



14/15 March 2020
Vol. 42, No. 11

Faith, Not Fight or Flight

1 Peter 5:5-7

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Community Prayer
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Preparatory Hymn
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Response Hymn
Benediction

English Services

(Sun., 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Community Prayer
Testimony
Worship through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Faith, Not Fight or Flight

Today's Message (14/15 March 2020) / 1 Peter 5:5-7

LET US PRAY,
NOT PANIC—
“CASTING
ALL YOUR
ANXIETIES
ON HIM,
BECAUSE HE
CARES FOR
YOU”

There's a climate of fear so thick in the air, you can cut it with a knife. COVID-19 has changed everything for all of us, and many are terrified that the worst is yet to come. But is that the right response? Any time we bear undue concern for those things that only God can deal with—things He never meant for us to handle without Him—we're yielding to anxiety or worry.

In our passage, God gives us the open invitation to bring our troubles to Him—any trouble, any time—and be relieved of anxiety. The Almighty God cares about the things that cause you and I anxiety. God invites us to be relieved of our anxieties by "casting" them on Him! So what are we to do to be relieved of our anxieties?

1. LET'S ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE HUMBLED UNDER GOD'S HANDS (v. 6)

- In the original, these words are a command to be the recipient of the actions of another—literally, to “be humbled” by God. He knows what is needed to accomplish His desired end in our lives; and we must allow Him to do whatever is necessary to make us what He wants us to be.
 - a. The principle that serves as the basis (V. 5): “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (PROVERBS 3:34; LUKE 14:11).
 - b. What we are to be humbled under: “under the mighty hand of God”.
 - ◆ In the original, the word "mighty" is emphasized; it is nothing less than God's sovereign power and providential control that we are to be humbled under.
 - ◆ We are not to humble ourselves "under the circumstances" but under "the mighty hand of God".
 - c. Why we are to be humbled under God's mighty hand: “that at the proper time He may exalt you”! God is for us, not against us! (ROMANS 8:31-39)

Faith, Not Fight or Flight

Today's Message (14/15 March 2020) / 1 Peter 5:5-7

2. LET'S CAST ALL OUR ANXIETIES UPON HIM (v. 7)

- Peter used a word for “cast” that means “to throw something upon something else” (LUKE 19:35). It’s committing our concerns to God’s care—and leaving them with Him to carry for us. As PSALM 55:22 says, “Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be moved.”
 - a. What we're invited to cast onto God: “all your anxieties”.
 - ◆ The word Peter used for “anxiety” means “to be pulled in different directions”. That’s what worrying incessantly does to you. It’s not worth the misery.
 - ◆ While it isn’t always God’s will that we immediately escape the trials, it is His will that we cast onto Him all the anxiety those trials may make us feel.
 - b. The magnitude of this invitation: God invites us to throw “all” our anxiety on Him. There isn’t a care or concern in life that God doesn’t allow us to cast onto Him.
 - ◆ “God, you said I could cast all my anxiety on you; and there’s no sense in both of us staying up all night. I’m going to sleep.”
 - c. Who are we invited to cast all our anxiety on? God Himself! Our God who is perfectly wise, completely sovereign, and infinitely loving towards us. Nobody does it better.

3. LET'S TRUST HIS CARE FOR US (v. 7)

- In the original, Peter emphasized the matter forcefully: “He (Himself) cares for you”. You are His personal concern. He really, truly cares for you.
- Do you realize what a wonderful thing it is to know that God cares personally for you? Other religious systems are built around the attempt to get a powerful being to “care”. But Christians are now being guaranteed that God does care about us. We are meant to build our lives on the complete confidence that we are personal objects of God’s concern (LUKE 12:6-7). Our great need is to simply entrust ourselves to His love.

APPLICATION

Will you let the fear of what is now a pandemic run your life for you? Will you fight for yourself (hoarding, overstocking, panic buying, etc.) or take flight (hiding in panic, refusing to worship, doomsday preppers, etc.) even if these things hurt others, too, besides you?

Or will you believe that God loves you and that you can trust in His care for you?

Without being reckless, let’s be a community of faith, not fear. Let us sow faith, not fear, because fear is more infectious than faith (or viruses for that matter). Let us pray, not panic—“casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you” ■

The Board of Elders, joined by some of their wives, and together with members of the Council of Deacons, went on a three-day retreat last week, March 5-7, at the First Pacific Leadership Academy in Antipolo. It was a time of meditation, reflection, and a focus on our roles as undershepherds of God's flock and servant leaders of the church.

Before the start of each plenary meeting, Elder Ed Dames, together with the Bond of Brothers, led the group in praise and worship. We were all blessed with songs which truly gladdened our hearts and set the perfect mood for the discussions that followed.

Highlights of the three-day retreat include the commitment of each elder to complete the assigned task of church governance item, to be intentional in using his God-given gift in one of the areas of the Elder's Covenant of shepherding the flock, and lastly, to be a vital catalyst for the church's vision and mission of growing God's Kingdom, both locally and globally.

Thanking God for His faithfulness and sustaining GCF throughout the last 42 years, it was deemed necessary that there is a need also for us to reassess how the church will continue to grow and be relevant as a transforming agent. Elder Ed Trono ably led and facilitated in refreshing our minds and hearts on the growth strategies for both 2020-

2021. Our dependence, however, should still be on God's grace for us to see the successful outcome of our strategic plans.

