



Theme: Take root downwards, Bear fruit upwards, Live in Christ (Isa. 37:31)

This Sunday Roster

Celebrant, Gospeller (*John 15:1–8*), Preacher: **Rev. Siu Chun Leung**

Worship Leader, Reader 1 (*Acts 8:26–40*): **Paul Seto**

Reader 2 (*1 John 4:7–21*), Intercessor: **Carol Tam**

Offering Collection: **Sky Boone**

Server, PPT Compiler: **Fenella Chiu**

AV Team: **Tommy Kung**

Introduction before starting service – Paul Seto

We invite parishioners joining the live online service to join in on responses as you would in regular worship, but please note that all will be muted except for those scheduled to serve in the worship. This service will be recorded and subsequently posted to our website.

Opening Sentence (P.340) – Paul Seto

I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord.

Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

John 15:5

Processional Hymn – Sing of the Lord's Goodness

1. Sing of the Lord's goodness

Father of all wisdom, Come to him and bless his name.

Mercy he has shown us,

His love is forever, Faithful to the end of days.

2. Power he has wielded,

Honor is his garment Risen from the snares of death.

His word he has spoken,

One bread he has broken, New life he now gives to all.

(Refrain) Come, then, all you nations, Sing of your Lord's goodness,
Melodies of praise and thanks to God.

Ring out the Lord's glory, Praise him with your music,

Worship him and bless his name.

3. Courage in our darkness,

Comfort in our sorrow, Spirit of our God most high;

Solace for the weary,

Pardon for the sinner, Splendor of the living God.

4. Praise him with your singing,

Praise him with the trumpet Praise him with the lute and harp;

Praise him with the cymbals,

Praise him with your dancing, Praise him till the end of days. *(Refrain)*

Greeting (P.185) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: May his grace and peace be with you.

People: **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

The Gathering of the Community (P.185) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayer of Purity (P.185) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: Almighty God,

People: **to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Gloria (P.186)– Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Leader: Glory to God in the highest,

All: **and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Collect of the Day (P. 340) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty God,**
your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
Give us grace to love one another
and walk in the way of his commandments,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

1st Reading from Acts 8:26–40 – Paul Seto

Reader: ***Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch***

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ ³¹ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him

the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

2nd Reading from 1 John 4:7–21 – Carol Tam

Reader: **God Is Love**

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn – The Church's One Foundation (Verses 1, 2, 4 & 5)

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
We are his new creation by water and the word:
From heaven he came and sought us to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought us, And for our life he died.

2. Elect from every nation yet one o'er all the earth,
our charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One glorious name we hallow, partake one holy food,
and to one hope we follow, with every grace endued.

4. 'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of our war,
We wait the consummation of peace for evermore,
Till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blessed,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

5. Yet we on earth have union with God the Three-in-One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with thee.

Hymn leaders: Justin Kim, Joanne Loo, Benjamin Kim, Terence Kim

Words by Samuel J. Stone, Music by Samuel S. Wesley

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Gospel John 15:1–8 – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John**.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reader: ***Jesus the True Vine***

¹ Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

The Nicene Creed (P.188) – Paul Seto

Leader: Let us confess our faith, as we say,
All: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Prayers of the People (P.122 Litany 15 Easter)

– Carol Tam

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Parish: 2024 Ministry Plans
Deanery: St. Elizabeth's; Rev'd Siu Chun Leung
Diocesan: Durham & Northumberland Deanery
Anglican: The Church of Bangladesh

For Healing: Tommy Lam, Esther Chen, Susan Xu's mother Dian-Lan Feng, Aileen Lu, Andy Ng's parents Kim Tung Ng and Sau Fong Cheung, Kingsman Tang, Pastor Tom Ho

Please join in the response indicated by the Intercessor

Intercessor: In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying,
"Hear us, Lord of glory!"

Intercessor: That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Intercessor: That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Intercessor: That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Intercessor: That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Intercessor: That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Intercessor: That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Intercessor: That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Intercessor: Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

<Silence for praying, people may pray for their needs>

Confession (P.191) – Paul Seto

Leader: Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;

he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Absolution (P.192) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The Peace (P.192) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

< Please greet each other in the name of Christ >

Offertory Hymn – Be the Centre

Jesus, be the centre, Be my source, be my light, Jesus.

Jesus, be the centre, Be my hope, be my song, Jesus.

Be the fire in my heart, Be the wind in these sails,

Be the reason that I live,

Jesus, Jesus.

Jesus, be my vision,

Be my path, be my guide, Jesus.

Be the fire in my heart, Be the wind in these sails,

Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus. (Repeat)

Jesus, be the centre.

Be my source, be my light, Jesus.

Be my hope, be my song, Jesus.

Words and Music by Michael Frye

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People: **All things come of Thee, O Lord,
And of Thine own Have we given Thee. Amen.**

Prayer over the Gifts (P.341) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: Gracious God,
you show us your way
and give us your divine life.
May everything we do
be directed by the knowledge of your truth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer 3 (P.198-200) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(Proper Preface P.218)

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
you are the source of light and life for all your creation,
you made us in your own image,
and call us to new life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: **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.**

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.
For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

All: **Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,

and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (P.211) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread (P.213 #8 Easter) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All: **Now we are raised to new life.**

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.

All: **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Celebrant: Live in us, that we may live in you

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

People:

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us. (x2)

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.

The Communion

We invite parishioners joining the live online service to receive the spiritual communion by saying the following prayer while those at church receive the physical communion.

