
Engage

Dear Lord, we come to You today, thanking You for Your blessing and guidance upon our church. We pray that You would constantly fill this holy place with Your presence and that Your grace and love would flow freely among us so that we will become Your hands and feet to the least, the lost and the lonely. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

1DUMC 



SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

1DUMC: We Will Go

Senior Pastor Chris Kam

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Matthew 5:14–16

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Introduction

Whatever and wherever God is calling us as a person, a family, a church, a community and as a nation, we will go. We will be His hands and feet. The Watoto Children’s Choir shared all the good things God has done through their ministry. It is encouraging and a great reminder to us what the Light of Jesus Christ can do as we are faithful and avail ourselves. Where we cannot go, DUMC AGW funds and sponsorship can and have made a difference.

Senior Pastor Chris reminds us of the importance of growing deeper in Christ. It is only by living in Christ that we can embrace cultural diversities, learn to love together and truly love others more deeply.

1. We are God's handiwork *Ephesians 2:10*

We are God's handiwork. God made us who we are - our hands, our nose, our face. He did not make a mistake. We are all His masterpieces and exactly who He intended us to be. Do not try to be someone else.

We must learn to love ourselves as how God loves us. Then and only then can we love others. Therefore, let us look ourselves in the mirror every morning and say "I like what I see".

2. To do God's work *Ephesians 2:10*

The second part of today's Scripture reminds us that we were created to do God's work. We were created to do good to others. We are called to love and serve others just as God is teaching us to love ourselves.

God has prepared in advance for each and everyone of us to be used as effective agents for His kingdom wherever He has placed us. Let us focus not on what we will get but rather how we can give and share our blessings with others.

Conclusion *Matthew 5:14-16*

We have a part to play as 1DUMC (one Church, 6 congregations). Our diverse congregation and communities means we have opportunities to train and disciple others. They in turn will be missionaries to their own people, impacting lives and making a difference in places oftentimes we may not have access to. We have seen this realised most wonderfully through our Myanmar brothers and sisters, who to date, have planted 10 local churches in their home country.

Nations are at our doorstep and we each have our part to play. As we avail ourselves to do the good works of loving others, we look forward to that glorious day where all nations and people groups join in unison to praise God. What a truly joyous eternal that will be!



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Activity/Questions

- If you had the magic mirror from 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs', what question would you ask about yourself?
- 'We Will Go' is the title track of the Watoto Children's Choir album. How far would you go, if God is telling you to go - say, on a mission trip?



Photo by Ivan Samkov on Pexels

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- What would you say is the sermon's Big Idea? Give your reasons.
- Since the sermon last weekend, have you been looking in the mirror and telling yourself, "I like what I see"? How does it feel like when you affirm yourself of that?

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- God has made us masterpieces. How does that change your view of your "flaws" and "weaknesses"?
- How can you intentionally be the light that shines for Jesus in your daily lives in your family/workplace/neighbourhood/community?
- How has your "church life" been in the past year? As MCO is like a thing in the past now, do you see the value of worship, serving and getting together in a community more or less meaningful than being 'solo'? Why yes or no?

Question Bank *(Extra questions that you can use to bring your discussion further as you see fit):*

- DUMC's Combined Celebration is held once a year. In what other ways can we interact and foster a closer bond with church members from other congregations? What activities or events would you participate in if you are given the opportunity to do so?
- It is easy to share when we have abundance but less so when we ourselves are in need. Do you agree or disagree? Discuss how we may overcome this.
- Is there someone that you should be connecting with but have been putting off? How can you move from intent to action this week?

To learn more about the Watoto Establishment,
click [here](#) (for the International site) or [here](#) (for the Asian site).



SERMON REFLECTION



Photo by Magda Ehlers on Pexels

As I logged off from this week's Combined Celebration, regret weighed heavily on my heart. I had missed the rare opportunity to worship Jesus as One church with brothers and sisters from five other congregations. I was deeply moved in my heart to rediscover the true meaning of being a part of the Church.

I whispered to myself: There will be so many people. It will be chaotic, uncomfortable and distracting to attend in-person. I had rationalised: Since I am on writing duty this week, it would be "easier", "sensible" and even "wise" to attend online.

Easier. Sensible. Wise. These have been what I tell myself one too many times. It was all too easy to fall into the norm where it sometimes feels easier to focus if I worship God alone. Less messy, less inconvenience. Physical distancing has a way of pulling us into a false sense of self-sufficiency. All we need is God. Others become distractions that come between us and God.

I also tell myself that it is more important how we actively involve ourselves out there in the marketplace and in our community. Christian living and missions happen outside the four walls of the church. While that may be true, how wrong have I been!

The Holy Spirit reminds me that church is where Jesus is also actively working through His beloved bride, the Church. The Spirit inspires and guides us to move in step with Him whenever we gather corporately to worship and pray. He challenges us to engage in the matters of our communities and the nation. Scripture reminds us in Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them."

Iron sharpens iron. The Spirit is actively working to mould and shape us even through the challenges and conflicts we face. Yes, people are messy. Yes, people are difficult and oftentimes hurtful. Yet He prepares us for the work God has set in advance through our broken relationships.

The unity of the Church reflects God's glory that draws the world to Him. It becomes the visible reality of what it means to be "One body but many parts". We draw others to Jesus when we come together with a single identity, celebrating diversities and not allowing the biases of creed, colour and background to divide us. We are children of God, light of Christ, praising and shining for God.

Lord Jesus, forgive me for leading my family astray by slowly disconnecting from Your body, the Church. Help me and my family to rediscover the joys of worshipping You as a community. Ignite our hearts to consistently attend weekend in-person Celebrations. Teach us to pause and to stop running about getting things done but to instead love our brothers and sisters in Christ. Teach us to turn our gaze away from ourselves and be truly interested in others. Help us be chargers who engage and seek to make a difference in their lives. Amen.

Contributed by Darren Lim



PRAYER

Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

1DUMC

Thanksgiving for God's faithfulness and presence to all DUMC congregations in both good and challenging times.

Pray for:

- God to knit all our hearts together in unity as one church through a deeper awareness and concern for each others' journeys
- DUMC congregations to uphold one another in prayer and service toward one another, particularly for those with more material and social resources to look out for those who have less
- DUMC congregations to sharpen one another, like iron sharpens iron, toward becoming more like Jesus



MISSIONAL

Note to CGL: Inspire and encourage the Cell Group members to participate in the activity suggested below (from our CrossFields, Missions department) together to cultivate a culture of being a missional church.

MCPPI

MCPPI: A two-day stay-in training, serving as a practical introduction to missions and a prerequisite for joining a short-term mission trip in DUMC.

Join us to discover the biblical basis of God's mission, understand your unique role, and receive training in essential mission activities. This is an opportunity to be equipped, inspired, and connected with a community of missions.

📱 Sign up here: bit.ly/mcpp1_apr2024