

interact

MCI (P) 097/01/2021 | A publication of TPMC | Issue 3 | January 2022

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE - ONE MORE NEIGHBOUR TO LOVE

Dear TPMC Family,

Firstly, please let me wish all of you a truly blessed New Year and may 2022 be a year where we see more and more of God's hand upon our lives, our church and the community around us.

Since 2021, we have been building on our church focus of Outreach, anchoring ourselves on our theme verse of Acts 1:8:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (ESV).

In 2021, we intentionally blessed and loved the One More in our Spheres of Influence (whether they be in our familial, vocational, recreational, and/or locational spheres). This is witnessing to our "Jerusalem."

In 2022, as a church, we will be blessing our neighbours – the Toa Payoh Community around our church, starting specifically with residential blocks 152, 153 and 154 that overlook our church building. These are our "Judea and Samaria." We are hoping to visit the residents of these blocks at least four times in 2022, blessing them with either gifts or acts of service.

Through our acts of blessing, we pray that the residents will begin to desire to belong in this loving community called the TPMC Family, by joining our activities and services in time to come.

When we serve the community together in such a manner, we believe that the Lord will enable us to love Him and our neighbours more. When we encounter God's love being poured out through us, our own discipleship grows.

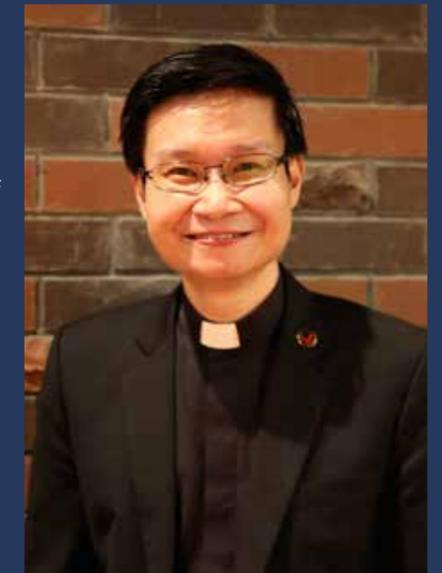
So in 2022, let us come in-person as a church family to worship, serve and encounter God's love in us and through us TOGETHER!

See you soon!

Shalom.



Rev Benjamin Lee
Pastor-in-Charge



NEWBORNS



On **29 November 2021**, Tang Chin Chiong & Ke Xian were blessed with the arrival of their first child, **Tang Rwei En**.



On **3 December 2021**, Zac & Shina Leow were blessed with the arrival of their first child, **Leow Mika Zoe**.

NEWLYWEDS



Selwyn Lim & Elizabeth Lee tied the knot on **4 Dec 2021**.



Theophilus Tan & Elissa Chee tied the knot on **8 Jan 2022**.



BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP



22 AUGUST 2021

CHILD BAPTISM

Toh Vern Yee Esther
Tong Chung Kit Trevor

ADULT BAPTISM

Ang Sock Mui Fion
Goh Wei Jie Joshua
Lee Jye Chyi
Quek Soi Hway Pamela
Tong Chung Kit Trevor
Tong Hon Whye Michael

RECEPTION & TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Foo Shu-Li Charis
Ko Sok San Susan
Ng Siew Leng Josephine
Tan Kei Xian
Tang Chin Chiong
Wee Say Choon Cecilia
Wong Kheng Pui





BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP

12 DECEMBER 2021

CHILD BAPTISM

Charlotte Loh Rui Ying
Leia Ku Ern Tze
Redulla Zavier Ishmael Badua
Sara Ku Ern Qi

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Merlin Mathew
Rachelle Sim Yahn Yee

ADULT BAPTISM

Ho Tze Yin Nicole

RECEPTION & TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Aaron Josiah Low
Allison Megan Keng
Cheong Wing Keong Benny
Ho Tze Yin Nicole
Jose Alyanna Custodio
Merlin Mathew
Ng Phooi Yan
Ngang Chiew Juey
Nicholas Ewan Keng
Ong Chuay Ing
Rachelle Sim Yahn Yee
Tang Chin Wui



MEET OUR NEW MEMBER CHARIS FOO



TELL US MORE ABOUT YOURSELF

Hello! I am Charis! I have been attending TPMC since 2015. I am an Early Childhood Educator and I love working with children. I got married to my husband, Ansell, in 2020 and we have made ourselves a cosy home in the neighbourhood of Potong Pasir!

