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| golden-lampstand-clipart-12.jpg | 双手奉 诚心献 郑璧卿牧师字 2023年11月5日 |

感谢主，让我们从指导牧师唐崇怀牧师领受了又一次上好的福分。唐牧师也坦诚地给我们一个忠告：主日奉献需要更加恭敬。

新冠前我们委派司捐用奉献袋收取奉献。每个人将所要献的恭恭敬敬放入奉献袋里，司捐也穿着整齐、用双手拿奉献袋，恭恭敬敬地把奉献袋「奉」到台前，全会众在领会的带领下，藉着祷告恭恭敬敬地把所奉的献上给神。

新冠疫期间，我们改用网上转账的方式，让弟兄姐妹把奉献金奉到神的家中。那时，我们给大家做了双手「奉」、诚心「献」的教导，提醒大家在转账时要以恭敬的心态进行**。(参阅CF 21/6/2020)**

感谢主，新冠疫过去后这两年，弟兄姐妹都欢喜快乐地回到教会做礼拜；但我们却忽略了对奉献程序的调整。

执委会研讨后，决定从十一月开始，把奉献箱安置在敬拜台前；礼拜奉献的时候，让各人按次序上前来，欢欢喜喜把预备好的奉献金奉到奉献箱里。虽然这样会延长礼拜时间，但却使敬拜次序井然，而且奉献的恭敬和喜乐也能起着彼此激发和鼓励的作用。但更重要的是，这样做可以恢复奉献在礼拜中当有的重要性，使我们的敬拜更符合圣经：

「你一切的男丁要在除酵节、七七节、住棚节，一年三次，在耶和华你神所选择的地方朝见他，却不可空手朝见，各人要按自己的力量，照耶和华你神所赐的福分，奉献礼物**。」（申16:16-17）**

人不可空手朝见神。十一奉献是圣徒当纳的粮，当然可以在做礼拜的时候奉上，但十一奉献不能取代朝见神当献上的礼物。

由于金融系统正趋向无现金、无支票运作，弟兄姐妹仍然可以通过网上转账把奉献金奉上。但当奉献数额不大时，我鼓励你在周六预备供物，主日与众圣徒一同走到台前，必能尝到亲手奉上的真善美！

***Give with your hands and dedicate with your heart***

*Wrtten by Rev. Zheng 21 June 2020 Translated by Wu Weijie*

We thank the Lord for the blessing of having our Pastor Mentor Reverend Joseph Tong with us last week. Out of his care for us, Rev. Tong has exhorted us to treat offering with more reverence.

Before Covid-19, our offertory gifts were collected by offering stewards. These stewards would dress their best, and during the service, pass around the offering bags. Each person would place their offertory gifts into the bags with sobriety. Afterwards, the stewards would step to the front of the sanctuary, holding the bags with both hands, and present the gifts on the pulpit table. Then, the worship leaders would lead the congregations in dedicating the offertory gifts to God through prayer.

This changed during the pandemic. We switched to online offering so that brothers and sisters can still present their offertory gifts to the house of God. At that time, we taught that offering consists of both giving with your hands and dedicating with your heart. And when we offer online, we must do so with a proper attitude.

In the past 2 years after the pandemic, brothers and sisters have returned to church to worship together. For this, we give thanks. Yet, we have not reviewed the way we present our offering.

After deliberating on this, the Exco has decided that from this month (November 2023), the offering box will be placed in front of the sanctuary, on the pulpit table. Brothers and sisters can step forward to place their gifts into the box with joy. This means that our worship service will take longer. It also means that our offering will be more orderly, our participation will encourage and spur others to do likewise. And, most important, our offering will have its rightful place in worship, and be more aligned to the Bible:

***16****Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed:****17****Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.* Deut 16:16-17 (NIV)

No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed. Tithing is the basic responsibility of a saint. It does not excuse you from bringing an offertory gift when you come to meet with God.

The financial world is moving towards a cashless system. So you can still give your offering online. But if you are not offering a large amount, we encourage you to prepare your gift on Saturday. Then on the Lord’s Day, you can experience the joy of walking up with your fellow saints, holding your gift in your hand, and placing it personally before the Lord as an offering to Him.