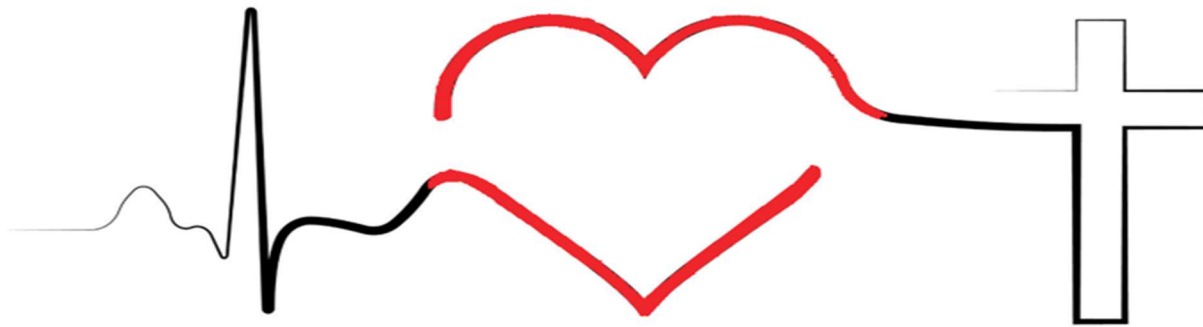




# OAKRIDGE

# CHRISTIAN

# MINISTRY



#100 – 6137 Cambie Street  
Vancouver, BC  
Canada V5Z 3B2  
Tel: 604.324.4921

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
9:30 a.m.

*Oakridge Christian Ministry, a part of the Vancouver Chinese Presbyterian Church, is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. They helped feed the Chinese community in BC during a time of historical oppression. We celebrate that “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it” (Psalm 24:1) and pray for a day when all of God’s people are reconciled and live in right relationship with each other and creation.*

*Welcome to Worship, we are glad to have you worshipping with us!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Remy Fu

*By Walter Brueggemann's prophetic prayer based on "Psalm 126"*

Yet again Raised to New Life

We remember your restorations that have astonished us:

We remember healings when life had failed;

We remember communities of loss that have rallied in generative ways:

We remember shame that immobilized us, and then your shining presence made us like new.

We remember old war wounds of cities wrecked, economies laid low, and then renewal and restoration.

**We have the complete inventory of your wonders,  
Of blind folk who see,  
Of lame folk who walk,  
Of deaf folk who hear,  
Of lepers who are healed,  
Of poor folk who have good news of debt canceled.**

Everyone could see the newness when it happened,

Everyone can join the celebration ,

Everyone can sing praise to you, great restoring God.

And now, now yet again, we wait for your newness:

**We witness the brutality of war;  
We fear the new versions of a virus;  
We caution about our fragile economy;  
And each of us with a load of worry, anxiety, hurt, or loss.**

So now, good God of new life,

Yet again,

Act again in power and goodness,

Act in faithfulness and generosity

Toward us,

Restore us,

Revive us,

Repair us,  
That our tears may turn to joy,  
That our weeping will become loud laughter,  
And our sadness will become elated gratitude.  
**Do now what you have done before;  
Do for us what you have done elsewhere;  
Do newness, that we may have life abundant,  
You- creator, savior, healer...  
In our need and our hope, we pray to you. Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale”

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Remy Fu

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Tim Tam

SONG

“Speak, O Lord”

O.T. READING

“Isaiah 65:17-25”

Philip Mark

<sup>17</sup> For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. <sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. <sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. <sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. <sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. <sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. <sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord — and their descendants as well. <sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. <sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent — its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

**This is the WORD of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God!*

SERMON	“Flashes of Hope”	Rev. Mary Fontaine
SONG OF RESPONSE	#685 “In Christ There Is No East or West”	
OFFERING		
SONG		“Wonderful Peace”
BENEDICTION		Rev. Morgan Wong
HALLELUJAH MOMENTS		Jacqueline Cleland
MOMENT OF APPRECIATION		Jacqueline Cleland

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Happy Mother’s Day! May God richly bless all mothers and have a wonderful day. (Flower presentation)
2. You are invited to stay for sermon discussion at the Fireside Room. All are welcome!
3. If any member or adherent wanted to post or circulate a message to the church, please have the item approved by the church office (to one of us: Secretary, Priscilla Ho; PCOC, Jacqueline Cleland; or Pastor Wong.)
4. Janitorial Service is moved from Sunday to Saturday starting May 19<sup>th</sup>. Regardless, food wastes should be disposed in the organic containers at P1.
5. Spring Giveaway – the Church has some goodies to giveaway at the Loading Bay on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30-5:30pm & May 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:15-1:15pm. Let’s come for coffee and take some goodies home!
6. Pastor Morgan Wong will be taking a study leave from May 18 – 28 at Presbyterian College in Montreal. During this time, if you have any concerns, please contact your district elder or clerk, Adrian Wong.
7. On May 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:20pm: The Music Prelude – the youths (grades 6+) will be gathering in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lounge to be introduced to basic concepts on songwriting, feeling the music and thinking about what impact songs have on connecting with people. There will be no full writing of a song, this is the foundational gathering supported by our own musical writer John Con.
8. Anyone interested in the VST summer school? The school has invited Dr. He Qi to teach a class on art and Christianity in China. He is a marvellous

scholar and a brilliant artist. More details at <https://vst.edu/courses/chinese-art-the-gospel-from-the-tang-dynasty-to-today/>

