

## **June 1, 2025 — online — Serving God in the HK community**

### Pre-service music

Called by Christ to be disciples — StF 660

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_5fI0N6umzc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5fI0N6umzc)

Jesus calls us — StF 250

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuIQuvsFD00>

Where can we find you? — StF 672

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOamiaW0b6E&t=3s>

Lord, you call us to your service — StF 664-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtsubiBA78s>

### **==ORDER OF SERVICE==**

Call to worship — WW19 — Christ is coming to make all things new

**GMT20250518-164605 from start to .35, 1.48 to 3.00**

Jesus calls us here to meet him — StF 28 — vs 1-3

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuIQuvsFD00>**

Prayer — WW20-21 — **GMT20250518-164605 from 3.16 to 11.06**

Reflection

Called by Christ to be disciples — StF 660

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_5fI0N6umzc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5fI0N6umzc)**

Luke 5:27-32 — **GMT20250518-164605 from 11.13-19.46**

Intro to interview with Patrick Lam

Patrick Lam interview — **GMT20250221-010559 — start at .11 to 20.07**

Reflection — **GMT20250518-164605 from 19.56-22.07**

Interview resumes — **GMT20250221-010559 from 23.30 to 24.45**

Reflection — **GMT20250518-164605 from 22.13-22.52**

Interview resumes — **GMT20250221-010559 from 25.15 to 34.18**

Where can we find you? — StF 672

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOamiaW0b6E&t=3s>**

Prayers **GMT20250518-164605 from 23.06-29.08**

Intercessions — WW22-24

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Sent by the Lord — StF 239

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_eJTRtPdSYM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eJTRtPdSYM)**

Let's join in a prayer from the WW liturgy (WW20-21): Goodness is stronger than evil...

Someone approached me recently after a morning service

In which I had been championing our Christian responsibility — and privilege —  
Of spreading love and blessing in the world.

The person who approached me saw things a bit differently:

All around him, he saw wars and threats of wars and immense suffering and hardship.

He was struggling to balance all the suffering and injustice in the world

With a tactic of love and generosity.

He felt that we'd tried all that — and it hadn't work —

So should we try something different now?

In a way his question was about using 'hard' power vs 'soft' power —

Wasn't it better just to go in and use our military force to get rid of the evil?

Why were we just talking about doing kind things for each other?

It is an argument very much in the public sphere these days —

If love isn't working, let's go back to hate.

It's a very tempting argument: but it's based on an assumption that hate is going to win.

And we've already been repeating the words:

Goodness is stronger than evil,

Love is stronger than hate.

Light is stronger than darkness.

Truth is stronger than lies.

Earlier that morning, I'd had a phone call from an irate member of the public

About some very noisy building work that was going on on Brewer Street ...

The property which Union Street had sold recently

And which was being renovated by a school for children with trauma...

But in his mind, the property still belonged to the church —

And the noise was disturbing his Sunday morning!

And he was going to call the police and alert the council...

And what was I going to do about it?

I could tell he was really angry!

So, I concurred with him that the noise shouldn't be happening

And then explained that the church had sold the property,

So it wasn't our responsibility anymore —

**But** I would do what I could to contact the new people in charge...

And I did, sending a quick email to the new owner and project manager...

And then I went off to lead worship at another church...

When I got back for lunch, there was another call from the same man —

At first, I was a little hesitant to answer it again —

But this time full of gratitude that the noise had stopped

And the construction workers left the site...

And the caller was grateful!

It doesn't always happen like that —

But when it does, we're reminded that a loving response

is the best way to diffuse tension

And in the process, the irate neighbour knew his complaint had been heard

And his need — for a quiet Sunday morning — had been met... Peace!

## **Luke 5:27-32**

After this he went out and saw a tax-collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth;  
and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up, left everything, and followed him.  
Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house;  
and there was a large crowd of tax-collectors and others sitting at the table with them.  
The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples,  
saying, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax-collectors and sinners?'  
Jesus answered, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick;  
I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.'

This is a text we've often heard — though in the other gospels,  
the person Jesus calls is named Matthew —  
Still, it's a tax collector — a hated person —  
Interesting that it's a tax collector named Levi,  
Because Levi was a good Jewish name for someone who was a priest —  
And a very obedient servant of Yahweh...  
Someone who knew about following the rules...  
And yet, here we have a tax collector (better known for bending the rules  
So that they could line their own pockets with proceeds from the taxes) —  
Who has decided to throw in his lucrative business  
And try something different —  
The short story — just two sentences! — says he packed up the tax booth and left...  
And followed the poor wandering preacher named Jesus.  
Perhaps because he'd seen something in Jesus—  
Or Jesus had seen something in him  
Something different than what everybody else saw —  
Jesus saw a potential worker for God's kingdom —  
And he invited him to follow —  
And God's prevenient grace had gone ahead —  
Preparing Levi for that invitation  
So that when it came, he was ready to go...

I wonder if you're ready to go when Jesus calls...

When I was in Hong Kong a few months ago, I met up with a man named Patrick.  
I was introduced to him by a friend who was the minister at a Methodist church  
Near the guest house where I was staying.  
I had met the minister, Christine, before when she came to the UK for Annual Conference  
A few years ago.  
She showed me around her church — which was on a busy road in the NE section of HK—  
Near a large hospital and a business area and a busy outdoor shopping market.  
From the outside, the church was somewhat non-descript:  
a beige brick building from the 1960s...  
Stepping inside, one was immediately in the social hall,  
Where there was a community gathering going on that day.  
I was duly supplied with tea and cake and conversation...

Then Christine took me up in the lift to the floors above —  
Where there was a nursery and a fellowship hall  
Which was full of a Filipino congregation that day —

And past lots of offices for various social outreach projects  
With older persons and youth and children...  
When we finally got to the church itself —  
She explained that it had undergone a fire a few years before,  
And they were just getting back to being able to worship in the building —  
Fortunately, the fire had mostly been confined to the church part —  
And so the other activities had managed to keep going on in the building.  
I asked her about the congregation —  
where they thriving, as we so often hear of HK congregations?  
No, she confided — they were holding on, but things were often difficult...

But she thought I should talk to Patrick,  
Because he was doing some work on behalf of the church  
Which was really making a difference...  
Something which she longed for her congregation to join in with...

And so I met Patrick... and we had a conversation in a nearby restaurant —  
And I decided that you should get to meet him as well,  
So we organised a zoom conversation,  
And I'd like to share part of that with you now.

I was thinking first of sharing this with you last month,  
When it was Vocations Sunday —  
But then I heard that Naomi was going to share with you  
The work of Kent Workplace Mission —  
So I thought I'd save it for now...  
I want you to hear from Patrick what it's like to be doing a different kind of work  
That is very much his 'vocation' — his calling —  
Work that coincides very well with the gifts and skills God has given him —  
But which is not the work of a typical church 'minister'.

So, listen with me to hear about Patrick Lam's work  
With the Yang Memorial Methodist Church Social Services programme.