

Welcome and Opening Prayer - Calvin

Good morning. For those who do not know me, I am Calvin Yim. On behalf of the Fong family, I would like to welcome you to the memorial service for James Lun Fong. I am married to one of Uncle Jimmy's grandnieces, Terri.

The Bible instructs us to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to mourn with those who mourn. From the Christian perspective we can do both at the same time, which seems sometimes to be a paradox.

Today we mourn the passing of James Fong, but we rejoice that he is now in Heaven with his heavenly Father.

We celebrate Uncle Jimmy's life this day. Your presence this morning, in spite of the unusual circumstances created by the pandemic, means a great deal to his family, who I know appreciate your support and condolences during this time of their great loss.

To bless our time will you join me in prayer?

"Heavenly Father,
Our hearts are saddened from the passing of James Fong. Please grant us your comfort and peace here this morning as we honor his life and pay our last respects.

Bless us with your amazing grace and abundant mercy.

I pray this in name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Amen"

The Family would like me to read from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

- 3 *There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:*
- 2 *a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,*
- 3 *a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,*
- 4 *a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,*
- 5 *a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,*
- 6 *a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,*
- 7 *a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,*
- 8 *a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

And that is the Word of the Lord.

As I said earlier, we do mourn Uncle James' passing, but we also celebrate his life.

Here is a reading of his Personal History written by his family.

James Lun Fong was born on June 23, 1928, in San Francisco Chinatown. He was son number 5 out of 7 boys born to Kay and Gee Shee Fong. He attended Chinatown's Commodore Stockton Elementary School, where his favorite subjects were art and lunch. Jim attended Galileo High School because it offered math and science, especially enjoying auto shop and carpentry electives. This helps to explain his big love for cars and fixing things. He graduated from City College of San Francisco in 1949 with an Engineering Drafting AA Degree, and moved to Sacramento for his first job as a cartographic draftsman and also attended a Chinese Baptist church.

In 1951, Jim was drafted into the US Army because of the Korean War. He attended Camp Roberts for basic training, and decided to do 2 years of service. He was shipped out to Tokyo, and rather than going to Korea was assigned to General MacArthur's General Headquarters to prepare classified drawings, maps and miscellaneous captured documents from Korea. (We always joke about him being in "military intelligence".)

In 1952, he met Fumiyo and they were married a year later at GHQ Tokyo Chapel. They moved back to San Francisco where he accepted a new position as a delineator with the State Division of Highways in the Traffic Department. He gradually was promoted to Junior Civil Engineer, working on US 101, and then to Assistant Highway Engineer, working on major highways including Interstate 280 near Woodside.

They welcomed three children: Randy, Jocelyn, and Marie. The family purchased an Eichler home in the San Mateo Highlands, where they started their lifelong friendship with the Higaki family, who invited them to Peninsula Free Methodist Church. Jim Fong

was baptized in 1968, placing his trust in Jesus. The entire family attended the church, and was very active with the ministries and made many close friends there.

Jim retired in 1985 from Caltrans. After retirement, Jim was hired by FEMA to manage disaster relief in several states and territories, including Loma Prieta, typhoon-hit Micronesia and Guam, Midwest floods, hurricane swept Florida, and riot damaged Los Angeles. (We used to joke that everywhere he went was a disaster!) Shortly after celebrating 50 years of marriage, his beloved Fumiyo succumbed to lung cancer in 2004.

During his lifetime, Jim took his family on trips around the US and Japan. His family went on many RV camping trips, especially to Yosemite. He was very friendly, striking up conversations with everyone. He was known for his sense of humor and kindness. He treasured his extended Fong family relatives, and looked forward to the reunions each year. His favorite thing to do was to eat in a Chinese restaurant with his family and friends.

Jim lived a long and productive life of 92 years. He was active and alert to the very end. On August 10, 2020, he went to be with the Lord, peacefully, surrounded by his family.

Jim is survived by his children, Randy (& Carol), Jocelyn, and Marie, his grandchildren Bethany Tse (& Brian) and Catherine, and his new great granddaughter, Emi. His family is very thankful for his life, and his faithful, godly influence upon us all.

Remembrances (5 min each, introduce yourself)

Harry Higaki
Bethany Tse
Randy Fong

Slideshow (7 min)

Words of Comfort - Calvin

As both a pastor and a dentist I am blessed and honored to be able to come alongside people during the 4 seasons of their earthly life.

