

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 1 November 2020

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Luke 1

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LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS

HAPPIEST TIME OF THE YEAR

What is the happiest time of the year? This is, of course, a very subjective question. And many different answers may be expected! One of the answers that may be put forward would be "Christmas Time."

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MEDITATION

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THE INFANCY NARRATIVES

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke began with Narratives featuring the Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Each narrative featured people with a special spirit of joy and gladness.

1. Mary
2. Joseph
3. The Shepherds
4. Simeon
5. Anna
6. The Wise Men

There was every reason to highlight the element of joy! Christmas celebrates the Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ! And that alone ought to be remembered with great joy!

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR

The celebration of Christmas this year would be quite different. What we would not have:

1. Christmas Concert
2. Christmas Service at Shangri La
3. Christmas Lunch

MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD

Let us take time to read the Narrative involving Mary (Cf. Luke 1). Mary did not come from a specially distinguished or wealthy family. But

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MEDITATION

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she was nevertheless chosen to become the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The angel Gabriel had informed her that her older cousin, Elizabeth was now expecting a child. Elizabeth had been barren for years and her pregnancy was nothing short of being a miracle! Mary decided to visit her cousin Elizabeth who greeted her with much joy and high regard (Luke 2:41-45). Mary could not but burst out with great joy in what is called "The Magnificat" (Luke 2:46-55).

1. Meaning of the word "Magnificat"

- a) It comes from Latin
- b) It is a hymn of praise from Mary
"My soul magnifies the Lord"

2. Mary's soul had been deeply touched

- a) She knew that she had been blessed
- b) Her blessing was not in terms of material wealth
- c) She had been chosen to serve God as the mother of Baby Jesus

OUR CHALLENGE THIS CHRISTMAS

Let us take time to ponder the Lord's blessings. Perhaps, we have not been able to obtain great material gain but we have been blessed greatly too! Let us be challenged to magnify the Lord too! Let us be moved to give praise and glory to the Lord!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May your heart be blessed through worship!



NEW PULPIT SERIES

(November-December 2020)

“Heirs according to the hope of eternal life” Titus 3:7

1. Christmas celebrates the Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ
2. He came to bring us salvation through grace and faith
3. In this salvation, we become children of God
4. In God’s grace and mercy we are called “heirs of God” (Romans 8:17)

We will be studying this glorious teaching for the next 2 months. Let this Christmas see us rejoicing in the Lord Jesus Christ even more. There is so much to learn and to discover in this new series of Pulpit messages.



GRADUAL REOPENING

(100 people from 4 October 2020)

1. Thank God for safe-keeping
2. Let us continue to exercise wisdom and responsibility as we worship together



ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH CONFERENCE 2020

30 November- 4 December 2020

(Monday- Friday)

Theme: "The LORD looks at the heart" 1 Samuel 16:7

1. Plan to register as soon as possible
2. 50 people in attendance (Church)
3. Teens (15-19)
4. Time: 9.00am-11.30am

Let us pray for the Lord's blessings on this year's Youth Conference! Let us pray that the Lord would bless as He has the past Youth Conferences. (Hopefully, we will be able to do live-streaming).



HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Emily, Samuel and Rachel Cheong. Their paternal grandmother, Mdm. Yip Ah Loi, passed away on Monday, 26 October 2020. The late Mdm. Yip Ah Loi was 90 years old.



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 118:15-18

*¹⁵ The voice of rejoicing and salvation
Is in the tents of the righteous;
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted;
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
¹⁷ I shall not die, but live,
And declare the works of the LORD.
¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely,
But He has not given me over to death.*

1. Chastening of the Lord

- a) The chastening may seem severe
- b) But He has not given us to death

2. Celebration in the Lord

- a) Rejoicing in God's powerful right hand
- b) Rejoicing in His salvation (deliverance)
- c) Rejoicing in the life and victory He gives

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 1 November 2020

Text: Galatians 3:26 Sons of God through faith

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

1. The phrase "sons of God"

a) Meaning: "Children of God"

b) This is made possible through the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour

2. The role of faith

a) We believe in God

b) That He sent the Lord Jesus to give us salvation

3. The results of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

a) We are given the right to become children of God (John 1:12)

b) This text in Galatians 3:26 confirms what John wrote in his gospel

NEXT SUNDAY: 8 November 2020

Text: Galatians 3:28 Heirs according to the promise

*And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed,
and heirs according to the promise.*

POETRY CORNER

1

CHILDREN OF GOD

God's plan of salvation is truly outstanding;
His plan includes glorious and profound blessings.
In His grace and mercy, He made us His children;
This is a profound truth from the God of Heaven.

