

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



## My Heartfelt Gratitude

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-5)*

As a young adult, I began my Christian faith journey at Jurong Christian Centre (JCC). In 2000, JCC merged with Bukit Batok Christian Centre (BBCC) to form Westside Anglican Church (WAC). Our partnership with Jurong Anglican Church Mandarin (JACM) has been growing stronger for the past three years.

I was ordained three years ago, after going through part-time theological education for four years and ordination training for two years. I had mixed feelings about being the Priest-in-charge for both WAC and JACM. Perhaps the reason is that I knew most of the church members well, and was concerned that my status change would affect my relationships with them. Nonetheless, I submit to Bishop's directive to provide stability to WAC and JACM until my next posting.

Now that three years have passed, I thank God for the wonderful privilege of serving both churches as a pastor. The greatest challenge has been to preach and shepherd in Chinese. It is still so now, but I have grown more confident. I thank God for His grace and the joy that I could encounter Him through another language. It is amazing how different languages can bring out different revelations in my faith journey.

My next thanksgiving echoes what apostle Paul had said, ***“because of your partnership in the gospel...”***. All of us are made differently, but I would like to think that our reason for coming together on every Sunday is for the sake of the gospel. What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. We who have received the good news and tasted the goodness of God want to share it with others. I look forward to the next phase of our church journey, in welcoming visitors from our neighbourhood and bringing the good news to them.

Our partnership to spread the gospel will not be without challenges. Our relationship may be put to the test, and may even result in some people leaving the church. Therefore, we must guard our partnership zealously because it is God’s desire for us to be part of the body of Christ, with Him as the head. May we not be distracted by our personal desires, but serve with humility and put the interests of others before us.

Again, I thank all my brothers and sisters in Christ for the privilege to serve alongside you. Let us look out for one another, to be a good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ and do all things to preserve our unity. Lastly, be encouraged that God ***“who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”***

Pastor Kelvin