



# 2018-2019 Sermon Series

 倫敦中華基督教會  
Chinese Church in London

# The Aims of the Sermon Series

## CCiL's Vision, Mission and Values

Through our regular Sunday services, we want to connect our members with what God is doing in his Kingdom. Our regular Sunday services offer us a strategic opportunity to address and make sense of some of the key emphases and objectives of the whole church in the context of the local congregation. We want to help each congregation see their vision, mission and values in the context of that of the wider church body. What you will find in our new sermon series is that it provides a strategic starting point (not a solution) to address these key emphases.

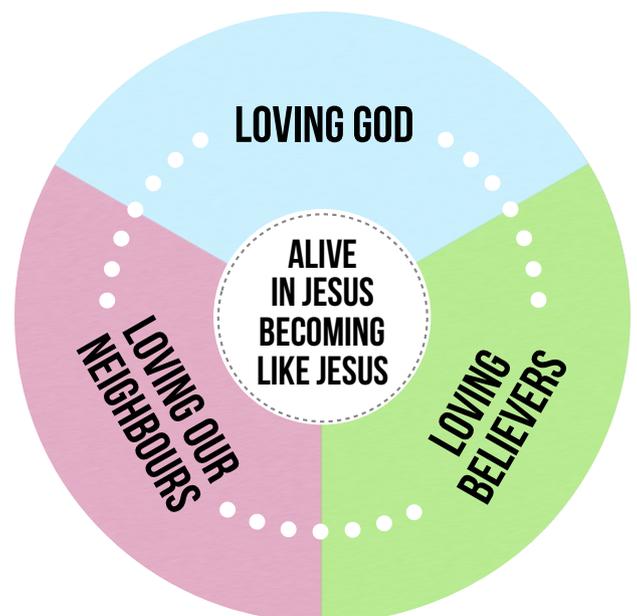
## Our Vision - the kind of church we want to be

We exist to make disciples of Jesus to transform London and the world.

## Our Mission - what we are supposed to be doing

We want the church to become a place where discipleship is normal, where each disciple grows to become more like Jesus in loving God, loving believers and loving our neighbours.

The desire for transformation goes beyond preaching, Bible study and church activities. Being made alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5), we want to see people grow into the image of Christ *"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son..."* (Romans 8:29). It was a driving passion in Paul's life and often moved him deeply. *"My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you..."* (Galatians 4:19). At the heart of this desire is life change and we take confidence in the Holy Spirit to be our agent of change.



## Our Core Values - why we do what we do

- Authenticity
- Godliness
- Multiplication

## **The Christian Year Calendar**

Our 2018-2019 sermon series is based on the Christian Year calendar. The Christian year provides a structure for the Christian community to recall and celebrate the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This creative remembering as a community is rooted in the Jewish tradition and provides God's people with a powerful rhythm of sacred time - *kairos*, as against a rhythm of secular time - *chronos*, to meditate deeply on the episodes of Christ's life and death.

### **Advent**

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The season not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains '*Maranatha*' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

### **Christmas**

The Christmas season celebrates the wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary. Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth. The task of Christmas worship is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

### **Lent**

The season of Lent is a time of self-examination, self-denial, self-giving, selflessness, penitence and preparation for Easter. The forty days of Lent reminds the followers of Jesus of the forty days that he spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan. The forty days of Lent (not including Sundays) begins on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, on Ash Wednesday. During Lent, devotional exercises such as fasting, prayer, almsgiving or the giving up of certain luxuries are practised as a form of penance and self-denial.

### **Easter including Pentecost**

The Easter season is a continuous period of joyful celebration of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ and its implications. The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes this festive season. During Pentecost, God inaugurates the messianic community by sending his Holy Spirit to empower the Church to carry out the mission which the risen Christ has entrusted to it.

### **Non-Seasonal Time**

The Christian year includes a "non-seasonal" time which lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas and when we focus on instructing Christians on how to live out their Christian faith in their daily lives.

