# A Prayer in Cantonese for Asian Heritage Month

Wing Yi Wong shares a prayer in Cantonese for Asian Heritage Month. An English version follows below.

賜下生命氣息的主，感謝祢讓我們來到祢的跟前，獻上感恩讚美。

感謝祢創造世界、不同的生物、民族，讓我們可以透過不同的地域、文化、語言經歷祢。在這個記念亞洲文化遺產的月份，我們特別為亞裔源遠流長及多元的文化獻上感恩。因為祢藉不同的傳統、文化，都豐富了我們的信仰與對祢的認識。

主宰歷史的主，感謝祢從無間斷地參與在歷史之中。當我們回顧加拿大亞裔的歷史，我們想起昔日大量華人為興建加拿大太平洋鐵路，作出的貢獻與犧牲，還有許多東南亞難民在七、八十年代的經歷，以及自2019年疫情爆發以來，經常出現針對與歧視亞裔的事件 ……雖然這段歷史充滿著許多困難與不公義，但我們在傷痛之中，仍認定祢是掌管歷史的神。我們也相信無論身處何方，祢也與我們同在。祢是我們面對困境時的避難所、是我們無能為力時的力量。我們也在這個國家見證祢的恩典。祢在這個地方祝福了亞裔族群，也藉亞裔的故事祝福了這個國家。

在這個充滿破碎及分裂的世界中，我們有時只顧自己、忘記了祢「愛人如己」的教導，也忽視了許多亞裔肢體和其他少數族群面對的困境，甚至我們自己也成為加害者。求祢因著耶穌基督的緣故，饒恕我們的罪。

賜下復和的主，求祢和平的靈充滿我們，教我們記念受欺壓的鄰舍、助我們追求公義、愛護祢一切的創造，並使用教會散佈和平，正如祢使我們與祢復和一樣*。（可在此加入不同亞裔處境，或為亞裔會友祈禱。）*

全能永在的神，我們頌揚祢奇妙的愛，並向祢獻上禱告與讚美。

奉耶穌基督之名而求，阿門。

## English Version

God of life, thank you for breathing life into us so that we can come to praise you with a grateful heart. We thank you for creating this world and all the diverse creatures and peoples. You allow us to experience your presence across lands, cultures, and languages. As we enter Asian Heritage Month, we especially give thanks for the richness and diversity in Asian cultures, which have enriched our faith and understanding of you.

God of history, we thank you for continually working in our history. As we reflect on the history of Asian Canadians, we honor the contributions and sacrifices of many Chinese laborers who built the Canadian Pacific Railway, and we remember the struggles of many Southeast Asian refugees in the 70s and 80s, as well as all the rising anti-Asian hate crimes since the outbreak of COVID-19. Although this history is filled with many difficulties and injustices, we still proclaim that you are the God who directs history. And we believe that you are present with us wherever we are. You are our refuge in times of trouble and our strength when we are rendered powerless. We witness your grace as you continue to bless the Asian communities in this country and use the stories of these communities to bless this land.

Living in this broken and divided world, we often forget to love our neighbors and overlook the struggles that many Asian siblings and other minoritized communities experience. Sometimes, we even become the ones who bring hurt to these communities. For the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive us.

God of reconciliation, fill us with your Spirit of peace. As we have been reconciled with you, help us to remember and care for our neighbors, seek justice, share peace with one another, and honor your creations. *(Here you may add specific prayers for the Asian communities or the Asian congregants in your church.)*

Rejoicing in your amazing love, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

*— Wing Yi Wong, a Ph.D. Candidate in Homiletics at Emmanuel College, University of Toronto. She is the first generation in her family to pursue higher education and one of the first female homileticians in Hong Kong. Committed to theological education and social justice, Wing Yi has 10+ years of intercultural preaching, teaching, and ministry experience in Hong Kong and Canada.*