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## **The New Church Newsletter**

### **Hurstville Society April 2026**

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#### **The Lord's Suffering on the Cross**

*“He has borne our diseases and carried our sorrows.... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His wound we are healed.... Jehovah has laid on Him the iniquities of us all.” (Isaiah 53:4-6)*

Introduction and Selected Excerpts by Rev HyunJin Yang

As we look ahead to Easter this year, we are invited to reflect on what it means that the Lord bore our sins in the light of the teachings of the New Church found in *Doctrine of the Lord*. Reflecting on this is crucial, because it is one of the themes deeply rooted in Easter, yet also one that has often been misunderstood. The following are excerpts from the treatments of this subject in *The Doctrine of the Lord*.

### ***Doctrine of the Lord 14.1, 12***

The Lord came into the world to reduce to order everything in heaven and so on earth, and He accomplished this by combats against the hells. The hells at that time were infesting every person coming into the world and departing from the world. By combats against them the Lord became the embodiment of righteousness and saved humankind, without which people could not have been saved. This is foretold in many passages in the Prophets [as in Isaiah 63:1-9, 59:16-17, 20, Jeremiah 46:5, 10, Jeremiah 49:26, Joel 2:11, Zephaniah 1:8-9, 15-16, and et all]. ...

It can now be seen from this that the Lord came into the world to conquer the hells and glorify His humanity, and that the suffering of the cross was the final battle by which He fully overcame the hells and fully glorified His humanity.

### ***Doctrine of the Lord 15***

By His Suffering of the Cross the Lord Did Not Take Away Sins, but Bore Them.

Some people in the church believe that by His suffering of the cross the Lord took away sins and made satisfaction to the Father, and so redeemed humankind.

Some believe, too, that He transferred to Himself the sins of people who have faith in Him, bore them, and cast them into the depths of the sea, that is, into hell.

They confirm these beliefs of theirs by John's saying in regard to Jesus, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" (John 1:29) Also by this declaration in Isaiah:

...He has borne our diseases and carried our sorrows.... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His wound we are healed.... Jehovah has laid on Him the iniquities of us all. (Isaiah 53)

To bear iniquities [however] means nothing else than to endure severe temptations or trials, and to allow the Jews to treat Him as they treated the Word. He allowed them to treat Him in the same way because He embodied the Word. For the church which existed at that time among the Jews was completely destroyed, having been destroyed by their perverting everything in the Word, to the point that there was no truth left. Consequently, neither did they acknowledge the Lord. This is what is meant and symbolized by everything having to do with the Lord's suffering.

The prophets were treated similarly, because they represented the Lord in relation to the Word and so to the church, and the Lord was the prophet.

## ***Doctrine of the Lord 18.1-2***

An Imputation of the Lord's Merit Is Nothing Else Than the Forgiveness of Sins Following Repentance.

People in the church believe that the Lord was sent by the Father to make atonement for the human race, that He did this by fulfilling the Law and suffering the cross, that by so doing He took away damnation and made satisfaction, that without that atonement, satisfaction and propitiation the human race would have perished in eternal death, and that this accords with justice, which some people also call a retributive one.

It is true that without the Lord's advent into the world, people would have all perished. But how we are to understand the Lord's fulfilling all of the Law, this may be seen in its own section above. And why He suffered the cross, also in its own section above. From those sections it can be seen that it was not owing to any retributive justice, inasmuch as retributive justice is not a Divine attribute.

Divine attributes are justice, love, mercy, and goodness. And God is justice itself, love itself, mercy itself, and goodness itself. Where these attributes exist, there is no retribution, thus no retributive justice.

[2] However, ... an imputation of merit is a word without meaning, unless one interprets it to mean a forgiveness of sins following repentance. For no attribute of the Lord can be imputed to a person.

Salvation by the Lord, on the other hand, can be ascribed to a person after he repents, that is, after he has seen and acknowledged his sins and then desisted from them, doing so in obedience to the Lord.

Salvation is then ascribed to the person in the measure that he is saved, not by his own merit, or in consequence of his own righteousness, but owing to the Lord who alone fought and overcame the hells, and who alone also afterward fights for a person and overcomes the hells for him.

