worship in the presence of God as we consider the tabernacle's holiness and heavenliness.

## 1. GOD'S TABERNACLE REMINDS US OF THE HOLINESS OF OUR WORSHIP.

- To worship in the tabernacle was to worship in a holy place and to experience the holy presence of God. This is seen in the materials used for its construction.
  - a. The Lord put the most unattractive curtains on the outside and the most attractive on the inside. This is typical of God, who often cloaks His glory in simplicity, His power in weakness, and His wisdom in foolishness to confound the unbeliever but to comfort the believer (*1 Corinthians 1:18–31*). Ultimately, He cloaked His majesty in flesh as His Son took on ordinary humanity (*Isaiah 53:2*). To come to the tabernacle was to come to the holy God Himself, hidden under the veils of the ordinary and earthly.
  - b. The fact that the camp was separated from the courtyard by a large screen all around, and that the tabernacle was itself set apart from the courtyard by its curtains, signifies the holiness of the tabernacle and its services. To come into the presence of God, then, is to come into the presence of His holiness.
- We learn from this that we must prepare our minds, our bodies, and our souls for worship. How should we go about preparing each?
  - a. We must prepare our minds. Look forward to the next Lord's Day. As the week draws near to its end, know that the "day" coming up is, in reality, "the Lord's Day" (*Revelation 1:10*).
  - b. We must prepare our bodies. Sunday morning must begin Saturday night. When the Israelites were about to meet God, they prepared their outward appearance by cleansing their garments (*Exodus 19:9–11*).
  - c. We must prepare our souls. All through the week we need to be meditating on what we heard on the Lord's Day and anticipating meeting again with the Lord the next Lord's Day.

As Christians, our heart's desire should be like David: "One thing have I asked of the



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Lord...that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple" (*Psalms 27:4*). It is amazing that we live in the reality of what the Psalms anticipated. The Israelites lived in the time of anticipation, but we live in the time of participation!

## 2. GOD'S TABERNACLE REMINDS US OF THE HEAVENLINESS OF OUR WORSHIP.

To worship in the tabernacle was to worship in a heavenly place and to experience the heavenly presence of God. Worship in the presence of God is and should always be, otherworldly. There are three ways in which the tabernacle was heavenly.

- a. To enter the tabernacle was to enter a different world. The courtyard was screened off from the camp, and the tabernacle itself was screened off from laypeople. Likewise, when as new-covenant believers we worship, we are entering a preview of heaven.
- b. To build the tabernacle, Moses and those gifted by God with specific skills to make the Tabernacle had to follow God's instructions. Four times we hear similar words: "According to the plan for it that you were shown on the mountain" (*Exodus 25:9,40; 26:30; 27:4*). There was no place for creativity, variety, or to "keep it fresh" and "relevant."

Likewise, our worship is heavenly when it is done according to the Lord's Word. God in His Word teaches us to do three things when we come together on the Lord's Day. He wants us (*Acts 2:42*):

- To read and to preach His Word;
- To celebrate His ordinances (communion and baptism); and
- To pray

That's why we cannot evaluate worship by the standards of the world. God is not a commodity; He does not live to entertain us. He says the whole Lord's Day is His day, and when we step into worship, He says to us, "this day and all else: Mine."

- c. The rear of the tabernacle was to the west (*Exodus 26:22,27*). Since the Israelites had their backs to the east and their faces to the west, they showed they were not worshippers of the sun, but of the Creator of the sun (*Psalms 74:16*).

## FINAL THOUGHTS

God's holiness should frighten us. His heavenliness should cause reverence and awe in us. Who can stand before Him? Who can walk into God's presence on his own merits? But God is a God who helps the helpless, who finds the lost, who gives sight to the blind, who cleanses the filthy. He has given us access to His presence through Christ.

Do you desire to be clean so that you can enter the Holy of Holies? Do you long for heavenly life beyond the sin, frustration, and futility of this life? The way is Jesus Christ. "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (*Hebrews 4:16*) ■

## GROWING PERSONALLY, REACHING OUTWARDLY

Our GCF anniversary theme for 2019 is “Growing Personally, Reaching Outwardly.” This will be the focus of our anniversary next weekend, and is a summative statement of our Strategic Plan that Elder Ed Trono facilitated for the leadership during the last quarter of 2018.

But it is also a restatement of what you see overhead in our worship hall: Know Christ and Make Him Known.

“Loving God and loving others” last 2018 was simply a back-to-basics focus on what God commanded us to do, which, if followed, enables us to know Christ deeper and deeper.

And this year, “Growing personally” is “To Grow ‘Till You Overflow.” Your growth in loving God and loving others starts with loving God, then family, fellow believers, and reaching out to the lost. This can happen all at the same time!

The overflow results in reaching outwardly—making Him known! This overflow, reaching outwardly, is in two spheres: individually and corporately.

*Individually* means witnessing to your *oikos*, praying for them, befriending them, inviting them here. But this also means being always ready to witness during chance encounters, as 1 Peter 3:15 reminds

us: “Honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

*Corporately* means church planting primarily and foremost, but it also means becoming a more socially compassionate church, involving ourselves in the care of the oppressed and downtrodden. We are looking at partnering with missions organizations that minister to them, and they also need volunteers from us, not always financial support.