The Prayer of Spiritual Communion

People: Beloved Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you in this life or in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Hymn – Eat This Bread and Never Hunger

Hymn Leader: Ada Lam; Accompaniment: Daniel Yoon

Text & Music: Daniel Charles Damon

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Prayer after Communion (P.341) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: Let us pray.

God of love,
in this eucharist we have heard your truth
and shared in your life.
May we always walk in your way,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Doxology (P.214) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: **whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing (P.683 ii) – Rev. Siu Chun Leung

Celebrant: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People: **Amen. (3-fold Amen)**

Announcements <https://www.stechurch.com/announcements>

Recessional Hymn – In Christ There is No East or West

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in Christ no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find,
whose service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
3. Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
who serve my God in truth and love
is surely kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west,
in Christ meet south and north;
all faithful souls are joined in one
throughout the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham © Desmond Dunkerly

Music: African-American spiritual; Adapt. Henry Thacker Burleigh

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Dismissal – Paul Seto

Leader: We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Next Sunday May 5th 10am 6th Sunday of Easter

In-Person & Online English Morning Prayer Service Roster

Celebrant, Gospeller (*John 15:9–17*): **Rev. Siu Chun Leung**

Preacher: **Billy Ng**

Worship Leader, Reader 1 (*Acts 10:44–48*), Intercessor: **Fenella Chiu**

Reader 2 (*1 John 5:1–6*): **Silas Seto**

Offering Collection: **Gabrielle Seto**

PPT Compiler: **Paul Seto**

AV Team: **Tommy Kung**

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Reflection & Meditation Article – Carpe Diem — Seize the Day

By Rev. Antony Law (OMF)

“Carpe Diem” in Latin means — seize the day. Taken literally, this has become the slogan of hedonists: Pleasure above all - Tomorrow does not matter - Enjoy today. Is that what it means? The phrase was originally used in Roman poet Horace’s *Odes*. The original phrase goes: “*carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero*” — “Seize the day, put very little trust in tomorrow”. Most simplistic explanations typically refer to Horace’s connection to Epicureanism (philosophy focusing on pleasure), hence the hedonistic understanding.

When Horace wrote — seize the day, put very little trust in tomorrow — he did not suggest ignoring tomorrow, but rather not being a hopeless optimist about what tomorrow might bring. To do what needs to be done today, so tomorrow is more likely to be the tomorrow we hope for. Doing nothing and just letting tomorrow play out as it would, was not something Horace would suggest.

In a way, *carpe diem* is not a suggestion to focus on mindfulness, on being here and now, & not in a passive sense of just being present. The focus is on **being here** and **doing the work**. So rather than “have all the fun you can”, the key message here should be understood as “**focus on now and do what you can to build the tomorrow you want**”. In Mark 10, a huge crowd was following Jesus as he left Jericho. A man named Bartimaeus was blind and begging by the roadside. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was nearby, he began to shout, “*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!*” (Mark 10:47 NIV) When Bartimaeus had gotten up that morning, he had no idea that Jesus Christ was going to be passing by him that day. He thought it was just another ordinary day: same place, same cry for help, same situation. But suddenly Jesus was there. Bartimaeus had no time to prepare or think through his response. It was just an opportunity that dropped in his lap. And he chose to **seize the moment**. He decided not to delay or procrastinate. He was going to do it—**NOW**.

Pastor Rick Warren referring to this passage says, “Whatever you’re going to do, do it now. Don’t say, ‘Next year I’m going to make a fresh start’ or ‘Next month I’m going to make some changes’ or ‘Tomorrow I’m going to make that a priority.’ It’s now or never. **Seize the moment!**” This is how I serve the nations for the Gospel today - Seize the Day. April 2024 marks the second anniversary that I officially became a full OMF member & served as the Regional Director of the Diaspora Mission. As I shared in my newsletter by the end of 2023, I have travelled to 75 cities in one year, to pray, to

meet, to share the Gospel & vision, in order to see people coming to Christ. But there's another part of my ministry, which is to build up the churches to be missional churches, & Canadian Christians to be Gospel-embodied disciples. Thanks to God's leading, churches & Christians began to come together to meet regularly in different "hubs" caring for different ethnic groups. Church leaders, missionaries, & lay Christians are joining hands to share & pray for Filipinos, Thais, Indonesians, Hongkongers, Uighurs, Vietnamese & to work together to serve them here & beyond. Please pray for two potential new "hubs" for Mongolian & Cambodian interested parties.

Many years ago in one of my seminary years, I used a devotion book written by Dr. Charles Ringma - *Seize the Day: 365 Days Walking with Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. In the devotion, Dr. Ringma tries to capture Bonhoeffer's spirit in his life & his ministry. In Bonhoeffer's time many were compromised with Hitler's regime, even the German churches & pastors, in order to keep the church running & kept a life to live. For the Truth & the Gospel, Bonhoeffer treated every day as his last day to live only for the Lord he served instead of other "kings". This cost his life but he had no regret to "seize the day", to live & to do his best for the King of kings. That's the spirit Dr. Ringma implies in the devotion encouraging the readers to "seize the day" and live every day as the last day for the best for the King. In the 365 days of a year, how would you live every day? Are you living out the true meaning of "Carpe Diem" or do you live it as the hedonists believe - "Pleasure does not matter - Tomorrow does not matter - Enjoy today? Are you procrastinating?