IN WHICH MINISTRIES DO YOU SERVE?

I serve in the Worship, Young Adult and Youth Ministries.

WHAT HOBBIES OR LEISURE ACTIVITIES DO YOU HAVE?

In my free time, I enjoy staying active, visiting coffee spots, and watching cute toddlers on TikTok.

WHAT IS/ARE YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD(S)?

I like Yishun 925 chicken rice, porridge from Whampoa Market, McDonald's fries, white bee hoon from Da Shi Jia Big Prawn Mee (Killiney Road), and prata and teh tarik from Springleaf Prata Place.

HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS? WHO INVITED YOU TO TPMC?

I first learnt about God through attending the daily morning devotions when I was a student at Presbyterian High School. I started attending church after being street evangelised by youths from another church. Through attending services, I got to learn more about God. I walked into TPMC for service when I was staying around the neighbourhood!

HOW HAS KNOWING JESUS CHANGED YOUR LIFE? DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST?

Knowing Jesus has given me a purpose in life and Scripture provides anchoring values that I can build my life around. I believe that we are created to love and worship God and are called to carry out redemptive work on Earth.

Our Christian walk changes with the seasons in our lives and it is important not to be disheartened when we do not "feel" Him or when we think that we are far away from Him. The truth is that God is unchanging and always there. At times, it is our circumstance or individualistic thinking that makes us think otherwise. Scripture calls us to run with endurance the race that is set before us and look to Jesus as the founder and perfecter of our faith! (Hebrews 12:1-2)



LOOKING AHEAD WITH RESILIENCE AND HOPE

By Angelito Mojico

After a long period of not meeting physically, our brothers and sisters in the Filipino Ministry welcome 2022 with high hopes and expectations. This year, we hope to, once again, meet in big groups, sing together, chat loudly, and have more Connect Group activities, learning sessions, and lunch fellowships. We may not be able to do what we did before COVID-19 came, but with God's help, we will remain vibrant and promote our culture and traditions. We will also continue to reach out and minister to the unchurched, especially to our fellow Filipinos.

The Word of God tells us in Romans 8:28 that

In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him....

COVID-19 might have disrupted our ministry meetings, gatherings, and fellowships, but it also erupted a profound sense of brotherhood in our hearts. The pandemic and resulting restrictions made us realise that disconnection with each other, even if it is temporary, creates an emotional and spiritual void that, if not filled, will eventually grow and make one prone to going astray.

Praise God for keeping the Filipino Ministry strong and the members resilient. The pandemic caused some to return to the Philippines as their employers lost their jobs and could no longer afford their services. Others had to go back to look after sick family members. Among those who went home, some were not allowed to come back to Singapore due to entry restrictions. Yet, despite all these challenges, God has kept us connected and vibrant with the unwavering support from the church and the love shown by everyone in various ways and means.

The Filipinos have adjusted very well to the change in worship services during the pandemic. Even if we could not gather for our Filipino Ministry meetings, we joined the main services with whatever means possible. When we could only worship online, we connected through our computers and handphones. Many also made effort to return when Filipino Ministry resumed in-person services. We continue to volunteer our services and be actively involved in the life of the church. Our Connect Groups have stayed connected while keeping to safe management measures. We praise God for faithful and mature leaders.



As one of the outreach and evangelistic arms of the church, the Filipino Ministry has also been reaching out to our One More in 2021. We had a Games Day (Amazing Challenge II) on 5 December 2021 to reach out to the unchurched and encourage those who have been with us online to come for in-person services. Each team had to include at least one such person. The event concluded with Team Churva triumphant, Teams A.L.P.H.A. and Shepherds in second place, and Team Beloved securing third. Teams Rejoice and Girlfrenz received the consolation prizes.

