



Westside Baptist Church Bulletin

December 15, 2024
3rd Sunday of
Advent

Speaker: Rev. Alan Yu

During Worship

- ▶ Be still and prepare your heart for worship.
- ▶ Please close the main hall doors gently during worship services.
- ▶ Please take care of your personal belongings to avoid theft.

Offering

- ▶ Welcome to donate via E-transfer, email: westsidebaptistoffering@gmail.com
- ▶ To donate by cash or cheque, please use an offering envelope and put it into the offering bag during worship.
- ▶ When making a donation, please indicate the donation envelope number and the full legal name. The offering envelope number can be obtained from the church office.

Notes to CitRUs parents :

- ▶ The enrollment age for CitRUs Children's Ministry starts from age 3; one parent can accompany children under 3 to participate in worship in Room B.
- ▶ Classes are held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am at Room E & F.
- ▶ After class, please supervise the children who have been picked up from the classroom.

Parking

- ▶ The upstairs parking lot (Parking Lot 1) is designated for new comers, people with reduced mobility, the elderly and families with young children.
- ▶ The indoor parking lot downstairs (Parking Lot 2) will be closed at 1:00 pm on Sundays. If you exceed the time limit, you will have to wait until 10:00 am on Tuesday morning to collect your vehicle.
- ▶ Additional parking spaces are available at 8508 Ash Street (Parking Lot 3) on Saturdays from 4:00 - 7:00pm and Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. [Maps](#) are available in the foyer.
- ▶ To be considerate of your neighbors, please do not park in the residential area.
- ▶ Please do not double park.
- ▶ When parking in the outdoor parking lot downstairs (Parking Lot 2), please be careful not to block the emergency exits and keep a distance of 3 feet from the building's exterior wall so that the emergency exit doors can be fully opened.
- ▶ Please park and lock your bike/e-bike outside. Do not park the bike inside the building.
- ▶ Starting from January 2025, parking at the church or 8508 Ash during worship services congregants are required to register online annually. Registration link: <https://forms.gle/TDSft5sAJgk5QMeN8>



Scripture Reading Plan

- ▶ This week, we will delve into the section of Revelation where the evil empire of Babylon collapses. We might initially think that God is punishing those who do not believe in Him. However, the reality is that the world's corrupt systems create the chaos and madness that ultimately lead to its own destruction. Those who choose not to follow the way of the Lamb are, in fact, reaping the consequences of their own decisions. Instead of viewing this as God punishing unbelievers, it is more helpful to understand it as God saving us from the chaos and madness we have brought upon ourselves. Without God's intervention, humanity would ultimately destroy itself through its own choices.
- ▶ Reading Plan for this week:
 - ▶ Dec 15 (Sunday) Revelation 13:1-18
 - ▶ Dec 16 (Monday) Revelation 14:1-20
 - ▶ Dec 17 (Tuesday) Revelation 15:1-8
 - ▶ Dec 18 (Wednesday) Revelation 16:1-21
 - ▶ Dec 19 (Thursday) Revelation 17:1-18
 - ▶ Dec 20 (Friday) Revelation 18:1-24
 - ▶ Dec 21 (Saturday) Revelation 19:1-21
 - ▶ Dec 22 (Sunday) Revelation 20:1-15

Co·Mission

3. The Ripe Harvest

[Revelation 14:1-15:4]

Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.
[Revelation 14:15b]

Sermon Outline

Introduction

Content

1A. The faithful

1B. The beastly

My Reflection

- ▶ What did God tell me through the message today?

2. The Vision of the Harvest

3. Our Choice

Conclusion

My Reflection

- ▶ What did God tell me through the message today?

My Prayer Response

- ▶ Write down your responsive prayer for God's word today.

My Action Response

- ▶ What changes will you make in response to God's word today?

Small Group Discussions

Testimony

1. Please share about your scripture reading this week? What do you find rewarding? What do you find frustration?

Know

2. Please review your sermon notes for this week. What did you learn that you did not know previously?
3. Read together again Revelation 14:1-15:4. What impression does this passage give you? What is the most intriguing saying in this passage to you? Why?
4. Revelation describes the faithful followers as having God's name written on their foreheads. How does this imagery impact your understanding of belonging to God?
5. Compare the character of those marked by God versus those marked by the beast. What lessons can we draw about true discipleship?
6. How does the description of Jesus as both a victorious King and a slain Lamb shape your understanding of His mission?
7. How do the contrasting harvests (grain and grapes) challenge our understanding of divine judgment?

Feel

8. Can you share a moment when you felt your faith was tested? How did you remain faithful to Christ during that time?
9. Have you ever experienced a situation where choosing to follow Christ made life more difficult? How did you handle it?
10. How does the image of Jesus with a sharp sickle make you feel? Does it bring comfort, fear, or something else?
11. What emotions arise when you consider that God's judgment includes justice for all wrongs?
12. How does knowing that Jesus endured the wrath of God for our sins affect your sense of gratitude and worship?
13. Revelation provides a vision of hope amidst chaos. How does this shape your response to the challenges of today's world?
14. In light of Revelation, what does it mean for you to prepare for the "ripe harvest" in your own life and community?

Plan

15. What are the hindrances (including internal and external) for you to remain faithful during trials and persecution? What are the effective ways to remove these hindrances? Please ask your group members for advice.


Do

16. Resolve to remain faithful during trials and persecution. Share how practically you'll do this with your group members.
17. Invite a group member to be your accountability partner, and give him/her permission to rebuke you when you have not followed through on your resolution.
18. Commit to God in prayer your resolution to remain faithful during trials and persecution. Ask the Holy Spirit to mould you more into the likeness of Jesus.

Announcements

- ▶ **Monthly bulletin** consists of summary of deacon board meeting and financial report has been posted on the church website and bulletin board.
- ▶ The church planned to have the following **outreach events** during the Christmas season :
 - ▶ A Clothing Drive will be held in December as a Christmas donation to Covenant House to support youth in need. Congregants can place donated clothing in Room G downstairs after worship services on December 14, 15, 21, 22 and 24.
 - ▶ Christmas Carolling – December 22 between 2– 3pm at Marine Gateway. The church is recruiting singers. Practice Date: Sunday, December 15, Time: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.
 - ▶ Candlelight service will be held on December 24 from 8:00 - 9:30pm. Due to limited seating, all participants must register at www.universe.com/candlelight. Scanning QR code for admission is required. 
 - ▶ Hopeful gifts for Change – the church encourage congregants to support this program organized by CBM. Donation can be made directly through the CBM website. 
- ▶ The **church office** will be closed on December 17 between 12:00noon and 3:00pm, December 25, 26 and January 1, 2025.
- ▶ The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on January 26, 2025 at 3:00pm via Zoom. Details of the meeting and voting procedures will be announced. Members, please reserve time to attend.
- ▶ **2024 tax receipts** will be distributed via email in February 2025. Please update your personal information before January 31, 2025 if there is any change over the past year. <https://forms.gle/iYS78wonyHxD14bQA>

Fellowship Life

- ▶ Westside 101 is a course designed for anyone who wishes to join us as a member through baptism or transfer of membership. It consists of approximately five 90-minute classes. Please register at universe.com/westside 
- ▶ Small groups are the heart of our fellowship life and an essential part of our holistic Christian living. We invite you to join our small groups if you are willing to commit. To register, please visit universe.com/westside 