

**Theme: The Lord your God**

*Exodus 20:1–6: And God spoke all these words: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

For the Israelites, “the Lord your God” has three meanings. First, the Lord is the God of Israel's fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the God who has been working throughout history and has been observing and giving love to them for generations. Therefore, whether in the wilderness or in the land of Canaan, they must believe that God will be with them and provide them with ample grace. Secondly, the Lord is the God of the Israelite people. He chose them as His people, told them to follow His law, and through their testimony show all nations around the world his righteousness and love. Lastly, the Lord is a personal God to each Israelite. He values each individual's needs and does not neglect each person's sin. Therefore, God wants every Israelite to treat others according to His commandments, to be fair and kind, especially to the poor and vulnerable.

As we face our Church's 50th anniversary, for us, “the Lord your God” also has three meanings. First, the Lord is a God who has continuously worked from the past, present, and future. Counting the work of God in our church over the past fifty years, I believe that God will continue to provide abundant grace in the days to come using us as a beacon of light in the Greater Boston area to lead people to the Lord. Secondly, the Lord is the God of our entire church community: Chinese, English, Youth, Children, and COM. Through pluralism and difference, we still care for each other which is the best testimony of God's love. Lastly, the Lord is a personal God to each of us. By placing each of us in Boston and at this church, it must be his will for us to fulfill the mission He has entrusted.

**Reflection**

- How can we see God's unending and grace filled work in the church so that we can participate in ministry with joy and hope?

- Do we see the mission God has entrusted to us in the church, so that we are willing to offer ourselves and participate in ministry?

**Renew**

- Pray that the Lord will help us to know that He is a God who continues to work from the past, the present, and future, so that we can trust Him with gratitude.
- Pray that the Lord will help us to know that He is a holy, righteous, loving, faithful God, that we are willing to serve Him with awe.

**Prayer Requests**

- Be grateful for the various gatherings of the church's 50th anniversary, may God use these events to inspire brothers and sisters to commit themselves to serve and preach the gospel.
- Pray for the church's next 50 years and ask God to continue to show in our church that He is the Lord and to use us to carry out His good will.