



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

정(情) Jeong

By Paul Cho on August 17th, 2020

Jeong is how the Chinese character 情 is pronounced in Korean. The same character can be read as Jou in Japanese and Qíng (qing2) in Mandarin Chinese. It, like the Hebrew language, has several different meanings and even more nuances in each of our cultures. And while 情 mean harmonious, affection, emotion, or attachment given any of these variations, the definition I am referring to today, is friendship.

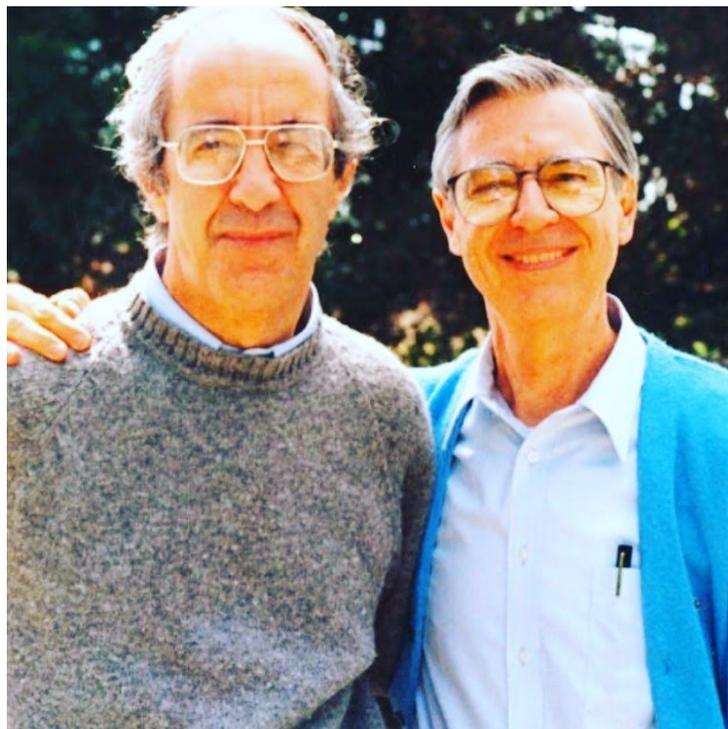
I have always found it interesting how growing up in America, just about anyone you knew was considered a friend. Your classmate, even if you only knew each other's face and name, was called the same friend as your other friend, whom you've had heart-to-heart connection with. It was confusing. I suppose that is where the phrase best-friend came to be. You had 'friends', and then you had 'best friends', also known as "besties."

Except, in English, there is good, better, and best. So while you could call someone a good friend or a best friend, you really could not call anyone a better friend. Somehow, the phrasing "better" implied a comparison and we did not want to do that, even though that was exactly what we were trying to do. Alas, we called those we know as friends, we called those we have a relationship with as good friends, we called those we actually hang out with as best friends, and then of course, we had that one or two special friends who we ended up calling BFFs otherwise known as Best-Friends-Forever. Thankfully, our vocabulary has evolved since then. Now, as adults, we have more ways to describe our relationships; as acquaintances, as co-workers, as comrades, as partners, as soul-mates, and so on.

Yet, one thing is clear. While it may be true that our middle school vocabulary lacks the depth and dimensions of our relationships, since the beginning of our awakening as social beings, all of us had a deep need for 情, for friendship.

I want to share a story you may have come across. It comes from Ms. Christina Edmondson about the relationship with renowned Christian author and scholar Henri Nouwen, and our dear Mr. Rogers, as presbyterian pastor. It is heart-warming for me to know that these two, wonderful Christian leaders were friends and it is a great reminder for us to take care of our friends, especially during these times we are now facing.

The letter concerns a critical article about Mr. Rogers that had discouraged him.



Dear Fred,

I have just returned from Europe where I received permission from my Bishop to stay at L'Arche. I am now back here hoping to settle more definitely and find a new rhythm of life that is a little more livable than what I have had in the past. I read the article you sent me and can very well understand how much that must have hurt you. It must be really painful to be confronted with a total misunderstanding of your mission and your spiritual intentions.

It is these little persecutions within the church that hurt the most. I simply hope that you are not too surprised by them. They come and will keep coming precisely when you do something significant for the Kingdom. It has always struck me that the real pain comes often from the people from whom we expected real support. It was Jesus' experience and the experience of all the great visionaries in the Church, and it continues to be the experience of many who are committed to Jesus.

I don't think it makes much sense to argue with the writer of this article. He speaks from a very different plane and will not be open to your explanations. Some of the criticisms we simply have to suffer and see as invitations to enter deeper into the heart of Jesus. I won't send you some of the reviews I get of my books, but some are not very different from the tone of this piece. So I certainly feel a unique solidarity with you.

Let us pray for each other, that we remain faithful and not become bitter and that we continue to return to the center where we can find the joy and peace that is not of this world. Thanks so much for staying in touch with me.

Much love, Henri Nouwen

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THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

Women on a Spiritual Quest

Meet with WSQ for book studies and the best kind of Methodist small group accountability. Beginning August 24th. **Mon @ 4:30PM.**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/92059519248?pwd=ZmN4dTFCcVVCVjlNM3FHUHVVemNFdz09>

ZID: 920 5951 9248

PW: 6226481

Exploring Biblical Wisdom

Gather for group Lectio Divina as we seek spiritual formation through scripture reading, reflecting, and sharing the Spirit that lives in each of us. **Tues @ 11AM.**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98179862680?pwd=ck15OU5KbWUyY0NwOUNxbzJkOUVBUT09>

ZID: 981 7986 2680

PW: 6226481

Music History Workshop

Join Music Ministry Director Lorena Suarez as she unpacks the rich history and tradition in the musical arts! This week, American sound and A. Copland. **Wed @ 5:30PM.**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/92978304567?pwd=Mmo4UWZtc012TUxzVS9VYXlpVU1iZz09>

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Progressive Christianity Book Study

Explore the richness of progressive Christian thought through literature. **Thurs @ 2PM.**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98015738087?pwd=eGFpVWRCUnZraWxUU1d0anRiU2pFQT09>

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Sunday Morning Live!

