## A MESSAGE FROM REV. DEYI WEI (UPDATED AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2020):

"I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights. For the director of music. On my stringed instruments." Habakkuk 3:16-19

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Elder's Board and staff have worked diligently to shepherd our church family. Each ministry team, under its pastor, quickly shifted all ministries on-line using different platforms like Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. Sunday worship, Sunday school, prayer meetings, and small group meetings have all been maintained during this time. Phone calls have been initiated during the week to extend caring to people in need. In June we started organizing some in-person meetings in the church and some city parks to extend our caring and fellowship. In all, we, as a church family have adapted and maintained our ministries well. We give thanks to our Lord for His wisdom and protection for our church family during this pandemic crisis.

As the pandemic continues and while we continue to maintain online ministries, we realized that it was time to reopen our church for in-person worship and fellowship. In light of Biblical teachings on the church being called to worship God together and in light of our church family's desire to worship in person, the Elder's Board has decided to reopen the church for worship.

We will continue to observe the ever-changing status of the pandemic and will do all we can to ensure that our church family is protected. In doing this, we will continue to follow government policy and providing the church family with well-designed safety instructions.

We are entering into a new age, unprecedented, unprepared, frustrated and worried, as crises of various dimensions continue to unfold one after another. Just as the Prophet Habakkuk confesses here (Habakkuk 3:16-19) that though he is baffled in a time of political, military, and economic upheavals, he looks up to the Lord and trusts in Him that His divine judgement and discipline will bring about His will and lead His people to glorify His name. As the church family is, in faith, entering a new phase, let us the people of God say with one heart that we will glorify God and enjoy Him forever. We will be victorious in Him.