

The Origins of Valentine's Day

Did you know that several Christian denominations annually celebrate St. Valentine's Day on February 14th? While there are several Christian martyrs named Valentine, two have traditionally been celebrated: Valentine of Rome (martyred in 269) and Valentine of Terni (martyred in 273).

Over the years, legends have surrounded these Valentines, who eventually were declared saints. One legend states that Roman Emperor Claudius II was so impressed by Valentine that he wanted to save him by converting him to paganism because Christianity was outlawed, but instead, Valentine tried to convert Claudius to Christianity. Valentine reportedly healed Asterius' (his jailer's) blind daughter Julia. On the eve before his execution, he supposedly wrote the first "valentine" card to Julia, signing as "Your Valentine." This practice has grown through the centuries into its own industry. After his execution, Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave, celebrating love and friendship.

Another embellishment suggests that St. Valentine performed clandestine Christian weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry. Emperor Claudius II reportedly forbade this in order to grow his army, believing that married men did not make for good soldiers.

Today, the original meaning of honoring Valentine's martyrdom for the sake of the Gospel has been supplanted by a celebration of romantic love. Romantic love is worth celebrating, but the original intent of this holiday is much more significant and eternal: celebrating one's commitment to sharing the Gospel, even unto death.

If you are in a romantic relationship, be thankful and celebrate. If you are a believer, then take a moment to reflect on the example of putting the Gospel first, even being willing to die for the Gospel.



St Valentine baptizing St Lucilla, Bassano.

Welcome to **Journey** EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Thank you very much for your hard work and love! Journey is so blessed.



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

Order of Service

February 18th, 2024

Welcome & Call To Worship Elder Phil
Worship in Music Buzz & Congregation
Worship in Word..... **Passing The Baton** Pastor Ted
Song of Response Buzz & Congregation
Benediction..... Pastor Ewin

Sermon Outline

Pastor Ted

and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.— 2 Timothy 2

God calls **every believer** to pass the baton of faith

Do all you can to multiply a rich _____, 2 Tim 2:22; Mt 28:19
• Don't let your spiritual lineage end, Judges 2:10, Matthew 25:21, 23.

In Christ we can enjoy deep relations b/t _____, 1 Tim 1:2

For those **receiving** the baton:

Respect and _____ from the spiritually mature, 2 Tim 3:10

Be prepared to “ _____ ” to the older, 1 Tim 5:4

For those **handing off** the baton:

Love and _____ ministry, 1 T 1:5, 18

Humbly _____ the younger by example & instruction, 2 T 3:14-15
• And vice versa, 1 Tim 4:12

Possible applications:

1. After each service get to **know** and sensitively care for someone outside your peer group.
2. Go out with someone different for **lunch** after service (for #1 above).
3. Think about your place in the Gospel string of pearls, then **pray** day and night for a specific person outside your generation from family and also in church (2 Tim 1:3).
4. Every so often, **invite** the young adults or youth to fellowship with your HUG group.
5. Volunteer to **mentor** a YA or a youth. Looking for 7 men and 7 women. Pls email Ted.

Ways to connect:

Thank you: to **Moon & crew** for providing a delicious Lunar New Year Lunch! to **Pastor Phil** and all who joined the **Super Bowl of Love & Listening**. Looking forward to the next one, **Apologies & Listening** this summer.

Today: Help grow Journey (12-1): everyone is encouraged to join us for an enjoyable assimilation training, different from last year.

2/20: **Dating Couples Group** (7:30pm): email ted@journeyec.org for info.

2/25: **Sunday School** (9am, upstairs): email josh@journeyec.org for more info.

2/25: **Basketball** (1pm, upstairs): talk to Jerry for more info.

2/25: **Broomball Outreach** (6:30, The Rinks): for youth and friends.

3/3: **Baptism & Membership Class** (12:00-2:30): if interested in professing your faith or joining Journey's mission, email amy@journeyec.org.

3/29: **Good Friday** (7:30pm): we have a special reading plus the Lord's Supper.

3/31: **Resurrection Sunday!** Invite friends & family to this celebration.



Appreciation dinner for Linzey & Sammie (and their parents)

Deacons

Agnes Liu
Alan Hung
Allie Wong
Darryl Mu
Jeff Way
Pat Leung
Paulah Wong
Shirley Chun
Teresa Jue
Valerie Yee
Wesley Lin

Staff <name@journeyec.org>

Ted Kau—Sr. Pastor, ted@journeyec.org
Paul Eng—Chinese, pastorpaul@...
Ewin Grace—Connections, ewin@...
Phil Yoder—Youth, philyoder@...

Elders

Cliff Char—Young Adults, Worship Music
Hiro Kono—Women, Growth
Joshua Cain—Christian Education, Youth
Peter Leung—Children, Church Secretary, Welcome
Phil Jen Kin—Personnel, Facilities & Property, Cantonese, Security
Rick Chou—Nominations, Pastoral Staff Search
Ron Jue—Deacons, GO Team, Legacy
Victor Wong—CFO, CIC, Vietnamese, SERVE, Hospitality

Peter Leung—Children's Dir., peter@journeyec.org
Roger Yee—Administrator, roger@...
Amy Mu—Office Assistant, amy@...