The Board of Elders, with Pastor Larry, have confirmed and anointed Elder Ed Trono as the pastor who will head the ministry of GCF's church planting program. Elder Ed gave up a lucrative career and willingly submitted to God's call to be in fulltime ministry. Let us all join hands and pray for Elder Ed as he takes on this important ministry.

On our final day, we were given the rare opportunity to learn from one of the world's best church planter. Dr. Jun Esconar shared with us VCF's local and global strategies for the expansion of God's Kingdom. It was indeed a very good learning experience for all of us, with all the knowledge, experiences, and insights of not "How" they do what they do, but "Why", which is no other than "for the love of God!" I hope that we, at GCF, can also say the same, and so become intentional with our vision of seeing lives and communities transformed through Jesus Christ by our passionate evangelism and discipleship ■

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by an anonymous donor, the Basilad family and the Messiah College. Please call 8632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / March 2020

MARCH	Projected	Rcvd., Mar. 1-12	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Mar. 12
General Funds	9,996,946	3,072,368	General Funds	26,904,033	18,577,951
Mission Support Fund	1,506,584	487,405	Mission Support Fund	3,684,391	2,010,810
Others (Designated, etc.)	924,519	698,562	Others (Designated, etc.)	2,628,778	4,376,268
TOTAL	12,428,049	4,258,334	TOTAL	33,217,202	24,965,028

Worship in the time of COVID-19

by Aleks Tan, Church Administrator

When fear, panic, and self-centeredness prove more ‘viral’ than actual pathogens, worshipers must declare that “God is our refuge and strength...Therefore we will not fear” (PSALM 46:1A, 2A). Uncertain times also present worshipers with an opportunity for Christ-like compassion towards others, living out Paul’s admonition to “look not only to [our] own interests, but also to the interests of others” (PHILIPPIANS 2:3).

Prayerfully assessing the developments surrounding the COVID-19 situation, the church leadership had earlier put in place a transmission mitigation plan, which was updated based on developments announced by President Duterte just last March 12. Seeking to not only protect our community but also contribute to local and global efforts, we have adopted the following strategies for mitigating COVID-19 transmission within GCF Ortigas, in cooperation with Barangay San Antonio:

1. Implement a moratorium on use of GCF Ortigas facilities for all on-site events and meetings (including Tuesday, 6:00 a.m. and Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. prayer gatherings) until April 12 or until further notice. **Exceptions are the Saturday Traditional service, and the 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Sunday services.** (Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. services are part of the reduction.)
2. Install work-from-home and rotation arrangements for church staff from March 11 to April 12; and
3. Intensify on-site mitigation measures, e.g. thermal scanning, hand hygiene stations, disinfection, incident protocols in coordination with local health authorities.

Relevant to our worship services, we are implementing the following measures and seek everyone’s cooperation:

1. **One-chair-apart seating.** As a social distancing measure, all must be seated one chair apart—including couples, families, and friends attending together. We have prepared Auditorium A as a possible overflow venue. Those presenting symptoms at the building entrance will not be allowed to proceed inside.

2. **Offering through designated boxes.** For worship in giving, you may drop your offering in designated offering boxes by the auditorium doors. Ushers will be glad to help you find one. For information on bank transfer or online giving options, please email finance@gcf.org.ph.
3. **Children in worship.** Since we have deferred Sunday School classes, including accommodations in the “Crying Room” and “Toddler’s Room,” we advise against bringing children below 10 years old to church within this two-week period.
4. **Sunday service video.** A video of the Sunday service will be published on GCF’s YouTube (@gcfmain) and Facebook pages by 8:00 p.m. of the same Sunday.
5. **After services.** Meeting rooms and other facilities in the building will not be accessible, except for very few such as the church offices. For ministry-related inquiries, visit the Ministry Information Booth at the lobby; message us on Facebook; or email us at email@gcf.org.ph.

Finally, each one of us can show love to one another by following these simple guidelines:

1. Stay at home if you’re sick or if you have pre-existing cardiorespiratory illnesses, diabetes, or weak immune system.
2. No handshaking, hugs, and bussing (“beso-beso”) for now. (By all means, smile!)
3. Self-quarantine if you just arrived from overseas travel.
4. Use our hand sanitizing provision before you come in and after you go out. You may also bring your own. Please use them often while in church.
5. Follow proper etiquette when coughing or sneezing. Wear a face mask.

We will issue more updates as necessary through our Facebook page and other channels, especially regarding advisories on the worship services. Let us all continue to uphold in prayer a world that is sick, both physically and spiritually, even as we ask God for grace to live in faith and not fear. Our God reigns! ■

PRAYER GATHERINGS
at the GCF Chapel

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

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

ON THE COVER: *The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?—Psalm 27:1b* (photo of the Stud Horse Point in Arizona, US by Paulius Dragunas, unsplash.com).



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1354 to 56, (02) 8635 0078 to 80, (02) 8635 0082 to 83

☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

✉ email@gcf.org.ph 🌐 gcf.org.ph 📱 Greenhills Christian Fellowship

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 for the first time 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.

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Date: **14/15 March 2020**

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

Consent to use your information:

By affixing your signature below, you give permission to Greenhills Christian Fellowship, its ministries and its staff, to store and use the information you provided above for the sole purpose of contacting you and updating you about any inquiry you have made.

Your signature

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.