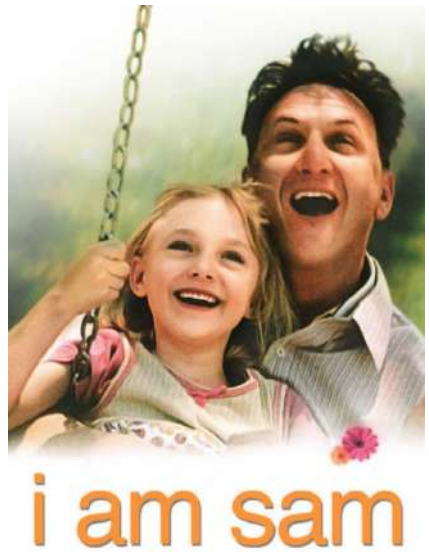
## What's Happened?

### Movie Night (March 13)

Thirteen of us gathered at Richard Morse Room to watch the movie of the night—*I Am Sam*. What a great movie. There lies a jewel of truth: life is about fighting for the ones we love.

Sam's innocence of heart—his candor, his inability to deceive others, and his pure love for his daughter Lucy—teaches us that.

Another point to notice is that Sam, by himself, was not able to bring the fight to an end. But he did. How? First, it wasn't a high IQ; It wasn't the most decent trick; It wasn't using a power of external force to make it happen. But in the end, people who were moved by him and by his fight gathered around him as a support team, and together they won.



Through Sam, as well as Lucy, we saw what we may have forgotten and even lost—the heart of innocence, love, and a spirit of fight for what is lost. And one last lesson is: when we try, when we fight for something good or true, help comes along. And we may see in that the hand of the Lord helping us. The movie of the night was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by many of us.

### **How Our Gathering Went?**

The movie night being held at 6:00 p.m., we called out for BYO. Some brought their own food, but also, we had not only some refreshments but also some home-made food. YoungHee kindly made Kimchi-fried rice enough for 6-7 people; Lori brought her popcorn machine and made about eight to ten cups of popcorn on site for people. We had some extra pasta on the table to go, as well as fruits, snacks, cakes, and a couple of selections of beverages. We were well fed, not only in our thoughts and hearts! We look forward to meeting for another good movie, sometime.



## ***A Review of Pause: Make Space for God***

Did it feel like a short journey of exploring our faith, the goal of our lives, and ourselves? The reason I chose the program this year was it asked basic but foundational questions that we all should engage and answer at one point in life as Christian and with New Church faith. In general, the program went well, and the Sunday service messages were well heard.

Those who joined Monday evening small group meetings certainly went the extra mile for seven weeks. Daily readings and weekly small group meetings have provided us with a different feel to our normal week. As someone said following the program, these allowed us to think of the Lord in our life more often. Also, I imagine that working through the workbook over seven weeks helped us “own it for ourselves.”

As a follow-up to the program, I asked our small group participants for their thoughts on how it went. Lori Heldon offers one as follows:

I appreciate these weekly programs, especially at the beginning of the year, to help me focus on my spiritual journey- to reset my thoughts, maybe my habits and goals.

Thank you for your caring leadership.

Thanks for sharing the thoughts!



## **Small Group Online Participation**

On a slightly different note, one difference from last year was that several people joined our evening meetings on Zoom. To clarify, I hadn't advertised this as an option, but a few people reached out for a link, and I was glad to have them on board online, especially as they were not local—some from Perth and some from the Central Coast. And it not only went well, (except for a couple of tech setbacks), but also it allowed for something more!

I would be happy to do the same next time, please note that online participation is not encouraged for those who are local. Small group meetings are most meaningful when people are present with one another.

### **HyunJin**

#### **Pastor's Visit to Perth (March 20<sup>th</sup>—22<sup>nd</sup>)**

Pastor was away for a three-day, two-night visit to Perth. This was one of two visits to Perth scheduled this year. First off, he was invited to meet with the Perth New Church group at David Walker's house on Friday afternoon, the 20th. The gathering was informal with a Q&A hour for HyunJin, with a shared meal having followed.

On Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup>, HyunJin met with the Hester's family for breakfast at a café, in Guildford area, which was a lovely place for a meet-up, a walk, and so on. He then joined lunch with the Perth New Church Group at Dôme and offered a class in a separate conference room. The rest of the day ended with dinner with Verity and Michale's family at Mary's place.

On Sunday, the last day of the visit, he led Sunday service and a Holy Supper for Perth New Church at Earthwise Community Association building. One of the highlights was that it was the first formal service—and Holy Supper—that a lady had attended in seventy years.

