



Growing Together in Suffering

"...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead." Philippians 3:10-11

We will be heading into Easter soon, but before we jump into the most celebrated time of year for the Christian faith, let's take a moment to reflect back. Let's think about all the sufferings that we have endured over this past year and the sufferings Jesus endured for we've grown together in His sufferings.

A year ago, we were just beginning this pandemic and shelter in place. We were wondering how long this pandemic would last, and now it has been an entire year. We ceased our in-person worship services on March 15th, 2020, and we have suffered through the loss of a community without in-person services and in-person community.

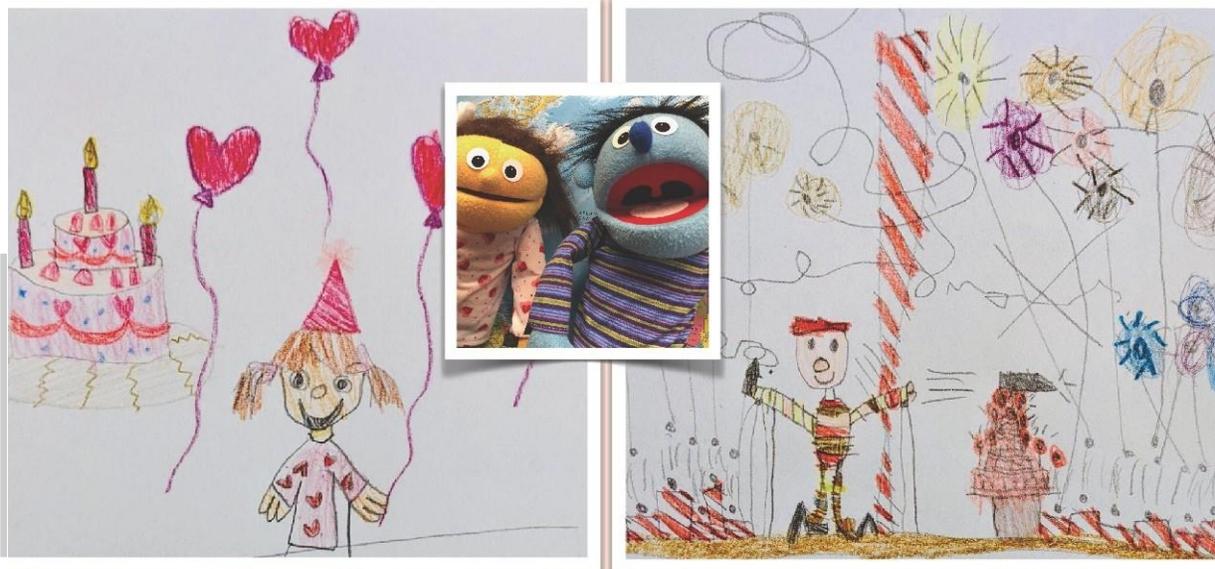
Yet, we have grown together in community through online services, zoom prayer times, and small group bible studies. We have suffered through the loss of loved ones, brothers and sisters in Christ, who are home in Heaven like our own Pastor Rod Yee, Mary Agawa, Hiro Yamasaki, Mary Wharton and Alice Kam. We have grown together in mourning and grieving. We have suffered through racial injustice and the rise of violence against Asian-Americans in recent days. We have grown together in empathy and in endurance.

Jesus was no stranger to suffering. He suffered persecution from religious people of His day, who held so tightly to their religious ways that they killed Him for their own self-righteousness. He suffered at the hands of the Roman government, who held so tightly to their power that they killed Him for their own self-interest. He suffered upon the cross of Calvary for our selfish and self-centered ways.

We can be weary from all that we have endured, but we can hold fast to Christ together for He has been holding us together by His hand and by our beloved family of God. We can be tired from all that we faced and face today as Asian-Americans, but we can draw near to Him together to find His gracious care for our every hurt and need. We may struggle with our own sin and selfishness, but we can approach His throne of grace together, and receive His mercy and forgiveness. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

As we begin to reopen our church facility to in-person worship services hope arises just like when Christ resurrected from the dead. I do pray that when we take a look back again a year from now, we will not go back to "normal," but we will continue to see what a changed and transformed community of believers looks like. For we want to continually center ourselves upon His resurrection hope for Christ understands and He empowers us through every suffering in life together.

-Pastor Eric Yata



Happy 1 year Birthday Red and Stripes Show!!

Drawings by Sophie and Ethan Kawabata

Thank you to the Red and Stripes Show (created, produced and voiced by Scott and Michi Shimada) for making this past year at home a little more fun for our kids!! If you haven't had a chance to view their shows check them out on YouTube or Facebook (links can be found in your Sunday Service reminder e-mails).