The first verse in Ecclesiastes 3, read earlier, says, *“There is a time for everything.”* All the experiences listed in that passage are appropriate at certain times. The secret, to having peace, is to trust and appreciate God’s perfect timing.

There are times of joy and times of sadness, both good and bad.

From the Spring season of new life into this world, to the darkness of the winter days of old age and death.

Here’s the good news. For those of us who are followers of Jesus Christ we have a great hope even in the midst of great darkness, including death. As far as I know, dying is the common fate for every person, regardless of status.

That hope comes from our faith that we have victory over death itself through Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

“God so loved the world, he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” And that gift is welcome for all to receive. And James Fong accepted that promise for himself.

A familiar Bible passage Psalm 23 says,

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures.*

He leads me beside still waters.

³ *He restores my soul.*

*He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,*

for you are with me;

*your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

We have no fear when we walk in the Valley of the Shadow of death, because God is with us to give us comfort and peace. The author of these words was King David; many of you know him from the children’s story of “David and Goliath” fame. He was a shepherd. And in Psalm 23 he tells us how a shepherd cares for his sheep. To make them lie down in green pastures. Sheep are nervous animals. If sick, stressed, afraid, sheep won’t lie down to rest. A shepherd has to make sure the sheep are cared for so they can rest peacefully.

And David was saying God does the same for his people. Uncle James is now with God, experiencing that wonderful peace and comfort forever.

Personal Story: Call me strange, Uncle Jimmy reminded me of an Asian Jimmy Stewart. He would always look for me at family gatherings to talk, (and man, can he talk) mostly about what was going on with my church. I thought he was just being nosy. Sometimes, I felt it was bothersome honestly, about talking “shop” when I just wanted to relax and hangout with the Fong family, but as I look back, maybe he had a better idea of keeping “the main thing the main thing” than me, a pastor. Uncle James was truly a man of God. A man I totally respected and someone who encouraged me in our conversations, especially when I had challenging times in ministry, and received his advice gratefully.

Now some words for you Randy, Carol, Josie, Marie, Bethany, Brian and Catherine, the family:

Your father, your grandfather will forever live in your memories. The memories we choose to remember is a matter of choice. No one is perfect, and Uncle James was no exception. He loved you the best he knew how. I hope you will only hold onto the good memories and let go of the not so good.

Your grieving will continue on after today. So don't be surprised by that. Birthdays, anniversaries, photos, foods, people will trigger memories of him for you. Just know there is a God Above who understands your pain and can give you comfort if you look to Him.

Today we mourn the loss of James Fong. At the same time he is with our Heavenly Father, where there is no longer pain, tears, or suffering. And we celebrate that truth today. Amen? Amen.

Words of Appreciation (Randy)

Let me close this time, Closing Prayer

From (2 Cor 4:16-18)

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. What is eternal comes through Jesus Christ.

Today Lord we honor the life of James Lun Fong, a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great grandfather.

But most importantly, a Child of God.

We release him into your loving hands.

Your amazing Grace is with him forever. Amen.

Instructions for final tribute:

At this time you will be invited to come up to pay your last respects and give your condolences to the family.

And when done you may exit the chapel and return to your cars. If you plan to join us at the grave site for final internment, we will proceed up there after this, so please wait in your cars till then.

Gravesite

Family and friends,

This here will be the final earthly resting place for James Fong.

In Uncle James' Bible, Psalm 100 was highlighted. Coincidentally Psalm 100 is one of my favorites. I love ball and I always think of a ball court when I hear the word "court", a place I have spent many hours playing on. I always smile when I read this psalm. And I believe he is smiling now as I read this favorite passage for him.

Psalm 100: A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

¹ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

*² Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*

³ Know that the LORD is God.

*It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

These words were written on a card in Uncle James' Bible, may these words be received by you from him:

"God has a purpose for all of our life on earth. It doesn't end here. God's plan endures forever. His purposes last eternally. How great You are."

Uncle James believed in a great eternal God. And we celebrate he is in Heaven now with Him.

Let's Pray:

"Heavenly Father, we lay James Fong's body to rest here, next to his beloved wife Fumiyo, who he dearly missed. We rejoice now that they are once again together with you into eternity.

Ashes to Ashes. Dust to dust.
We return his body to the earth;
we release his soul into your hands.
May your mercy and grace abound.
I pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Instructions:

Pall bearers take off gloves and toss with flowers into gravesite

Guests given opportunity to pay final tribute with flowers.