

The Cruise To Nowhere

by Ron Jue, *Elder*

Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a fateful trip. That started from a Grecian port aboard a giant ship. Seven Journey passengers set sail that day for a 12 day tour, a 12 day tour.

Wait that sounds strangely familiar, almost like the beginning of Gilligan's Island. I guess we'd better start at the beginning. Last October, seven of us from JEC started an excitedly awaited trip to the Holy Land. It began with a visit to our homegrown missionaries, Kenny & Lalaine Wong, in Istanbul, Turkey. We enjoyed a dinner of local Turkish dishes with them and listened to testimonies from some Christians who converted from Islam. It's always great when our missionaries come to Journey and share testimonies. But visiting them where God has called them was even more meaningful. Teresa, a member of the GO Team, really enjoyed seeing God's work alive in Kenny and Lalaine's hometown. God calls all of us to expand His kingdom by outreach. Some, like Kenny & Lalaine, will be called to go out and others are partners, like JEC & GO Team, who enable them to go out. After our visit to Istanbul we flew to Athens where we boarded a cruise ship to Israel and Egypt. This trip was the culmination of many months of intense YouTube sessions and Google research. Between the videos and the Bible, we had thoroughly acquainted ourselves with all the holy sites (there might have been a few videos on shopping and eating as well). We had made plans for baptisms in the Jordan River and brought communion elements for a few different locations. It was going to be an epic trip. While this was the trip we had long planned, it was not the trip God had planned for us. We were 100 miles out of Haifa, Israel's port, when the Hamas-Israeli war had started. Our ship was stopped dead in the water as the ship's captain determined the next steps. Israel made the decision easy for them as they closed all their ports and airports. In the end, the Middle East was too volatile, and we ended with a completely different itinerary.

We were quite disappointed, but then the cruise transformed into something completely different. There were both ship-sponsored and spontaneous prayer sessions all over the ship. Prayers for the safety of people trapped in the war and the Middle East. Prayers that a broken world would turn to Jesus. There was a large Dallas based African American church that took over the main area of the ship and had a full on Gospel worship service. We joined them to sing and then looked up to see people on all of the ship's overhanging balconies, also joining in worship. We had multiple communions in different areas of the ship with different people. We could see the Holy Spirit working throughout the ship and we came back from the cruise renewed and refreshed but in a completely different way than we expected. God showed us how He could turn anything to His glory. Our cruise to nowhere ended up being a cruise we would never forget.

P.S.. GO Team is looking for people to help with JEC's Missions Outreach. If you're interested, contact Teresa Jue, Paulah Wong, Linda Wong, or Val Yee.

Welcome to Journey!

EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Commemorating a meaningful Communion on the cruise to nowhere.



A joyful member of EFCA • efca.org
14614 Magnolia Street, Westminster, CA 92683
(714) 893-5500 • JourneyEC.org

Order of Service

December 10th, 2023

Welcome & Call To Worship.....Devin

Worship.....Kyle & Congregation

Sermon..... **Where Is Peace On Earth?** Ted

Song of Response.....Ted & Congregation

Benediction.....Ted

Sermon Outline

Ewin Grace · Luke 2:14

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

—Luke 2:14, NKJV

Where Peace Isn’t...

1. In the soul of the _____, Isaiah 48:22
2. In the heart full of _____ sin, Gal.5:19-21, 1 Jn 8-9
3. In the garden where _____ grows freely, Prov. 26:24-26

Where Peace Is...

- In the life of the _____, Rom. 5:1
- who now lives to _____, 2 Cor. 1:3-5

What Does Christmas Mean To You?

Do You Have Any Room for Jesus Christ This Christmas?

For Reflection and Application

- Are there areas in your life where “there’s no room in the inn” for Jesus?
- How can we experience “peace in the midst of the storm” in this world?
- Can you recall a time when peace just seemed to totally elude you?
- Have you observed a Christian’s peace draw others to Jesus Christ?
- In what ways do you need God’s calming and comfort this day?
- Has a struggle, affliction, hardship or failure ever led later to your peace?
- Do you have a sin to confess, an offender to forgive, a hatred to heal?

Ways to get involved:

Today: Congregational Meeting, Elections: Please join for important updates! Voting will be done in-person only, no online voting.

Today: SERVE Gift Cards are due today. Requesting \$20 grocery store gift card donations for a Christmas raffle. If you would like to give, please place gift cards in the offering box along the rear Sanctuary wall.

12/15: Youth Ministry Gift Exchange: more info to come.

12/17: Baptism & Membership: Dina Chen, Diana Wong and Cayden Yee will profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior via baptism, while Jeffrey Xing, Annie Yee & Michael Yee will transfer membership, praise God!

12/22: Young Adult Gift Exchange: at the Kau home.

12/24: Christmas Worship Service (10:30): invite friends, family, and neighbors to this time of celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacons

Allie Wong
 Anne Chou
 Dave McLendon
 Joshua Cain
 Pat Leung
 Paulah Wong
 Teresa Jue
 Wesley Lin

Elders

Cliff Char—Young Adults, Worship Music
 Devin Wong—GO Team, Website
 Hiro Kono—Cong. Dev., Pastoral Care, Women’s Ministry
 Peter Leung—Children, Welcome
 Phil Jen Kin—Facilities, Cantonese, Security, Personnel
 Rick Chou—Nominations, Multimedia, Small Groups
 Ron Jue—Growth & Legacy, Deacons Liaison, CLT Chair
 Victor Wong—Campus, Finance, Hospitality, SERVE, Vietnamese

Staff

Ted Kau—Senior Pastor
 Paul Eng—Chinese Pastor
 Ewin Grace—Connections Pastor
 Phil Yoder—Youth Pastor
 Peter Leung—Children’s Director
 Linzey Sun—Youth Intern
 Sammie Sun—Youth Intern
 Roger Yee—Business Administrator
 Amy Mu—Office & Ministry Assistant