With high hopes and expectations, we will continue to love, bless, and make a difference to someone's life this year. We will also reach out to the One More within our spheres of influence and the community.

INSTALLATION & DEDICATION OF LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021/2022

The Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) for church year 2021/2022 was installed on 3 October 2020 (Sunday). The members of the LCEC were presented and dedicated before the congregation during the main services. For the occasion, the sermon by Rev Dr Isaac Lim, former President of the Trinity Annual Conference, on servant leadership was most appropriate.

Let us give our fullest support to our pastors and leaders who have responded to God's call as we serve alongside one another in unity to further God's kingdom.



Pastor-in-Charge
Pastor
Pastor

Rev Benjamin Lee
Rev Ming Feong Ching
Rev Poh Zhi-Hui

LCEC Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Recording Secretaries

Dr Gabriel Ong
Mr Walter Yeo
Mr Jerome Sim
Mr Isaiah Tee

Lay Leader
Associate Lay Leaders

Mr Kenneth Yeo
Mr Francis Cheang
Mrs Roslyn Sim
Mr William Ho

Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer

Ms Susan Seah
Mr Walter Yeo

AGE GROUP COORDINATORS

Children
Youth
Young Adults
Adults
Seniors

Ms Serene Er
Ms Rachel Khoo
Mr Jay Fong
Church Office
Mr Adrian Lum

CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEES

Church Archivist
Church Governance
Children's Ministry
Communications & Media
Finance
Hospitality
Property Management

Mr James Heng
Ms Grace Ng
Ms Priscilla Lim
Mr Melvyn Tan
Mr Low Kay San
Mrs Roslyn Sim
Mr Peter Khoo

CHAIRPERSONS OF MINISTRIES

Connect Group
Discipleship & Nurture
Missions
Outreach & Social Concerns
Witness & Evangelism
Worship & Music
Youth Fusion

Church Office
Ms Agnes Goh
Ms Betty Lim
Mr Jeffrey Toh
Mr Wisdom Darryl Co
Mr James Heng
Ms Eunice Tan

STEWARDS

Mr Joseph Tan (Finance)
Ms Denise Wong (Finance)

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

INTERVIEW WITH PETER TAN

Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC)'s Gardening Ministry won the Silver Award (Organisations) in the National Parks Board's (NParks) Community in Bloom (CIB) programme in 2021.

The Gardening Ministry provides a place for individuals to enjoy urban gardening and fellowship with one another. It also offers a time and space to help our church be a part of the Toa Payoh community as we open it to our neighbours who are interested in gardening.

We spoke to Mr Peter Tan who oversees the ministry to find out more.

WHEN AND WHY WAS THE GARDENING MINISTRY STARTED?

TPMC's garden came about when the church was renovated in 2010. At that time, one of our church members, Mr Poh, maintained the garden situated at the back of the church premises as well as three plots at the courtyard. As more plants were added to the garden and courtyard, the church approached members to help, and the Gardening Ministry was formed.

WHAT ARE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY? HOW OFTEN DOES THE MINISTRY UPKEEP THE GARDEN AND TEND TO THE PLANTS?

We tend to the garden every Saturday morning between 9am and 11am. Our activities include trimming outgrowing plants, cutting, and clearing dead leaves and weeds, removing pests, replenishing nutrients in the soil, repotting, watering, and harvesting fruits. We also water the plants occasionally on weekdays.

DOES THE MINISTRY HAVE OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES CARING FOR THE GARDEN?

We visit nurseries and HortPark to view new plants and gather new ideas, organise gardening courses and exchange urban gardening techniques with other gardeners. We also encourage one another to walk with Jesus Christ.



WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE GARDEN (ROUGHLY) MAINTAINED BY THE MINISTRY? WHAT ARE THE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN?

The garden at the back of the church has an area of about 200m² which we share with the Toa Payoh Chinese Methodist Church. There are also three small plots outside the Welcome Lounge. The flowers, herbs, plants, and trees that are grown include aloe vera, banana trees, bird's eye chili, "Black Face General", blue pea, calamansi, curry leaf plants, kaffir lime, mulberry trees, orchid, pandan, shiso, sugarcane, and water apple.



WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE MINISTRY?

The Gardening Ministry currently has eight members.

SHARE WITH US HOW THE MINISTRY WON THE COMMUNITY IN BLOOM (CIB) SILVER AWARD (ORGANISATIONS) IN 2021.

We were invited and encouraged by NParks to participate in 2021's CIB. In the past, we regularly maintained the garden and won the Gold Award. Due to COVID-19, we reduced our maintenance activities but still managed to obtain a Silver Award. Thanks be to God the Chief Gardener.



HOW DOES TENDING TO THE GARDEN LEAD YOU TO BE CLOSER TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER?

We believe that gardening is a physically and spiritually beneficial activity that allows a healthy connection to the land and cultivates within us a love and respect for God's creation.



LOVING, BLESSING AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Angelito Mojico and Audrey Ong

2021 was a challenging year for everyone. The continued pandemic put nations and people in uncertainty and fear. The so-coined “New Normal” has affected most, if not all, of the works of the Outreach and Social Concerns Ministry. We had to plan and execute our activities and events while keeping in mind that the situation might evolve. While this slowed us down, we were not stopped from doing God’s work.

Praise God, for He is faithful and mightier than any virus and situation!

The pandemic led to some worshippers losing their jobs. It also resulted in the closure of many businesses in the community. The number of people requiring spiritual and financial help have increased. Therefore, armed with love, compassion, and funding from the church, we conducted the following ministries, programmes, and events to support and bless our people and the Toa Payoh community.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (PROGRAMME)

We extended temporary financial assistance to the people and families in our community who are going through financial difficulties.

BEFRIENDERS (PROGRAMME)

Volunteer befrienders journeyed with disadvantaged families in the building of stable lives and homes. We hope to build friendship with the families by sharing the love of God.

ROUGH SLEEPERS (MINISTRY)

Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month between 10.30pm and 12.30am, a team of volunteers (called Rough Sleeper Buddies) goes out to Toa Payoh Central for Night Missions – to reach out to the rough sleepers (the homeless) in Toa Payoh, befriending and helping them find a safe place to rest. The church also provides a temporary shelter for rough sleepers under the Safe Sound Sleeping Places (S3P) programme with more than 30 organisations under the oversight of the Ministry of Social and Family Development. 2021 saw us accommodating up to 3 rough sleepers under S3P. We look forward to the relaxation of safe management measures which will allow us to revert to accommodating 5 rough sleepers when we first started with the programme in 2019.



Also under the Outreach & Social Concerns Ministry is a group of short-duration projects that make our channels of giving to the wider Toa Payoh community to be a sign of God’s blessing to them. “TPMC Gives” was coined in 2020 as the umbrella name for these projects. The name helps us to remember our church’s core value of Generosity, and rallies us to live out and grow in generosity together as a church. Here are the TPMC Gives projects in 2021.

KILOS OF LOVE

In February 2021, using the Chinese New Year as an occasion to share the blessings and love of Jesus, 100 needy families were blessed with groceries and supermarket vouchers.

BLOOD DONATION AND BREAD DISTRIBUTION

In April 2021, in conjunction with our church’s commemoration of Good Friday and Easter, we co-organised a blood donation drive with the Singapore Red Cross Society and distributed 1,150 packs of bread to the bus captains, cleaners and hawkers in the Toa Payoh community and families from our church kindergarten.

BLESSING THE COMMUNITY

In July 2021, 50 low-income families were each blessed with \$100 credited to their utility accounts and a gift of \$50 in supermarket vouchers. Each child in primary or secondary school also received a \$20 book and stationery voucher.

CHILDREN’S DAY BLESSING

In October 2021, children from four preschools in Toa Payoh were presented with gifts of stationery for their Children’s Day celebrations.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING WITH PRIMARY 6 AND SECONDARY 4 YOUTHS

In December 2021, through our Primary 6 and Secondary 4 youths, 35 low-income families received presents of Christmas goodies and food vouchers. We wanted to bring Christmas cheer to the families under the care of the church while exposing the youths to local missions works.