## Malachi

**Advent Themes:** Waiting; Expectation; Judgment; Hope; Longing; Joy

**Christmas Themes:** Word incarnate; Celebration; Joy; Salvation

One hundred years after exile, Israel has fallen into religion marked by compromise and half-heartedness. The book of Malachi addresses their corruption regarding issues like sacrifices, marriage and tithing. It also affirms that God does love His people and will fulfil prophecy. The entire Scripture is one unified story that tells us the truth about the human condition and sin while announcing God's promise to one day send a messenger and then show up personally. He will defeat evil and purify a faithful remnant, establish a New Jerusalem and bring peace, healing and justice forever. It's that promise that prompts God's people to denounce sin, remain faithful to His covenant and hope for the future.

2 Dec	God's Steadfast Love	Malachi 1:1-5
9 Dec	Dishonouring God	Malachi 1:6-2:9
16 Dec	God's Faithfulness to Faithless People	Malachi 2:10-16
23 Dec	God's Refining Justice against Injustice	Malachi 2:17-3:5
30 Dec	Robbing God	Malachi 3:6-12
6 Jan	God's Future Promise	Malachi 3:13-4:6

## Best Year Yet

**Winter Season Themes:** Day to day discipleship issues

Going into 2019 we believe CCiL is going to have its best year yet as a church. But the only way that will be possible is if we as individuals have our best year yet. You want to have the best year yet? It will take you having new perspectives and new priorities. It will take you getting to know Jesus a bit more, and being like him a whole lot more. Join us as we talk about some of these areas and discover how to have the Best Year Yet.

13 Jan Best Year Yet: New Perspective, New Priorities

## The Test

**Winter Season Themes:** Day to day discipleship issues

A disciple's life should be a living litmus test of their connection to the Father. In his first epistle, the apostle John walks through several aspects of the Christian life, revealing where the evidence lies for each. Do you know God? You can test it because the evidence is in your obedience. Do you truly love your neighbour? You can test it because the evidence is in your sacrifice. We don't earn God's forgiveness with our good deeds, but a transformed life should look just like that—transformed. Join us as we examine what areas of our lives need to change to be more obedient to Christ. You can say it with your mouth, but the evidence is in your actions.

20 Jan	The Test of True Fellowship	1 John 1:1-2:6
27 Jan	The Test of True Love - Part One	1 John 2:7-17
3 Feb	The Test of True Understanding	1 John 2:18-29
10 Feb	The Test of True Obedience	1 John 3:1-24
17 Feb	The Test of True Spirit	1 John 4:1-6
24 Feb	The Test of True Love - Part Two	1 John 4:7-5:5
3 Mar	The Test of True Sonship	1 John 5:6-5:21

## Fool-Proofing Your Life

**Lent Themes:** Self-examination, self-denial, self-giving, repentance and preparation for Easter

The book of Proverbs was originally written to a young man by his elder in an attempt to pass down both godly wisdom and instruction. In this six part series, we will explore the book's themes of wisdom and folly, and you are invited to live with wisdom and in the fear of the Lord in order to experience the good life. The culture we live in today desperately needs to see and experience wisdom. So this series is not only for churchgoers, but it is for the people we will interact with on a daily basis. Join us as we learn how to fool-proof our lives.

10 Mar	How to Fool-Proof Your Life	Proverbs 1
17 Mar	Pursue Wisdom At All Cost	Proverbs 4
24 Mar	The Cost of Sexual Immorality	Proverbs 6:20-35
31 Mar	Making Tough Choices	Proverbs 9
7 Apr	Integrity in Your Work and Your Words	Proverbs 10
14 Apr	The Fruitfulness of Wisdom	Proverbs 31

## Live Justly

**Easter Themes:** Resurrection, freedom, eternal life, victory, joy

Justice is often brought up by passionate teachers, pastors, and leaders inviting us into new action, but what about the actions you and I take every day? Biblical justice isn't an action once a year; it's about infusing what we already do with Kingdom values; it's a lifestyle. This sermon series is designed to help us live justly in six key areas of life: advocacy, prayer, consumption, generosity, relationships and creation care. Join us to seek justice that permeates our everyday life choices - pushing us not just to seek justice but to live justly.

