

回應亞洲文化傳統月 Reflections on Asian Heritage Month

祖先是我們確定身份的根源，他們為後人帶來的是嶄新的與古舊的傳統，是掙扎與成功的經歷，是道德的價值，社會的，個別的生活理想。華人常說：「飲水思源。」我們離鄉別井移居加國生活的人，總是那麼著意個別的來處，盼望尋找各自的根。

加拿大聯邦政府早已宣告五月份為亞洲文化傳統月，我誠懇鼓勵您們趁著這時節探討早已存在我們中間的多樣性文化。雖然這是為了喚醒大家對多元族裔環境的關注，但也促使我們面對文化互動的社區需要作出改革性的交流，敞開胸懷，努力以赴。

當我們齊集基督的桌前，分享在上帝裡的團契，這不只是每月或每週的例行公事，而對我們日常的群體生活卻沒有產生任何影響。因為我們記念的不只是基督的犧牲，祂那復和與更新必須繼續在我們個人以致教會的生活中見證出來。合一的禮物是藉著基督的聖桌因祂的身體和寶血而賜給我們的，然而，上帝的真正臨在之盼望，卻是因祂子民齊集為慶祝基督的復活而得以確定。

所以弟兄姊妹們，我以上帝的慈悲勸你們，將身體獻上，當作活祭，是聖潔的，是上帝所喜悅的；你們如此事奉乃是理所當然的。不要效法這個世界，只要心意更新而變化，叫你們察驗何為上帝的善良、純全、可喜悅的旨意。（羅馬書 12:1-2）

作為加拿大聯合(協和)教會的華人牧師，亞洲文化傳統月的倡議與設立確使我同時感到滿心歡喜，卻又夾雜著幾許憂傷。這使我想起亞洲婦女經歷大家族中所受的暴虐、女性的價值受到輕視、許多婦女及少女被迫為妓、華籍工人在加拿大鐵路所流的血與汗、慰安婦的痛苦，以及加籍日本人在第二次世界大戰受迫遷離家園等等。在我感到雙手仍然受到捆綁，聲音常被拒諸門外之時，叫我如何能夠慶祝亞洲文化傳統月？

就讓我們盡性、盡意、盡心、盡力在亞洲文化月中展示一個敞開的歷程，因此那已經呈現在我們生活的多元色彩得以提升與慶祝。讓五月成為一項持續的活動，紀念艱苦創業的先賢，慶祝人們享有的自由。讓五月成為探討美麗的時機，並期待對互動文化作更進一步的瞭解。

—林樹生牧師 多倫多中華聯合教會

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Our roots shape the foundation of our identities. They bring us traditions, old and new; histories of struggle and triumph; and values, societal and individual. A Chinese teaching says, "When drinking water, think of its source." Living as uprooted peoples in Canada, it is critical to our personal formation to remember our roots.

May has been declared Asian Heritage Month. I urge you to take this occasion to explore the diversity that is already in our midst. Although this is a reminder of our multicultural setting, we need to open the circle wide and progress toward intercultural communities of transformative exchange.

When we gather at Christ's table to share in communion with God, it is not a monthly or weekly occurrence without any effect on how we live as a community. We remember not only the sacrifice of Christ, but the restoration and renewal that must continue in our lives as individuals and as a church. The gift of unity at Christ's table is offered through the body and blood of Christ, but the real presence of God is in the gathering of God's people celebrating the hope established through Christ's resurrection.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12: 1–2, NRSV)

As a Chinese Canadian who is a minister in the United Church, Asian Heritage Month fills me with both pride and sadness. I remember Asian women experiencing violence in patriarchal societies, the unvalued girl-child, women and girls trafficking in the sex trade, the Canadian railroads laid with the blood and sweat of Chinese migrant workers, the suffering of comfort women, and Japanese-Canadian families taken from their homes during the Second World War. How can I celebrate Asian heritage when I feel our hands are bound and our voices ignored?

Let Asian Heritage Month *begin* a journey of openness—in our senses, heart and soul, spirit and body—so that the colours already present in our lives are lifted and celebrated. Let this month *begin* a continual remembrance of our troubled roots and a celebration of the liberties we enjoy. Let May *begin* the exploration of the beauty awaiting our discovery.

—The Rev. Karl Lam, Toronto Chinese United Church