

APRIL 2022

GRACE MONTHLY

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28



Our Burden Bearer

by David Choi

Now that restrictions have been lifted substantially, I have been able to slowly re-experience the life that I had before covid began. Being around much bigger groups, removing masks in public, and even going on a church retreat was a refreshment that I needed. Like many, I found the pandemic difficult, as it limited many activities that we were once free to do. As we started to resume events and things we had pre-covid, my happiness and contentment grew. However, even with increased freedom, I was introduced to new, different problems and burdens.

I worried about a multitude of things that happened in and around me, and I wasn't able to focus and fix my heart on the importance of being a child of God. I forgot that I didn't have to worry about anything because God's righteous hand upholds me. He invited me to open up the Bible to guide me, not only when these difficult circumstances occur, but to give me provision in my everyday life. God, out of His faithfulness, reminded me to "not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6-7).

God instructs us to lay our problems and burdens before Him, assuring us that He will work in our lives even in ways that we can't fathom. We, as children of God, have someone to flee to when our burdens and personal loads get heavy and oppressive: Jesus. Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Jesus is the "lamb of God, who takes the sin of the world." This is what gives us rest and true comfort; Jesus is the one who heals and embraces us when we are distressed and in hardships. We as Christians can face and overcome our burdens through the ultimate power of God. I truly believe that when we learn to lay ourselves down to God, He will provide us with His infinite mercy and unending love for us. Throughout this pandemic, and even as we now move past the height of it, I realize it's not the environment that I am in that gives me joy and freedom, but rather in the truth that Jesus gives us rest.

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MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

COHORT-SPLIT NIGHT

On March 11th, in GEM Youth there was Cohort-Split Friday Youth Night! They were divided by grades; 7&8, 9&10, and 11&12, and each had a unique fellowship night.

Grade 7 and 8 were separated into different teams and played games together in which the winning team got to choose ice cream first. Grade 9 and 10 had a cooking time where each team played games for ingredients to make tteokbokki (떡볶이). Grade 11 and 12 had arts and crafts and praise and prayer night. For arts and crafts, they got pictures of their leaders or other grade 11 or 12 students and drew each other's portraits using different materials, such as brushes, sponges, forks, and more. For praise and prayer night, they sat in a circle and praised God. They also spent some time praying for each other.



KOSTA

Vancouver KOSTA was held in-person this year at Pacific Academy from March 15 to 16th. The theme was "Christians in the New Normal Era" (Matthew 16:3) where students had the opportunity to attend online seminars through a metaverse platform, and in-person evening worship services. It was a blessed time for youth in the Lower Mainland to gather together for a united worship.

Friday Youth Night

This is our weekly gathering in our small groups for a time of fellowship, Bible study and sharing. Join us on **Fridays from 7:30-9:30pm!**

GEM - Vision Hall

CLAY - Bethel Hall

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS cont'd

STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP RETREATS

During Spring Break this year, GEM and CLAY had their student discipleship retreats. It was the first retreat we were able to go on a retreat since 2019, which made the event more meaningful and exciting.

GEM Youth went from March 14 to 16, with the theme "With All I Am" based on Matthew 22:37. Through various sessions and activities, the students explored the question, "How do we love God with our whole selves?" They were also able to grow in fellowship with one another as they learned more about spiritual growth. With the opportunity to reflect on and rest in Christ, they deepened their understanding of what it means to love God with their mind, time, and in their relationships.

On the following week, from March 21 to 23, CLAY Youth had their retreat themed, "제자도" (Road of Discipleship). Through various activities and sessions, they learned about what it means to live a life of discipleship. They had a chance to take a personality test to discover more about themselves, and also a time of fellowship around a campfire on the last night.



Praise & Prayer

- Let's **praise** God for allowing us to attend an in-person discipleship retreat and get the chance to rest physically and spiritually with God and our brothers and sisters. Let's **pray** that we will continue to stay connected and keep the lessons we learned in mind even as we go back to our normal routine of life.
- Let us **pray** that during this Lent season, we will be devoted and connected to Christ. Though we have many distractions and temptations in life, let's **pray** that we can put aside those worldly values to spend time alone with God and meditate on His words in the book of Matthew.
- Let us **pray** for our Grace Youth brothers and sisters in Christ who are getting baptised and/or confirmed this month. Please **pray** that they will grow more spiritually rooted in Christ our Lord and Saviour, that they will boldly declare their commitment to follow Jesus Christ, building their life upon his love, making it a firm foundation. **Pray** that they would put their trust in Him alone and that may they not be shaken by the evils of this world.
- Please continue praying for safety around the world in the midst of unpredictable hardships and trials. Please **pray** that the world would be able to see God and that their eyes be opened up with wonder, filled with his heart and led by His love to those around them.
- Let us **praise** God for bringing us together on Sundays and Fridays to see each other in person, to worship him together, and learning more about Jesus! Let us also continue to give thanks to God for keeping us and our families safe from the dangers of this world.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL

Friday, Apr 1st Friday Youth Night

Friday, Apr 8th Friday Youth Night

Sunday, Apr 10th Easter Baptism

Friday, Apr 22nd Friday Youth Night

Friday, Apr 29th Praise & Prayer Night

There is no Friday Youth Night on April 15th.

Events are subject to change. Make sure to keep up with our latest updates with your small group leader, on our website, or Instagram!