21 Apr	Biblical Justice: <i>A Theology of Justice</i>	Isaiah 61
28 Apr	Integral Mission: <i>Our Mission in the World</i>	Matthew 22:34-40; Matthew 28:16-20
5 May	Justice: <i>Combining Charity and Advocacy</i>	Exodus 3
12 May	Justice and Prayer: <i>Changing the World Through Prayer</i>	Nehemiah 5
19 May	Justice and Advocacy: <i>Using Your Voice to Campaign for Justice</i>	Esther 3:1-11, 4:13-14, 8:3-8
26 May	Justice and Consumption: <i>Possessions Are Not Power</i>	Jeremiah 22:13-17
2 Jun	Justice and Generosity: <i>Justice Will Cost You Something</i>	Isaiah 58:4-10
9 Jun	Justice and Relationships: <i>Authentic Relationships Are The Heart of Justice</i>	Mathew 25:31-46
16 Jun	Justice and Creation: <i>A Vision for All Creation to Flourish</i>	Genesis 1-2

## Epic: The Book of Romans

**Summer Season Theme:** Day to day discipleship issues

In this sermon series on the Book of Romans, we will take an epic journey through the most influential epistle in the Bible and learn about a good news that changed literally everything. We will examine the core foundations of Christianity, salvation by grace through faith in Christ, and a message that is still turning the world right side up.

23 Jun	Good News from God	Romans 1:1-17	
30 Jun	The Wrath of God	Romans 1:18-32	
7 Jul	The Judgment of God	Romans 2	The Gospel Reveals God's Righteousness
14 Jul	The Verdict	Romans 3:1-20	
21 Jul	The Righteousness from God	Romans 3:21-31	
28 Jul	The Example of Abraham	Romans 4	
4 Aug	Reasons to Rejoice	Romans 5	
11 Aug	New Life, New Lifestyle	Romans 6:1-7:6	The Gospel Creates a New Humanity
18 Aug	Our Struggle with Sin	Romans 7:7-25	
25 Aug	The Spirit Brings Life	Romans 8:1-17	
1 Sep	Glorious Conquerors	Romans 8:18-39	
8 Sep	The Potter and His Clay	Romans 9:1-29	The Gospel Fulfils God's Promise to Israel
15 Sep	Misguided Zeal	Romans 9:30-10:21	
22 Sep	The Future of Israel	Romans 11	
29 Sep	Living Sacrifices	Romans 12	The Gospel Unifies the Church
6 Oct	Submitting to Authorities	Romans 13	
13 Oct	To Eat or Not to Eat	Romans 14	
20 Oct	Unity, Hope and Praise	Romans 15:1-13	
27 Oct	Brothers and Sisters in Christ	Romans: 15:14-16:27	

# Seeing the Harvest Through God's Eyes

**Summer Season Theme:** Day to day discipleship issues

Our eyes are often preoccupied with the immediate desires of our lives: our future, finances, and friendships. We become blinded to a lost and hurting world around us. Yet when Jesus sees the crowds, he has compassion on them and reaches out. The harvest of people is plentiful. The problem is not that the harvest is not ready to hear. The problem is the labourers are few. Join us this missions month as we learn about God's compassion for all people, that our eyes will be opened and that God will send out from among us more labourers to work for the spread of the gospel among those who have never heard it.

3 Nov	The Pity of the Harvest	Matthew 9:36
10 Nov	The Potential of the Harvest	Matthew 9:37
17 Nov	The Problem of the Harvest	Matthew 9:37
24 Nov	The Prayer to the Lord of the Harvest	Matthew 9:38