The Spirit of God was sent to be our Seal;
He works in our hearts with great zeal.
He confirms that we are indeed God's children;
When our life is done, we are bound for Heaven.

When we believe, we become heirs of God;
This is a profound truth given by the Lord.
The Spirit assures us that we have an inheritance;
Understanding this truth is of great importance.

We are "joint-heirs" with Christ our Saviour;
Such is the extent of God's gracious favour!
There are wonderful blessings to discover.
Let us read the Holy Scriptures with fervour.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Romans 8:16-17

POETRY CORNER

2

Confidence of Standing Fast

Very often, we rely too much on our own abilities;
Only to realize our efforts do not return expected outcomes, amidst life's uncertainties.
We then become discouraged and fearful of what the future holds;
Our confidence is shaken and our faith plummets to new lows.

But it is always God who divinely persuades;
We merely need to be willing to constantly with Him relate.
His salvation, His Word and His Spirit have been given to us freely and lovingly;
It is time to reciprocate with the fruits of Faith, Love and Hope appropriately.

There will be challenges we must face up to;
Not only external persecutions and tribulations but also personal turmoils too.
But let us with prayer and supplications wholeheartedly persevere;
Never allowing Sin and negative influences to interfere.

We will seek to establish our faith through acquiring knowledge and through prayer;
Because this is the confidence in Him that God desires.
Until we can say "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded;"
May God grant us confidence in standing fast, convinced and decided.

Dr. Sng Li Wah

Inspiration: 2 Thessalonians 2-3; 2 Timothy 1:12

POETRY CORNER

3

Confidence in God

Not all of us are faithful declared Apostle Paul;
It is sad that the world is tainted with corruption.
Let us pray for the Word of the Lord to touch us all;
May it run swiftly through mankind in glorification!

The Lord is faithful to believers protecting them from wickedness;
He gives confidence to them to excel to great faith;
The Holy Spirit encourages and is reassuring with helpfulness;
Be steadfast in His Word as distractions result in mis-faith.

Turn your will over to the Lord in joyous surrender;
As long as we are in the flesh we are subject to temptation.
Let go and have confidence in God to be your control centre;
Enjoy the peace and relief by taking such an action.

We must do our part to achieve the state of confidence in God;
Manifold challenges confront each step of the way.
However, they can be overcome by the grace of the Lord;
Accept and allow His Word over us to hold sway.

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: 2 Thessalonians 3

POETRY CORNER

4

FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

It is not easy to build a faith that is significant,
Appreciating the challenges is so important.
The quality of our faith is tested by the storms of life,
What would emerge – fear or faith in Jesus Christ?

The reality is that when trials come unexpectedly,
Fear tends to overwhelm us and make us cowardly.
A poor response reveals that our faith is weak,
To candidly assess what is lacking, we must seek.

We may have been instructed about the Lord,
But we may not know Him as much as we ought.
There may be a poor relationship with Jesus,
As well as doubts about Him and His greatness.

Let us seek to grow in knowledge of Jesus,
And apply our faith into life's circumstances.
We must look to Him and trust that He is near,
With His presence and help, we need not fear!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25

BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Children's Worship I (P1 – P3)			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Children's Worship II (P4 – P6)			Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor
Teens' Worship Service			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Evening-Bilingual Worship		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 th floor
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Green Turf	1 st floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	Auditorium 2-1	2 nd floor
Junior Sunday School I			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Junior Sunday School II			Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Senior Sunday School I			Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School II			Main Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Senior Sunday School III			Prayer Room 4-1	4 th floor
Senior Sunday School IV			Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School IV. II			Auditorium 2M	2 nd floor
Special Needs Ministry			Auditorium 4-7	4 th floor
CHOIRS				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	Auditorium 3-2	3 rd floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
BIBLE STUDY				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Home Bible Study	2 nd and 4 th Thurs	3.00 pm	-	-
Mandarin Bible Study	1 st and 3 rd Fri	7.30 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
CATECHISM CLASS				
	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
PRAYER MEETING				
	Mon	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS				
Young People's Group I	Sat	3.00 pm	Auditorium 2-1	2 nd floor
Young People's Group II			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Young People's Group III			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Young Adults' Group			Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 th floor
Young Married Group			Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor
Adults' Ministry		4.00 pm	Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor

Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

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