

NDTS 2024. Christians gathered for worship at this year's National Day Thanksgiving Service (NDTS) on 15 August to mark Singapore's 59th birthday just three weeks after the 50th Anniversary celebrations of NCCS on 24 July. While giving thanks to God for Singapore, NCCS leaders prayed for the church, the nation and a troubled world. The congregation was blessed by the anthem of choral group Cantate Domino and the musical item by the handbell ringers from Toa Payoh Methodist Church. Offerings for the evening went to the NCCS 50th Anniversary project for two charities. Many worshippers stayed for fellowship over light refreshments after the service. We were also encouraged by the attendance of Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong and Mrs Gan, as well as cabinet ministers and members of parliament.

Rt Rev Dr Christopher Chia, Vice-President of NCCS preached on "Christ, Culture and Country" based on 1 Peter 2: 9-12. Rev Chia began his sermon by welcoming the congregation and inviting them to wish each other a "*Blessed National Day*". He then highlighted the theme of the sermon – how God's people relate to Christ, Culture and Country in a world that rejects Christ. He asked the congregation if we ever felt alienated because of our belief and choices as Christians? Whether this has happened to our children in school? Or in our places of work?

He went on to relate to the context of 1 Peter. The early Christians lived at a time of Roman rule when Christianity was an "illegal" religion. Emperor worship was the state religion, and while Judaism was an accepted religion, Christians were rejected and were considered the "scum of the earth". In this environment Peter addresses his letter to the "elect exiles" – a term of significance to describe Christians. How could the "elect" be "exiles" at the same time? He noted that Christians need to have a "bifocal" view of life. We are the "elect" because we are chosen by God to live for Him. Yet in a world that rejects Christ we will be treated as exiles – alienated and rejected.

How then should we live? For the rest of the sermon summary, visit this [LINK](#).

Photographs of the event have been uploaded in this [LINK](#)

The NCCS 50th Anniversary commemorative book "Serving the Church Engaging Society", was launched at the golden jubilee thanksgiving dinner on 24 July 2024. All who attended the event received copies of the book as an anniversary gift, which carried a congratulatory message from Guest-of-Honour, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

We are pleased to inform you that the soft copy of the book "Serving the Church Engaging Society" is now available online at the NCCS website. Please share this information with interested members of your congregation. [LINK](#)

The New Logo of NCCS was also launched at the 50th Anniversary Thanksgiving Dinner to mark the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the Council. We have seen the familiar image of the umbrella for quite a long time. It emphasised the mission of NCCS as a fellowship of Christian churches dedicated to unity and mutual encouragement. We thank God for the blessing of increasing cooperation and goodwill among our churches in Singapore.

And by God's grace, NCCS now shoulders an expanded role of representing Christians in the public square. Thus, the new logo points to a vibrant and responsible church, adopting the red colour that mirrors the hues of the Singapore flag which serves to remind us of our continuing contribution to nation-building. The gold-coloured cross, adorned with vertical and horizontal lines is a timeless symbol of the completed work of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. Indeed, the new logo of NCCS is an emblem that speaks of God's grace and providence over our Church and our Nation. More on the new logo, please visit this [LINK](#)