Join us live on Sunday mornings on Facebook livestream. **Sun @ 10AM**

Visit [fb.com/firstchurchtucson/live](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchtucson/live)

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Join on Zoom for fellowship immediately following the live stream. **Sun @ 10:30AM**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/97274927766?pwd=bVlqNmZjTk84bHFHd0JRS0U5R0c4Zz09>

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PW: 6226481

Korean Language Ministry

한국어 사역 온라인모임을 소개합니다. 주일 오전 1130 페북 실시간 방송이 있습니다.

[fb.com/tucsonkoreanchurch/live](https://www.facebook.com/tucsonkoreanchurch/live)

방송 직후 Zoom을 통해 교제의 시간에 초대합니다.

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/99861120822?pwd=VWlyZ3FrM2ZrNHhrVIRINHc1NTBLQT09>

ZID: 998 6112 0822

PW: 6226481

또한, 금 오후 7시에 (기존 토요일 새벽 기도회 대신) 온라인 모임을 위에 표시된 Zoom 가상 공간에서 갖고, 일요일 오후 1시에는 한어권 청년들의 모임이 따로 있습니다.

Support the Ministries at First Church Tucson

Now is the time to give courageously to ministries that matter to you.

Visit this [link](#) or go to www.bit.ly/givetofumc to set up online donation.

You may also send gifts via Paypal to recipient address: finance@firstchurchtucson.org

And as always, you can mail in checks to the church office. Alternatively, have your IRA advisor automatically make payments from your IRA to the FUMC checking account.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Graham Wooley (Aug 17)

Edward Bounton (Aug 21)

SONG FOR **THOUGHT**
“Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns hält”
J. S. Bach

by **Lorena Suarez**

Director of Music Ministries on August 15, 2020

Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns hält (If God the Lord is not on our side) is a cantata written by Johann Sebastian Bach in Leipzig around 1724. It is based on the hymn “Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns hält” by Justus Jonas published in 1524. This hymn paraphrases Psalm 124.

The cantata is divided into seven movements. It is scored for three soloists (alto, tenor, and bass), choir, horns, oboes, strings, and basso continuo.

The first movement, whose title gives the name to the work, is scored for mixed choir and orchestra. It is written in 4/4 meter and in the key of A minor. Enjoy!

Lyrics:

Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns hält,
Wenn unsre Feinde toben,
Und er unser Sach nicht zufällt
Im Himmel hoch dort oben,
Wo er Israel Schutz nicht ist
Und selber bricht der Feinde List,
So ist's mit uns verloren.

Translation:

Where God the Lord does not dwell with us,
when our enemies rage,
and He does not conclude our affairs
high above there in heaven,
where He is not the Guardian of Israel
and thwarts Himself the deceit of the enemy,
then all is lost for us.

Suggested recording:

Movement 1: Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns hält
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qldKRhL8KqQ>

Complete Cantata:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl8szypQnPM>

LECTIO DIVINA PRAYER GUIDE

for Individuals and Families

CENTERING - *Practice Square Breathing*

- Inhale for 4 seconds, hold for 4 seconds,
- Exhale for 4 seconds, hold for 4 seconds.
- Repeat as necessary.

SONG OF PRAISE

Select a song of your choice, or
Refer to this week's Song for Thought

OPENING PRAYER - *Psalms 19:14*

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

READING

Matthew 15:21-28

REFLECTING

Take a minute or two in silence.
Allow your thoughts to rest on a word, a phrase, a memory from this passage.
Journal or share your thoughts from this moment of meditation on the passage.

RESPONDING

Respond to the reflection through the guidance from the Holy Spirit.

MINUTE MEMOIR - by Paul Cho

Reading this passage strikes us with discomfort because we internally fear that the treatment of the Canaanite woman will be our own. We read that Jesus ignored the woman and we fear that perhaps Jesus will ignore us. We read that the disciples dismissed the woman and we fear that we will also be found unworthy, unwanted, and insignificant. We fear that instead of being comforted we will be disappointed, instead of finding healing, we will be found hurt.

Yet, our fear is misplaced. For we also know through scripture that we are loved, and that the path to God has eternally been made open through Jesus Christ. We have already been given new life, new purpose, and a new hope. We already live in a reality where God not only hear us, but calls to us, convicting and compelling us to go and live as God's light-bearers, as Christ enlivened beings. We ought not live in fear.

Rather, we ought to steer clear of becoming like the disciples who dismissed the foreigner, who dismissed the socially insignificant, who were more concerned about having their peace than being bothered by the cry of the one in need. Our call is to hear those

pleading for help, for belonging, for love and attention, so that we might reach out with Christ-like love.

RESTING

Dwell in your reflection and response.
Take time to offer God praise and glory.
Repent and seek forgiveness.
Offer joys and the concerns, adding in your personal prayers.
Lastly, offer a thanksgiving for God's grace and mercy.

CLOSING PRAYER *Wesley Covenant Service Prayer*

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.



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