

SITE VISIT

Site visit # 1: Rochester Chinese Christian Church

Site visit # 2: Spiritus Christi Church Rochester



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Site visit # 1: Rochester Chinese Christian Church

Rochester Chinese Christian Church started in 1959 when an American Christian couple opened their home to international students for bible study and fellowship. A decade of the meeting gave birth to Rochester Christian Fellowship, with activities revolving around Bible studies, local outreach, and connecting with a Christian group in upstate New York.

In 1982 with the numerical growth of the fellowship and the need for effective discipleship, they began to look for a place where the Chinese student could converge weekly for spiritual nourishment. The first property at 1525 Jackson Road in 1990 was acquired and gradually redesigned with offices and various wings to accommodate the need of the ministry.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (JOHN 4.23-24)

Welcome to English Sunday Service. John 4:23-24 says that (Read the verse):

Now let us all rise together and worship our heavenly Father. (Sing)

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD (SONG)

BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY (SONG)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Pray ourselves)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (COLOSSIANS 1:13 — 14)

HYMN OF HEAVEN (SONG)

(DISMISS KIDS AND INVITE BROTHER DINGLI TO DO PASTORAL PRAYER)

"Children, you are dismissed, and let us welcome brother Dingli for pastoral]

Preaching:

prayer and God's words today."

PASTORAL PRAYER SCRIPTURE READING SERMON

"Let us sing the response song."

CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH (SONG)

"Let us remain standing for the doxology."

DOXOLOGY (SONG)

BENEDICTION (BROTHER DINGLI)

(INVITE PEOPLE TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE LAWRENCE COME UP)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (LAWRENCE)

REFLECTION

Atmosphere/Aesthetics:

Sights: It is a beautiful sanctuary built like a theater with two rows of custom made pews and a no balcony. No stained glass but they had flags representing the nations where they have missionaries currently serving as fulltime missionaries. A very large lobby with a receptionist desk.

Smells: No fragrance in the auditorium,

The lighting: They had a stage light to increase the brightness of the pastor and the Choir. They did not deem the light during worship. But they had the light on with no variance throughout the Mass.

How does this affect the atmosphere/mood?

I was the only black in the congregation, after the service, few came towards me to exchange pleasantries.

How are the congregants acting when they enter and at other times during the service?

Most of the congregants came in with an attitude of worship, as soon as they entered the sanctuary, they put away their phone and other electronic gadgets that could distract.

Do they talk, or are they praying?

Most of the prayers were laid out from the pulpit.

The pastor encourage participation throughout the worship service. They were encouraged to participate in the call to worship and the bible reading.

How are the people that lead dressed?

Business event the children,

Are there banners and pictures on the walls?

Few decorations in the main sanctuary, but the lobby had more decoration with art work and images reflecting la Gloire.

They invested in multimedia, they have multiple screens, camera but they can't to go live / stream live during their worship. They are planning to upgrade their media equipment.

Site visit # 2: Spiritus Christi Church

Most Christian communities in north America preferred to gather on Sunday; Spiritus Christi Church has a full schedule with an activity each day of the week.

Monday: 12:10 pm (EST): Mass

Tuesday Prayer: 8:30 am (EST)/ Tuesday Ecumenical Mass: 9:10 pm (EST)

Wednesday: 12:10 pm Mass

Thursday: 7 pm (EST): Mass

Friday: 12:10 pm (EST): Mass

Saturday: 5 pm (EST): Mass

Upon entering the auditorium, every worshipper is welcome by three giant screens displaying the Announcement and activities of Spiritus Christi Church. A beautiful sanctuary is built like a theater with four rows of custom made pews and a balcony. The beautiful sanctuary design with stained glass illustrates some characters and Bible images.

A brief history of Spiritus Christi Church:

There has been a de facto schism in the Church. There has been a split. We are talking about an institution with a long history of keeping people out. Furthermore, there were different values at stake here. Do we follow the rules of my religion, or do I follow the ideals of my religion? Spiritus Christi Church broke out of Roman Catholic Spiritus Christi Church on three essential decisions from the Vatican: 1- The Vatican prohibited women on the altar from leading liturgies. 2 – The Vatican advocated for complementary marriages and the restriction for all to participate in the communion.

The second site visited was completely different from the previous one in the style of worship, the message, the prayer, and the order of the service/ mass. In the Rochester Chinese Christian Church,

the Announcement was made at the end of the service and offering collection/ giving was not mentioned during the worship service. After the service, I approached the pastor of the Chinese Church and introduced myself and my intention to visit. During our short interactions, we talked about the history of the Church, the culture, and the reason why the collection of offerings was not mentioned. His answer about the collection of offerings is tied to their culture.

Spirit Christi Church is a progressive catholic church in Rochester with the mission's statement anchored on: - Egalitarianism: marriage equality - Promotion of women in ministry.

The Mass began with a Welcome greeting followed by Announcement and an opening song led by the Choir.

Opening song: God is great

The service moderator welcomed everyone, made a few announcements then invited the congregant to stand for worship. Spiritus Christi Church is a multi-ethnicity community, the Choir is made up of various races, and during the choir ministrations, they worshipped in various songs, styles, and languages.

