

## Return to Worship July 2, 2021

*When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."  
The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad. (Psalm 126:1-3)*

Dear Church,

We have exciting news to share! Our Board met this past week, and starting next Sunday, July 11, the English Worship and Cantonese Worship will be resuming without restrictions.

### Why?

For the past 15 months, our church has been scattered, unable to gather fully, unable to worship God as He's commanded. The Bible commands us not to neglect meeting together (Heb 10:25); Jesus promises to be with us when we gather (Mt 18:20); and the very meaning of the church is the assembly of Jesus' people. How we have longed to gather fully again, but have been unable to!

But now we can! As many of you will know, our government announced this past week the beginning of step three of the provincial restart plan. Along with the removal of restrictions across many sectors, all restrictions and capacity limits for religious gatherings have been lifted. This means we are able to gather fully again as a church! Praise God!

### What will it look like?

This means starting July 11, there will be no need to register - though if you are sick, we continue to ask you to remain home. We are free to invite guests. Physical distancing will no longer be required. And we will be singing!

Masks are recommended but no longer required. Yet we encourage all those who are able to wear masks to continue to do so, especially in these early days of gathering again, as an act of love and service to other brothers and sisters.

What Else?

In the upcoming weeks we will be making plans for the Mandarin Worship to resume at an appropriate date (all Mandarin Department members are welcome to join the English and Cantonese Worship services in the meantime); we are also planning for a communion service for our whole church. We will also announce changes to our online streaming now that we can gather.

Thanksgiving!

But now is a time for us to give thanks and to prepare to come back to worship! Won't you do that - and let us know if there's anything we can do to help you? We know we all have different comfort levels after this year of restrictions - some will want to wait a bit longer, perhaps until being fully vaccinated; others face ongoing health concerns; still others aren't comfortable being too close to others yet and will want to keep physically distant at first. Let's especially be patient with one another, bearing with one another in love - especially since Christ loved us first! What an opportunity for us each to demonstrate Christ-like humility and love as we return!

How excited we are to see you all! Won't you pray and ask our great God to be with us as we gather again!

On behalf of the Deacon Board,



Vince Yu  
Secretary of the Board