

July 7, 2013: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Independence Sunday

“Called Out”: True Meaning of the Church Part 1. E Pluribus Unum – “Out of Many One”

Good morning! Peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! My name is DaeHwa Park, d.a.e. h.w.a, DaeHwa, meaning, “to shine great light!” You can call me, Pastor DaeHwa or simple, DaeHwa!

I am excited about being a part of your life – I would describe it as a journey – a long journey from afar. I will be 46 in September, and hope to be 130 lbs and 6 foot tall.

She is a lovely woman, angry mother, and little dangerous (or unsafe) driver. An instrumental music teacher **YoungHoon**, my wife used to say that I have a hearing problem. She is four years younger than I am and doesn't look that old.

I have three sons, Gideon, 15, Jeremy, 13, Theodore, 5. They say that I am not an athletic and I don't play computer game well. They think that I am so old and so slow.

I wish I would come here with them. At this hour they are on their way to their new church, Millceek Towne United Methodist Church, Derwood, MD. I want you to pray for them and for the Church. Their pastor, Rev. Rick Andrews suddenly passed away with heart attack on Wednesday - a day before the 4th of July. ||

Well, who are you? I would like to meet you one-on-one.

In fact, I haven't seen many of you. Over the last couple of weeks, I have encountered you through a couple of documents, which revealed to me what you have done here at **Savage/ Lanham** to the glory of God! Pastor [Douglas/

Alfonzo] never ceased praising each one of you, how much you love Jesus and his work. ||

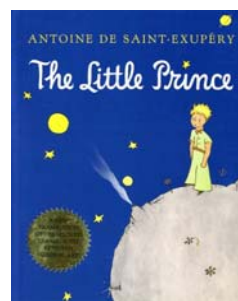
[Several friends I met over the last couple of days blessed me one way or the other. Thank you for your word of welcome. I feel blessed and home, by your love and your passion for the work of the Lord.]

If I saw you on the street or in a shopping mall over the weekend, I wouldn't recognize you. Facing to you here from the pulpit, **now I see you, as a group of worshipers.**

This morning, I have **hope** that I can make a **good relationship with you that lasts**. Making a particular relationship today is not easy. |

It takes time. For example, making family relationship or friendship takes a long time, for dating or arrangement, for engagement or marriage, and through child-bearing, adoption, and rebuilding a family tie through separation and divorce, etc. |

The particular relationship I would like to make is **a spiritual relationship** as brothers and sisters in Christ.



One of my favorite books, entitled, *Little Prince*, talks about “what it means to make a special relationship in a dialogue between the Little Prince and a fox.

According to the fox in the episode, making relationship is to be tamed by one another. **Being tamed or being persuaded** is not easy one. It makes a relationship.

More willing to be persuaded and tamed by the other party, one can make a deeper relationship with the other. ||

Now, I would like to ask you a question.

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“Would you be willing to make a relationship with me?” [Yes.] – [So do I, so do I]. |

I am from Korea, like a smart phone, made in Korea and I am an English as a Second Language. I believe in God. Jesus Christ is my personal Savior. I love to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. I would love to be tamed by each one of you. |

Would you be willing to be tamed by me in a pastoral setting?

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! ||

Now, you and I made good relationship in Christ.

The first message that I would like to share with you after making a relationship is about our gathering – the Church in its true meaning! You and I are gathered here together.

The fact that we have such a wonderful meeting is a miracle. You and I may have chance to do something else this morning. I give thanks to God for me to be with you, **especially, I am amazed by the opportunity to lift up freedom and liberty this morning. I feel great** this morning. I am certain that that we are gonna have great week. Furthermore, **Thinking of our service men and women** as peace-makers helped me to celebrate **true Independence Day!** |

Above all, I AM HAPPY, because I am with you guys – the church right now. I would like to continue to be with you in this life of the congregation! ||

Talking about the church, I should say that **my spiritual journey began from the church.** I was born and grew in the church. Honestly I don't remember how I was born.

I remember the birth of my younger brother at the parsonage – a house where pastor lives. Made many friends in the church, I have met many leaders and volunteers around the world through the church. Over the period time, I will share the stories of the fine people of God whom I met in the Church. **I met many handsome guys and pretty girls,** one of them became my wife. All of my children are walking the same path. That makes me happy and give thanks to God. Now, I live for the church.||

I hope you would have the same situation. If not, I pray for you to discover the joy and purpose, living from, in, and for the church.

What you would expect from me, from now and one, would be to **bring your beloved to the Church of Christ.** I am excited about our joyous tasks to bring our own beloved. **I am overjoyed to bring God's beloved to His church!**

Over the next several weeks, we are going to talk about “The Church,” which makes our life *fun, hopeful, and meaningful.*

Let me start **today's lesson** with definition of the church. What is the church? The church is the gathering of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. “*Ecclesia*,” the Greek word for church, tells us about “what the church is all about.”

Ecclesia is a compound noun with two words, ek and lesia. **It means “called out.”** The church is the gathering of faithful disciples of Jesus, **called out!** It is **a community of faith God calls, chooses, redeems, and sets apart for the salvation of the world.**

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The scripture this morning talk about it.

2:10 -- For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2:4 -- because of **his great love for us, God**, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ **made us alive with Christ. (→next side) ||**

Made Alive in Christ: NIV

Ephesians 2:3-12 ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴ But because of **his great love for us, God**, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And **God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms** in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that **[purpose] in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace**, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ **For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.** ¹¹ Therefore, **remember that formerly you who are Gentiles** by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)-- ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ...