All of this jives with our GCF Mission—to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the Philippines and beyond and our Vision—to see lives and communities transformed for Christ.

I keep hearing some members say that they sense something stirring in the air, something exciting and positive to happen to GCF this 2019. Could it be because we are becoming a more prayerful church? Could God be driving personal revivals in our worshipers and leaders? Will it be a prelude to a church-wide revival? May God be glorified in whatever happens next. All I know is this: exciting times are ahead! ■



# Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



## HONORING GOD IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

*Joy Women Anniversary and Love Month Celebration*

Speakers: Pastor BJ and Dra. Bebet Sebastian  
February 9 (Sat), 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
Couples are invited to join!  
Please text **0916 243 1901** to register.



## JOURNEYING WITH GRACE

*Naomi Women 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*  
February 23 (Sat), 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
Please register at the Naomi booth for a token (that also serves as your invitation). Contact **0998 569 4095** for more details.



## THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES SEMINAR

*Learn to express to and receive love from your partner thru the Five Love Languages Forum*  
February 23 (Sat), 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Fee: PHP 100 (materials and snack included)  
Contact **0917 532 7713** to register.



## GCF 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

February 9 (Sat), 6:00 p.m.  
February 10 (Sun), 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (two services only)  
Come with family and friends!



## CHURCH PLANTING IN CDO

GCF is intensifying our prayer as we ask God to direct our next steps toward starting a church in Cagayan de Oro. If you have a burden to pray for this disciple-making initiative, please text us the following YES <space> PRAY4CDO <space> your name, and send to **0917 532 7672**.

*The flower this week is given with praise and thanksgiving to God by Rubelyn Enriquez. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.*

## Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

### Growth Group Express

*How to Make Decisions You Won't Regret (Lessons on David's Life)*  
Adults without GGs are invited!  
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall

### Best Together in Christ

*Group for Couples*  
Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Rm. B508

### Life in Technicolor

*support group for cancer patients and survivors*  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month  
12:00-3:00 p.m., Seniors' Rm.

### Overcomers

*support group for those under any kind of addiction*  
Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at **0917 532 1921**.*

### DMG Leaders' Assembly

Agenda: *Oikos Workshop*  
February 24 (Sun), 12:00-3:00 p.m.  
at the Fellowship hall

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT / January 2019

	General Funds	Mission Support Fund	Others (Designated, facilities, etc.)	Total
January Projected	9,610,406	1,317,698	698,549	11,626,653
Received (Jan. 1-31)	8,517,734	1,154,700	699,111	10,371,545

Note: Please make check payable to Greenhills Christian Fellowship Inc. or GCF Inc. only.

*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?*

—Isaiah 58:6 (NSRV)

A great hindrance to spiritual growth is self-determination and self-sufficiency. Faith becomes a subscription to an idea or belief, losing its relational and spiritual value. Defining rules and relying on one's own strength and capabilities, faith becomes something to serve the self's delight alone. Often, we make the mistake of seeing the journey of faith only within an individual and private level. Human nature always tends to stay within the comforts of what it can control. But all these at the cost of forgetting and losing sight of faith that is about a trusting and loving relationship—with both God and neighbor.

Fasting, along with prayer and acts of service, is a spiritual discipline where our focus from ourselves are transformed towards God and others. Prayer changes the focus of our minds, service shifts the focus of our heart, and fasting transforms the focus of our body. Fasting is about giving up, but the 'giving up' is sometimes reduced to mean giving up meals or

a favorite dessert, or even a favorite leisure as a sort of bargain with God. It also reduced to a practice as a show of external devotion or cosmetic piety, to appear to be holier than others. But the practice of fasting aims to get us out of our self-absorption.

In fasting we become aware of our bodies and the bodies of others, how God has provided and will provide for our and others' physical needs. It opens our hands to receive what is enough for the day, it opens our eyes to see the physical needs of others, and moves our feet to share as God also desires to provide for them.

*In fasting we become aware of our bodies and how God will provide for our physical needs.*

As followers of Jesus, we are always called out from our place of security and comfort to enter into a new and living way. Spiritual disciplines are but expressions of our willingness to answer that call. In our time of communion, and the start of our weeklong prayer and fasting, let us always remember that we belong to a bigger body, that is, of Christ. Let us express our devotion by looking after the needs of another. Just as Christ made His body available to serve others, let us become His body now that serves those who are in need ■

## GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS *at the Chapel*

**The GCF Hour of Prayer**  
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

**Midweek Prayer Service**  
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

**ON THE COVER:** Catacomb of Comodilla in Rome, a place where Christians used to hide and worship (Google Images). Fearing and fleeing persecutions, early believers met secretly to worship and celebrate the Lord's Supper in hidden places such as catacombs. Christian catacombs are filled with art inspired by scenes of Jesus' life, to signify to other Christians that fellow believers meet there.



**Greenhills Christian Fellowship**  
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605  
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 2/3 February 2019, 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.

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# 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).

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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.