HAVE A MEAL ON US (HAMOU)

In 2021, we conducted a second run of HAMOU, developing the project from an initiative started in 2020 to support and encourage our Toa Payoh eateries which businesses have been affected by the pandemic. Read more about it in the following feature article!



If you are interested in joining the Outreach and Social Concerns Ministry or participating in our programs and events, please contact Angel at angelito.mojico@tpmc.org.sg.

HAVE A MEAL ON US – BLESSING THE TOA PAYOH COMMUNITY TOGETHER

By Audrey Ong

What happens when Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) worshippers exhibit one of our core values of Generosity? We get an overwhelming response. Our worshippers gave so much that we could bless the food business operators, low-income families and bus captains who operate and live in Toa Payoh.

We began with a plan to bless the food business operators by pre-paying for at least one hundred meals at each stall. Fifty low-income beneficiaries could then redeem meals at the stalls by 31 December 2021. (See the article in the September 2021 issue of Interact.)

Worshippers were invited to contribute to Have a Meal on Us (HAMOU) by paying for the meals. What warmed our hearts was the generosity of TPMC worshippers who gave beyond what we had targeted. With the excess funds, we were able to do more.

News of a COVID-19 cluster at Toa Payoh Bus Interchange broke around that time. Staff at the interchange, especially the bus captains, had to put in extra hours at work. Business of eateries at the interchange was also affected due to lower footfall.

Hence TPMC extended HAMOU to Toa Payoh Bus Interchange to encourage and support SBS Transit staff as well as food business operators there. We pre-paid 2,500 meals from the eateries at the interchange and SBS Transit staff could redeem the meals between October and November 2021.

A participating hawker shared with us a simple text message:

I thank your church for the light shone on us during these difficult times.

We also received a thank-you note from SBS Transit which expressed their appreciation for the encouragement given to their staff in such a challenging time.

Thank you, TPMC, for being a blessing to those in our Toa Payoh community. To God be the Glory!



LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS 2021

By Jonathan Choy

This Light of Christmas, we headed to the neighbouring blocks to spread the Christmas cheer to their residents. Each resident received a customized wooden coaster, a cup sleeve, and an activity booklet that details the Christmas story. We pray that seeds of goodwill were sown as we begin to take our first steps as a church towards making friends with our immediate neighbours! Here are some memorable moments.



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

– GOD IS WITH US

By Alan Goh

There was a flurry of activities of activities on 24 and 25 December 2021 as services were held on both days to commemorate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sunday services on 26 December 2021 wrapped up three consecutive days of worshipping God and listening to His Word this Christmas season.

The Christmas Eve service was a night of sharing of God's Word and being silent before Him, as we celebrated His goodness with songs and opening of our hearts to His Spirit. The Christmas message was not shared through a usual form of one sermon preached from the pulpit like in a Sunday service, but was shared through a series of personal reflections by the pastors in a lighter fashion. Spread out between carols echoing the themes of Christmas, the reflections expressed the HOPE from the coming of the prophesied Messiah, the PEACE that the Messiah will establish in a broken world, the LOVE of God in sending His Son to be the suffering Messiah to save the world, and the JOY that God gives to all who seek Him. The hope, peace, love, and joy from God being with us ("Immanuel") is truly available to all who needs a father, friend, and counsellor to guide us through the troubles of life, especially in these uncertain times.



The good news of God being with us resounded in Bishop Dr Gordon Wong's sermon on Christmas Day. Bishop Wong shared that the two names given to our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 1:21-23 provided two reasons why Christians should celebrate Christmas. First, our Lord is called Jesus, a name which is derived from the Hebrew name Yeshua, which means salvation. Hence the birth of Jesus is the fulfilment of the promise of salvation from sin. Our Lord is also called Immanuel ("God is with us"). Jesus was born on Christmas to fulfil God's promise to save us not from a distance, but by coming near us, even to live and suffer with us. Christmas thus represents the assurance that we do not suffer alone in this world, as God knows our suffering, and God will indeed save us.



