

Some Things Stay the Same

But much will stay the same.

As followers of the Lord Jesus we will still be a minority presence in our society, worshipping a different God from the gods our neighbours worship (whatever their sexual orientation or relationship status).

And so how should we operate in this context?

First, we should operate confident that Jesus is still Lord. Because he is. No result, however emphatic can change the thrilling fact that God is bringing all things in heaven and on earth and under the earth together in the mighty name of the death-conquering Jesus. God's great work of reconciliation goes on. His purposes are unstoppable.

And so, we keep proclaiming the gospel of the crucified and risen Messiah. Yes, political decisions can affect our ability to proclaim the gospel openly, which is one reason not to ignore politics altogether. But the gospel alone is the power of God for salvation. And so, we keep proclaiming the good news to all across our land, praying that many more would come to a joyful, saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Second, we are still called to live a life of love. We show concern for the welfare of all people, especially but not exclusively those who belong to the household of faith. This will not be the last time we have the opportunity and responsibility to make our voice heard on matters of public justice and the good of society. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Gal 6:10).

Third, we will need to continue to be able to articulate and (more importantly) live out a Christian sexual morality in a context where it is highly contested. If we want to commend our understanding of marriage, we will need to present it in the most faithful, intelligent and attractive way possible. We will need to live it out in our communities in a way that points to its beauty and power. And, if we want to commend a Christian view of marriage, it will be a view that holds marriage to be good but not ultimate. We ought not be snookered into idolising marriage, for 'this world in its present form is passing away.' (1 Corinthians 7:31) Part of our witness will be in holding marriage lightly. One of the greatest challenges for our churches is to be places where singleness—whether chosen or unchosen—is a possible, plausible and cherished state of life.

As Russell Moore said in the wake of the Supreme Court decision in the United States on same-sex marriage, our churches need to be places that can receive the refugees of the sexual revolution. The same-sex marriage debate is part of a wider sexual revolution in our culture—a revolution with many hurting victims. We will not be those places of refuge if we compromise on God's word for human sexuality. We will not be those places if we ourselves are compromised sexually. And we won't help our neighbour if we are shouting at them; being self-righteous and judgemental will not make us like Jesus.

...continue inside page

giving: financial stewardship update

Last Week:	\$3,009.25
Weekly Required:	\$5,500.00
Shortfall:	\$0.00

electronic fund transfer

A/C Name:	SLE Church
Bank:	National Australia Bank
BSB:	084-424
A/C No:	396558544
Description:	Offering

03 December 2017

welcome to sle church

We are delighted to have you join us today! It is our prayer that you will enjoy all aspects of our gathering this morning.

about

The 'SL' in 'SLE' means St Lucia. The suburb our church is located in. The 'E' stands for English. We are a church family made of many migrant families from across South-East Asia, and we are English speaking. The 'E' also stands for Evangelical. We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services.

get connected

Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are new to SLE Church, have a prayer request, family news, or change of contact details please email: info@slechurch.org.au or call 3371 7589.

Connect with us online: slechurch.org.au
or 'like' us for further updates at
facebook.com/slechurch

service times

9:00am and 11:00am



I BELIEVE



Exploring the Apostle's Creed

current sermons

Last Week: I Believe in the Church [Revelation 7:9-17]

This Week: I Believe in Jesus' Return
[1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11]

Next Week: Our Comforting God [Psalm 46]

prayer points

A long list of prayer items have been prepared for this afternoon's prayer points. They will be uploaded to the church website this afternoon for you to access and pray through the week. They include prayer points for the following areas:

- Thanksgiving and prayer for the ongoing mission of SLE Church, that it will be in line with God's Mission, done in a way which aligns with God-given and situation-specific Values, and in light of the Vision that SLE Church is in the process of developing for 2018 and beyond
- Thanksgiving and prayer for the various ministries of the church
- Thanksgiving and prayer for one another's concerns and needs—spiritual, emotional, physical and relational
- Thanksgiving and prayer for our ministry partners in Australia and around the world.

serving grace

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Bryan	Ps Ben
Preach	Ps Steven	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Chi <i>Dan Lowe</i>	Simeon <i>Marilyn</i>
M.Tea	Tania Winnie Tao	Georgie Shelley
Wash Up	SOS Dan	SOS Dan
Welcome	Amy Ken Stephanie <i>Marilyn</i> <i>Joy</i> <i>Andrew</i>	Amy Ken Stephanie <i>Marilyn</i> <i>Joy</i> <i>Andrew</i>
Stewards	Jeffery Meng Yin Matthew <i>Daniel</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Stanley</i>	Jeffery Meng Yin Matthew <i>Daniel</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Stanley</i>
Piano		
Bass		
Drum		
Vocal	Sarah	Janael
PA		

Reflecting on the Postal Vote—continue from back page

Citizens of an Eternal City

The tides of our culture will continue to ebb and flow till Christ returns, and the political fortunes of the church will fluctuate from generation to generation; but the city of God remains, eternal and unchanging, not built by human hands. So, let us not lose heart – for we are citizens of that city.

community news

Church Wide Prayer Meeting for the Future

All are welcome to come for the prayer meeting 3 Dec from 1:15pm-2:15pm, SLE Hall.

Ignite Training Conference—Dust to Glory | 15 Jan-19 Jan, 2018 | 1 Cross Street, Toowong

Registration: Early bird—by 11:30pm, Thursday 30 November, 2017

For more information head to

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ignite-training-conference-2018-tickets-37867545849>

date claimers

1. Prayer Meeting for the Future—3 Dec
2. Christmas Program for Sunday School Years 1-6—19 Nov, 26 Nov, 3 Dec
3. Impact 2018—10 January, 2018
4. Ignite Training Conference—15-19 January, 2018

church contacts

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I Believe In Jesus' Return [1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11]

Introduction

1. The fate of those dead and alive in Christ

a. Jesus' resurrection and return means our resurrection (4:13-15)

b. Some of what happens when Jesus returns (4:16-17)

So: grieve with hope (4:13)

2. Prepared for His return

a. Contrasting awareness (5:1-4)

b. Day and Light vs Night and Darkness (5:5-7)

c. Equipped and ready for salvation (5:8-10)

So: keep awake and be sober (5:8)

Finally: Encourage and build each other up (4:18, 5:11)