

Sermon Title: **“Plan B or Plan C?”**

Bible: **Ecclesiastes 3:1-13**

Where & When: at Gilroy UMC on Sunday, June 21, 2020

Audience: about 25 YouTube Live-streaming viewers

Opening Prayer

Our Lord, source of wisdom and courage, in this uncertain time, we need your wisdom and courage. As you are with us, we want to be with each other, and be with this community. Please give us your wisdom and courage to be your church even in this time. Please be with my lips in your love and grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

1. 15th YouTube Worship...

Today is the 15th YouTube Worship. Our first YouTube Worship was on March 15. I used my computer webcam and paper slides. It has been more than 3 months. First of all, I really want to express gratitude for all of your presences and patience for our YouTube Worship, because the building is not the church, because people are the church. Yes, you are the church! We are still the church.

In this time, I believe that we realize how fragile we are in front of an invisible virus. We are suffering together as a body of Jesus Christ. We are also learning how much we miss each other, and how much we care for each other. It has been about 100 days, but we are still suffering and fighting against the virus. However, there is always something that we can do with God's wisdom and courage.

2. Cancellation of 2020 Gilroy UMC Vacation Bible School

With courage, I announced that our church decided to cancel the 2020 Gilroy UMC Vacation Bible School plans. Last year, our Vision Team decided to plan a 2020 Vacation Bible School, because we care about our future, the children of our community in God's love and grace. In

order to warm up, on Halloween, 2019, we held a church Trunk and Treat Party. It was fun, and such a blessing. We were so grateful to see so many children, who came to our church parking lot. Furthermore, we set up a budget for Vacation Bible School. And we had started to discuss and prepare the detailed plan for the VBS. However, it is time to cancel our Vacation Bible School. This is not easy, and so sad. But, I read one sentence in the book called, *Into the Magic Shop*: “What you think you want isn’t always what is best for you.”

3. YouTube Prayer Project For Children

Then, what is best for us at this time? What can we do? What is Plan B or Plan C?

One of our church strengths is Prayer. We have so many stories about prayer. At the time of Joys and Concerns every Sunday, we remember each other, and pray for each other. Then, we can pray for the children, and share our prayer with our grandchildren or great grandchildren, friends, and our community. This YouTube video is one example:

<https://youtu.be/AIOu6lfi9H8> With our own voices, our own photos, we can make our own prayer video. I am already excited about making this prayer video with our church members. If you want to join this Prayer Video Project, please contact me. No worries about any technology issues. Prayer is more powerful than any technology. Your voice and your own prayer is more important than anything. So, God will help us to make a way to share our prayers. Anyone want to join this project?

4. Zoom Movie Nights

Even if there are some challenges, I plan to have two Zoom Movie nights this summer. They will not be in the church building, but via Zoom. Just like how you join this YouTube

live-streaming worship, we can watch the movie together from where you are. The first movie is “Amazing Grace.” This is a behind-the-scenes story of the most popular hymn ever, Amazing Grace. John Newton wrote this song in 1779. Can you imagine what it must have been like in 1779, more than 200 years ago? After watching this movie, I hope for us to share our own stories of hymns and songs. I believe that you have your own stories about hymns and praises. The second movie I plan is “Inside Out.” This movie is great to watch together with your grandchildren at home. I am thinking about releasing our Prayer Video on this movie night, maybe, before the movie or during a break. When I set up the dates, I will announce these movie nights in detail. So, please stay tuned.

5. What is your Plan B?

On the first Sunday of this year, I shared the difference between our plan and our reality. I knew that there would be some difficulties. But no one could have imagined this pandemic crisis. We are so fragile and so weak. Sometimes, we cannot find out what God’s plan is. However, God is still with us. God gives us God’s wisdom and courage. God is still making a way for us to live our lives. Then, we can try Plan B. If Plan B is not working, we can try Plan C. What is your Plan B at this time?

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, in this time, you are with us. You still make a way according to your time. Please give us your wisdom and courage to follow you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Questions.

1. What did you plan for this summer or this year? What is your Plan B?
2. What prayers do you have for your children or grandchildren?
3. Do you have your own behind-the-scenes stories of hymns or songs?