For Christians, Christmas is not merely a period of gift exchange and parties. Christmas is a time to remember, embrace and celebrate the promises of God, believing in the triumph of salvation over sin and trusting that He will always be with us and not forsake us.



YOUNG ADULTS' GAMES DAY

By Jonathan Choy



It has been way too long since the Young Adults (YA) in church gathered. So, a Games' Day was planned on 30 October 2021 and a bunch of us put together some games for fun and fellowship. It was a great opportunity to finally be able to see the other YA in church and get to make new friends! Below are a few photos from the event. Look out for the next YA activity!



WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

By Kristal Chan

Maybe it is due to my introverted self that I never enjoyed crowds, especially on New Year's Eve. Nonetheless, attending my first watchnight service years ago made me realise this is the way that I want to enter a new year. It is a time to quieten my heart and reflect on the past year. With all the changes in COVID-19 regulations since 2020, it was a blessing and privilege that I could attend the watchnight service in-person on 31 December 2021.

During the service, Pastor Zhi-Hui shared about the covenants that God made with His people, from the Noahic Covenant to the New Covenant. God made a covenant with the Israelites, and He made a covenant with us. And God is true to His word. This was a timely reminder about God's faithfulness to me in 2021.

Before the clock struck twelve to usher in the new year, the lyrics of the song "It Is Well with My Soul" struck me (with my thoughts expressed in italics):

My sin, O, the bliss of this glorious thought (*Kristal: A thought*)
My sin, not in part, but the whole (*Kristal: Every bit, yes, every bit of it*)
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more (*Kristal: Yes, thanks be to God*)
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul

God has forgiven my sins. God is faithful. God is with me. Not just in 2021, but forever more. May I not forget this in 2022. Amen.



CAMP EN GARDE! 2021

By Rachelle Sim

The annual year-end youth camp is one of the key events of the Youth Ministry in Toa Payoh Methodist Church. These highly anticipated camps aim to create a Bible-centred environment to help our youths disconnect from the routine and pressures of everyday life, and focus on their relationship with God. As such, I was privileged to have been given the opportunity to chair last year's camp: Camp En Garde! 2021. En Garde is French for "On [your] guard", a warning term in fencing. This name was chosen as it tied in perfectly with the camp theme of knowing one's faith and always being prepared to defend it!

Held from 27 to 30 December 2021, Camp En Garde! hosted 90 campers, engaging them in a wide variety of activities that were organised both in and outside of our church premises. Through games such as the island-wide "Amazing Race," the sabre-making competition and the 15-kilometre night walk from Kembangan to Changi Airport, the youths were having fun making new friends and creating lasting memories with their peers.



Plenary sessions in which Reverend Dr Nathanael Goh was the speaker and workshops on topics regarding the faith were also organised. While messages concerning the importance of faith, hope and love in our relationship with God and others were covered during the three speaker sessions, the workshops included more practical handles on how we are to defend the faith, with topics such as The Foundations of Christianity, Guarding against Peer Pressure, and The Surprising Gift of Adventuring Together. The campers participated enthusiastically in all these sessions.



Despite the challenges of organising camp activities in various locations due to Covid-19 limitations, the Lord provided and the camp was ultimately a success! Praise the Lord! It was extremely fulfilling to see the campers enjoy themselves and dive deeper into God's Word during the camp. This was a timely reminder and encouragement to always trust in God and depend on Him, especially in the current uncertain climate.

As I am writing this, it has been less than a week since Camp En Garde! ended but I'm already missing all the fun that we had! That being said, I am definitely looking forward to 2022's camp! I hope to see everyone there again!

Holy Week Services

The Heart of the Gospel

Sermon Series

Guest Speaker
Bishop Emeritus
Dr Robert Solomon

Who is This?

8.30am/
10.30am

10
Apr

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday

14
Apr

8.00pm

This Cup

Behold
the Cross

8.30am/
10.30am

15
Apr

Good Friday

Resurrection Sunday

8.30am/
10.30am

17
Apr

Believing and
Living the Resurrection