#SanLoTogether

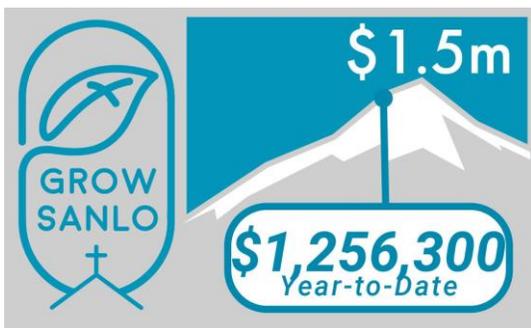
It's hard to believe it's been a full year since our church was physically shut down and we had our first online service. This year would've been virtually impossible without the help of our AV team: Jen Do, Richard Shinoda, Keiske Satake, Chris Wu, Nick Wong, Brian Yun, Sam Cheng, Kevin Masuda (special thanks to Ken Yoshioka and Josh Lee for helping with the first online service!)

Also, a special thank you for those who helped organize and served to reopen safely: Stacie Asai, Richard and Kelly Shinoda, Chris Palisoc, Mika Masuda and others who've since been trained to volunteer.

Thank you to all our elders, deacons and Sunday school teachers who also went above and beyond to keep our community "together" this past year and have put much thought and prayer into safely reopening.



Grow SanLo and Reopening Updates



The Elders and staff feel deeply humbled by your giving especially during these challenging days. We have reached a significant point in our Grow SanLo campaign at 83% of our goal, and we have received the pre-approval for a building loan. **Please be in prayer as the Elders discern the next major steps forward and the timing of those steps.**

We also recognize that you may have your own financial hardship during this trying time, so please do not feel obligated to give, and if you need assistance, please let us know as we have a crisis fund to serve those in need. **Thank you again for your faithful giving as we seek to be a gospel community of growth for every generation!**

COVID-19 Update: General Reopening - Safety First!

The Elders are excited to announce that **we will begin our reopening on March 28th to a select community of youth (6th grade and above), singles and seniors. We will reopen to all ages on April 18th.** Alameda County has allowed churches to meet indoors at a 25% limited capacity. We are taking the added precaution to limit our space to only 40 seats while adhering to proper social distancing and mandatory mask wearing. We will continue our online service to ensure that everyone can worship the Lord and His Word.

Important Notes for Attendance:

- **Registration:** It will be online through our weekly email updates. You can register yourself and your family unit. The registration will be first come first serve and open Monday until Wednesday at 11:59pm every week for the coming Sunday. If you attended the week before, then please wait until Wednesday to register if there are opening spaces available, so that others may have the opportunity to worship in person.
- **Sunday Morning: Come at 10:30am**, line up 6 feet a part, complete the health screening (temperature check and questionnaire), health waiver form, and be seated by our amazing welcome team.

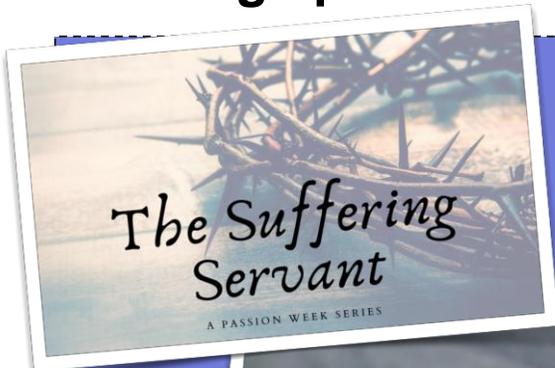


- **Safety First:** Wear a mask, social distance, and head home right after service finishes.

We want you to know that we have vigilantly taken the necessary precautions to reopen, and we look forward to seeing you in person and worshipping the Lord together.

In His Care,
Pastor Eric on behalf of the Elders

Coming up...



Sermon Series:

In preparation for Easter, we've been doing a special Passion Week series (studying the week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion). After Easter Sunday we will resume our Daniel series.

- 3/28 Thursday of Passion Week: Mark 14:12-31
- 4/02 Good Friday: Mark 15:21-41
- 4/04 Easter Sunday: Mark 16:1-13
- 4/11 Belshazzar's Feast: Daniel 5
- 4/18 In the Lion's Den: Daniel 6
- 4/25 A Vision of Beasts: Daniel 7

Events and announcements:

- 3/28 Reopening of Sunday service for youth, singles and seniors (*registration required*)
 - 4/02 Good Friday service via Zoom
 - 4/18 Reopening of Sunday service for all ages (*registration required*)
 - 4/18 One Church Prayer fellowship
- See United We Stand for youth announcements and events.*