HyunJin shares his thoughts following the visit:

It was very fulfilling and busy few days on the other side of Australia. It was especially meaningful to catch up with people there and reconnect with others after some time. And I look forward to the next visit!

Below are a few snapshots of the visit, the people, and the service.





## **Joined Service at Roseville New Church (March 22)**

Pastor's absence at Hurstville on the 22<sup>nd</sup> left the Society with two options—A lay led service at Hurstville or joining Roseville New Church's service led by Rev. Julian Duckworth. And we decided to do the latter.

## **What's Coming Up?**

### **Good Friday Reading Service (April 3)**



On Good Friday, we will see our traditional Good Friday Reading service taking place at 7:00 p.m., which will also incorporate a Holy Supper in the beginning of the service. You can expect a quiet vespers service, with readings from the Gospels about the last few days of Jesus' life leading up to His crucifixion. We will sing songs together between readings. After the service, we will gather at Richard Morse Room for a social time and refreshments including traditional hot cross buns.

## **Easter Family Service + Easter Egg Hunt (April 5)**

The Easter service is one of the few Sundays when the whole congregation gathers, with several families traveling from different areas. As the service will be held as a family service, which mostly means that we have children attending, HyunJin is thinking of how to communicate one message for people across different ages.

It is not always easy to find the right balance as Easter has such a deep theological and spiritual significance for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Keeping this difficulty in mind may help us as we come to the service.

That said, it is most hoped that our service will be served as an opportunity for all to gather, to think of the meaning of Easter, and bring joy together in the hearts as we celebrate Easter.

After the service, we will have our traditional Easter Egg Hunt go for the children. Hope to see you all. 😊



## Doctrinal Class (April 9, 11:00 a.m.)



After several months' break, our monthly doctrinal class will be back on track. Usually, we don't know what the class is going to be about, but this time we surely know. HyunJin will be presenting a class on the topic of *the*

*Prodigal Son, the Remnants, and Youth*. We've briefly looked at *the Prodigal Son's* story for a recent Sunday service, but we didn't cover how the idea of "the remnants" as taught in the New Church is captured in the story.

More practically speaking, we will be looking at how the story describes the rebellion of youth and what we might expect from youth in terms of their tendencies and susceptibility to worldly concerns.



(One of the images taken from the class material)

## Society News

### 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Margaret Ward

On 7<sup>th</sup> March, Cliff and I [HyunJin] visited Margaret at Carino Care at Oatley as the day marked something big for her—her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! (Some others visited her on a different date)

The three of us sat in a hallway outside the care building and chatted for an hour.

Once back in the building, I took a photo of her holding a vase of flowers that YoungHee had picked from the church garden for her.



It turned out that it would have been the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Cliff's father as well, if he were alive to this day.

Cliff and I enjoyed our visit as much as Margaret enjoyed our visit and companionship. For many reasons, the visit was a privilege to be there. 😊 (Margaret happily agreed with sharing her photo in the Newsletter)

### Hurstville New Church Website Refresh

The current Hurstville New Church Website ([www.hurstvillenewchurch.com](http://www.hurstvillenewchurch.com)) has been in place for 13 or 14 years. This Website has several issues:

1. Much of the material is in need of a refresh.
2. It was developed using an old technology that we do not have access to, so we cannot maintain the Website
3. The Website does not work effectively on mobile phones

The Business Committee put a proposal to the Society general meeting to update the Website using the General Church Societies standard template. This template is used by 6 other Societies and gives a more uniformed view (see <https://glenviewnewchurch.org/>). The standard template is built on Wordpress, which is a common tool that is used by millions of Websites including the new [www.oursharedspirituality.org](http://www.oursharedspirituality.org) Website being developed by the Basil Lazer Trust. Wordpress is a tool that makes it easy to support a variety of browsers and form factors.

The recent general meeting approved a special budget allowance to complete this work. Work has now commenced to create the base Website, and training on how to customise and maintain the Website will be scheduled in the near future.

**Murray Heldon - Secretary/Treasurer**

**Editor's note:** It is notable that the Newsletter format and design went back to how it was. This is because YoungHee, the designer, was recently unwell and could not do the work.

## Birthdays!

Happy birthday to: Donna Heldon (5th), Dylan Johnson (7th), Riley Evans (11th), Aneira Robson, (14th) Huiling Sun, (20th), Kerry Horner (22nd), David Horner, (25th), Lucy Evans (27th), April Hams (28th)

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