9. Young Adult Global Learning Opportunity **in Canada** (19-25)! The Presbyterian Church in Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, The Korean Christian Church in Japan and The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea offer 4 PCC youths the opportunity for Ecumenical Collaboration. They will gather to make a workshop (June 29- July 7) and implement it to teach others (July 3-7). To find out more or to apply, contact Beth McCutcheon at [bmccutcheon@presbyterian.ca](mailto:bmccutcheon@presbyterian.ca)  
<https://presbyterian.ca/2024/04/03/apply-now-young-adult-global-learning/>
10. Camp Douglas Summer Camp registration is opened for the sleep away summer camps. Financial aid available even for those not struggling to pay bills as the expense in attending the camp is recognized and there is a desire to support the children and youth. More information is posted by the visitor sign in book. Registration is available on <https://www.campdouglas.ca/>
11. LIFT is nation wide Presbyterian Church supported gathering with three streams at the conference: Youth (Completed grade 9-18 years of age), Young Adults (19-25 years of age) and Leadership (18 years+). The event is from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> in Brock University in Ontario. Registration ends on May 31<sup>st</sup> and more information is available on <https://presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/lift-2024/>.
12. The Alpha program is progressing very well with the blessings from God. We meet every Saturday between 6pm–8pm, completing on June 29<sup>th</sup> (except for June 8<sup>th</sup>) at the church. We appreciate your prayers during our program. Or you are welcome to join our weekly Alpha prayer meeting on Thursdays 7:30–8:30 pm by clicking the “Alpha Prayer Time” zoom link on our church website. Please invite your friends to the Alpha Course and registration is highly recommended for our kitchen crew.

## FELLOWSHIP & REFRESHMENT

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### LAST SUNDAY RECORD:

ENGLISH ATTENDANCE	CHINESE ATTENDANCE	TOTAL OFFERING
35	54	\$4,575

This Sunday Flower is donated by Andrew & Diana Wong.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

PARTICIPANTS	TODAY (5/12)	NEXT SUNDAY (5/19)
Worship Leader	Remy Fu	John Con
Speaker	Rev. Mary Fontaine	Jacqueline Cleland
Reader	Philip Mark	TBD
Music	Remy Fu & Tim Tam	TBD
Ushers	Karina Shuen & Christopher Shuen*	Kerry Wong* & Marleen Wong
Offering Counters	Sue Yuen & Holly Siu	Sue Yuen & Holly Siu
Data Entry	Alice Wong & Francine Shuen	Francine Shuen and Alice Wong
A/V	Jimmy Yee	Jimmy Yee

**SERMON NOTES**

Title – Flashes of Hope

Scripture – Isaiah 65:17-25

Notes/Questions:-

Contact Information:

Rev. Morgan Wong at: [morgan.wong@vancpc.ca](mailto:morgan.wong@vancpc.ca)

PCOC Jacqueline Cleland at: [jacqueline.cleland@vancpc.ca](mailto:jacqueline.cleland@vancpc.ca)

Church Secretary, Priscilla Ho at: [priscilla.ho@vancpc.ca](mailto:priscilla.ho@vancpc.ca)

Tel: 604.324.4921

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In recent weeks, there is a concern for many when addressing God as Mother. According to the Book of Forms 111 that “As the executive of the presbytery, the minister is responsible for the conduct and content of public worship and for the supply of the pulpit.” It is my responsibility and privilege to give our church my understanding and ruling of this term “Mother God”.

### IS “MOTHER-GOD” BIBLICAL?

God is a spirit and does not possess human physical features or limitations. John 4:24 states, “God is a spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” God does not have a body and therefore does not have gender in the technical sense. When address God the Father is not to say God is male for God is neither male nor female.

God’s true nature needs to be understood. God is a Person, obviously, because God exhibits all the characteristics of personhood: God has a mind, a will, an intellect, and emotions. God communicates and He has relationships, and God’s personal actions are evidenced throughout Scripture.

Sometimes figurative language is used in Scripture assigns human characteristics to God in order to make it possible for humanity to understand God. While God is not a man, yet He always chose a masculine form to reveal Himself to us.

Scripture contains approximately 170 references to God as the “Father.” By necessity, one cannot be a father unless one is male. If God had chosen to be revealed to humanity in a female form, then the word “mother” would have occurred in these places, not (just) “father.” In the Old and New Testaments, masculine pronouns are used over and over again in reference to God.

Jesus Christ referred to God as the Father many times and in other cases used masculine pronouns in reference to God. In the Gospels alone, Christ uses the term “Father” in direct reference to God nearly 160 times.

The creation narrative says, “26 Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; ...’ 27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (NRSVA) When we are told that human beings are made in the image of God, it refers that we are made according to His intellectual, moral and social qualities and not His physical likeness as God is a Spirit.

Certainly, the Bible uses feminine characteristics to describe the tenderness and loving nature of God. Again, it is not to say God is a woman or mother.

According to Living Faith (A Statement of Christian Belief prepared and adopted in our denomination), section 1.5 which states:

*Therefore, with the one church universal  
we believe in one God, eternal Trinity,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
three in one,  
one in three,  
equal in power and glory.  
God is the Father to whom we come,  
the Son through whom we come,  
the Spirit by whom we come.*

This is confessional doctrine of our church which should be safe guarded and upheld.

The question then is if God does not have literal gender, why does it matter if He is called Father or Mother? In brief, because God the Father is a biblical term (e.g. 1 Thessalonians 1:1 – “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.”) and calling God mother is not, which this name was never addressed by the Son of God, Jesus Christ, to His Father.