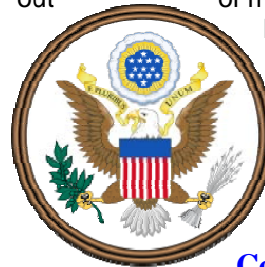
Ephesians 2:19-20 ¹⁹ Consequently, **you are no longer foreigners and aliens**, but **fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household**, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Now, as the church means *a called-out people*, **I want you to know** that **God called you out of many**. That is the main point of the message this morning.

I put the sermon title as "E Pluribus Unum" – "*Out of many One.*" E Pluribus Unum is not a simple phrase of an expression about one out of many. It is about **what is expected as the children of God among many others who don't know Him.**|

In fact, each one of you carries this phrase, "E Pluribus Unum." one way or the other. **Take a look at coins in your pocket** – penny, nickel, dime, or quarter, **on which we have it.** "**Out of many, One!**" is a powerful expression about who we are as one nation.

Traditionally, the understood meaning of the phrase was that out of many states (or colonies) emerge a single nation.



However, in recent years its meaning has come to suggest that out of **many peoples, races, religions and ancestries has emerged a single people and nation**—illustrating the concept of the melting pot.^[9]

By the way, I have strong recommendation to bring children to US Congress during summer. You can watch there 13 minute-presentation about "E Pluribus Unum" as a part of guided tour.

I would like to have a field trip with our young people before the fall, so that they feel proud be a part of this great nation! ||

The scripture this morning tells us about **our being called out of many**. Apostle Paul says to a Christian church in

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the city of Ephesus, a city like today's Baltimore or Washington, D.C.:

Ephesians 2:19-20 ¹⁹ Consequently, **you are no longer foreigners and aliens,** but **fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,** ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. |||

By next Sunday, **I want you to think about this relational language of "one and many."** This concept of "one-many" has profound spiritual underpinning upon all human life, particularly for the human history of Western world, which would be another topic.

Back To the point:

You are the one who would save many! I am one of other 4 family members, whom I have to take Seriously Very Good care. I am the one who must love my wife and children. I am **the one** who must raise my kids and all kind of kids - good kids, bad kids old kids and spoiled kids through the church I commit to **with right from wrong.** I am a **pastor** to take care of **many**, like sheep without a shepherd.

This afternoon, I want you to think about who you are as One God called and set apart out of many other folks who do not walk in Godly way.

I want you to figure out "who are many for whom you are sent?" ||

God called you out of many sometime ago. That's why you are here. God still calls you out of many, to love your wife, to respect your husband, to honor your parents, and to listen to grandparents.

God called some of you out of many to bless others, widows and orphans, the hungry and the homeless, and the unhappy and less-fortunate. God called you and me out of many to embrace and encourage foreigners and aliens. The scripture this morning reminds us of this task, literally saying: “

“Therefore, ***remember that formerly you who are Gentiles*** by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)-- ¹² ***remember that at that time*** you were separate from Christ, ***excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*** ...

Ephesians 2:19-20 ¹⁹ Consequently, **you are no longer foreigners and aliens,** but **fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,** ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed what the church must do. **The church, called out of many people in the world who are inclined to sins and sinful life, must bless others.**

Friends, you're **God's masterpieces, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Blessed** are those who are part of the Church, God's elect for His Kingdom and Righteousness. Amen.

[Short form] – Savage

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who honestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Let us pray:

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O Lord, our Heavenly Father, we give thanks to you to be your children and the followers of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. We are not worthy of being called out as the agents of your Kingdom. By the grace, we are called to serve you and your people on earth.

This morning, we celebrate Lord, Jesus, who on the night he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave to his disciples and said: "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us here and on these bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

All are invited to the Lord's Table. The communion is served by intinction. Cup hands to receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup of new covenant.

***Hymn** – UMH No. 698, "God of Ages" NATIONAL HYMN

***Benediction** – 2 Corinthians 13:11, 14.

[Full Text for Lanham]

Response to the Word – UMH No. 641, "Fill My Cup, Lord"

Prayer of confession is available on our hymnal on page 12!
Let us pray!

Invitation to the Lord's Table - UMH 12

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who honestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon, & The Peace

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Assurance

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

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The Peace

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

A Time for Giving

Offertory Music “Come Share the Lord”

**Doxology – No. 95 “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”*

*Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here be-lows;
Praise him, ab-ove, ye heaven-ly host;
Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving - Musical Setting B - UMH 18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You called us out of many others to bless others for your Kingdom.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*♪ Holy holy holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and
recovering of sight to the blind
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that
the time had come when he would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection,
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

[Lift up the bread]

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

[Lift up the cup]

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

[Hands up]

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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♪ *Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

[palm down]

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

[hands up]

By your Spirit make us **one** with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your **Son**, Jesus Christ (+), with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

♪ *Amen.*

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray: ***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.***

***Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.***

Breaking the Bread

Suzanne, Organist takes the communion first!

All are invited to the Lord's Table. The communion is served by intinction. Cup hands to receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup of new covenant.

****Hymn – UMH No. 698, “God of Ages” NATIONAL HYMN***

****Benediction – 2 Corinthians 13:11, 14.***

****Postlude “Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness”***