After the Choir's ministrations, the moderator invites the congregant in person and online to exchange pleasantries and names.

Atmosphere/Aesthetics:

Sights: It is a beautiful sanctuary built like a theater with four rows of custom-made pews and a balcony. The beautiful sanctuary design with stained glass illustrates some characters and Bible images.

Smells: the fragrance in the auditorium was pleasant and appealing, it smells like incense mixed with lavender.

The lighting: The lighting was bright for me, in our congregation, we deemed the light during worship. But they had the light on with no variance throughout the Mass.

How does this affect the atmosphere/mood?

The atmosphere was alive, with the full participation of congregants in every session.

How are the congregants acting when they enter and at other times during the service?

Most of the congregants came in with an attitude of worship, as soon as they entered the sanctuary, they went on their knees for few seconds and before securing their seats.

Do they talk, or are they praying?

Most of the prayers were laid out from the pulpit.

The pastor and the priest encourage participation throughout the Mass. They were encouraged to participate in the vesper.

In our Church, it is challenging for a visitor to single out the clergy members because we do not have a uniform for our pastor, and they also have a seat in the congregation with no unique tag. In Spirit Christi Church, the pastor and priest have a uniform and special seating arrangement for their clergy.

How are the people that lead dressed?

Spirit Christi Church's congregant put on their best outfits

Are there banners and pictures on the walls?

Spirit Christi Church had a few decorations, but the central decoration was the stained-glass window with an image reflecting la Gloire.

Spirit Christi Church has invested in multimedia, they have multiple screens, camera and there is no interference or malfunction of the equipment. I am keen on sound and production; Spirit Christi Church has the standard equipment to go live / stream live.

What is the most exciting or essential part of the service? The Female Pastor invites the congregation to relax and drop their shoulders. Just feel God's presence with you. Know that God has been thinking about you. All through the night, into the morning. Whatever you are carrying with you, this is a beautiful time to just give that over to God, to let go of any worries, any anxiety, whatever is in your heart. Just turn that over to God and know that all is well.

They acknowledge the presence of both in-person and online worshippers

Introduce yourself to somebody you do not know. And if you're online, why tell us where you are logging in from in the chat? And greet those of you who are on the line together.

OK, friends, let's begin in the name of our loving God, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Lord be with you. Thank you

- First Reading
- Second reading
- Third reading

Spiritus Christi Church is fully involved in Missions in Haiti; Spiritus Christi Church built a school and clinic.

Offertory collection:

Well, now, friends, is a time for our offertory collection. I am so thankful for Doctor Tony calling on us to the vision of hopefulness, resilience, and possibility as we stand together during these challenging times. We have set a goal to raise \$40,000 this year for hope this month. And that will help expand the solar capability and hire three additional doctors at the hospital to continue this

life-saving work that's happening there. I am so inspired by Doctor Tony's leadership and his team's work and what light they are inborn Haiti. So thank you in advance for your generosity. And while we take up our operatory collection, we'll sing another song. I feel the spirit. Amen.

All over me. My. Get in touch with how you are feeling. Doctor Tony and his team are an excellent Healing Ministry in Haiti. We also remember David Miller on his birthday by calling Mark Bennett tomorrow on his birthday. Everybody gets sick. Everybody that's mentally ill, people is struggling. Anxiety, depression, addiction, people in jail, people in nursing homes. End of the war in Ukraine. It is on your mind, but we want to pray for Roy Lynch, who is recovering from an operation. Who else is on your mind?

The eucharist / the communion

Get in touch with how you are feeling and just give yourself. To God so that God can use us this week. Blessed are you loving God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread and wine to offer you, which the earth is given, and human hands prepared. They will become our spiritual food and drink. Was it God forever? May God be with you. Lift your hearts. Let us give thanks to our loving God. Always write to praise you and honor you, God. Thank you for the international solidarity cooperation, for all the healing that's going on in the hospital, and then the other projects. And we want to thank you, most of all, God yourself. Because you are, you are the healer for all of us. And we joined the Saints in heaven in proclaiming your glory as we sing together this song.

Please do this in memory of me. We proclaim the mystery of our faith.

He was given up to death. A death he freely accepted. He took a breath and gave you thanks. Always right to praise you and honor you, God.

Praying for the leaders of the mission outreach in Haiti and the global Great Commission Mandate

Thank you for the international solidarity cooperation, for all the healing that's going on in the hospital, and then the other projects. We want to thank God because he is the healer. And we joined the Saints in heaven in proclaiming your glory as we sing this song together.

The priest invites the congregation to feel God's presence

Thank you, God, for this moment. Just feel God's presence. We say a prayer for our churches. We might be beacons of hope during these challenging times. Special blessings upon Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, people of native religions, and people with no religion; help us work together to heal the world.

Remembering the deaths:

We, those who have died, we remember, especially Gloria Carpenter. Karen Batsford's mother and the 10th anniversary of her death in Diane Holden on the ninth anniversary of her death. Rosemarie Zurich, all the people we miss. Furthermore, God, one day, when we die. We thank you in advance for saving us a place in heaven, along with ***Mary and Joseph and all those who are with you.*** We will praise you in Union with them, and we will give you the glory. Through your Son Jesus. All glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.