

Bethany III ... 27 November 2016 ... First Sunday of Advent!

MICA (P) No.: 030/10/2012

1EDITATION

cs Rev Dr Charles 7an &

Text: Ephesians 2



"IN CHRIST JESUS"

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THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

What is at the heart of Christmas? The straightforward answer is "Christ!" This is a wonderful reality. The following text well highlights this truth.

Therefore remember that you, Once Gentiles in the flesh-

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

Who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision Made in the flesh by hands-

That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens From the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from The covenants of promise,

Having no hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off Have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-13

WITHOUT CHRIST JESUS

The following observations are sobering and startling. The state described is when we do not have Christ in the picture.

- 1. Called Gentiles
- 2. Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel
 - a) Not God's people
 - b) Not included in God's promises of blessing
- 3. Strangers from the covenants of promise
 - a) Not entitled to the promises mentioned in the Covenants
 - b) The promises were not applicable
- 4. No hope
 - a) No hope of the Lord's blessings
 - b) No hope of eternal life

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

- 5. Without God in the world
 - a) God's Presence is not there to bless
 - b) His power would not be made available either
- 6. Far off
 - a) Far from God
 - b) Far from God's kingdom

IN CHRIST JESUS

Everything changes when Christ Jesus is brought into the picture!

- 1. We are brought near
 - a) To God
 - b) We are able to enter into His Kingdom
 - c) His promises are real
 - d) His blessings are ours to appreciate
- 2. The blood of Christ
 - a) It cost the life of the Lord Jesus
 - b) He had to shed His blood that we might be saved!

Let us never fail to be grateful to the Lord God for the salvation that we have in Christ Jesus! **T**

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May your heart be lifted up through worship and fellowship! \hat{V}



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR CHARLES TAN

Pastor sends greetings from San Francisco to all at Bethany today. T

SUNDAY SCHOOL (COMBINED)

8.15am Singspiration

8.30am Sunday School Class

9.15am Class Fellowship

CATECHISM CLASS TODAY

Time: 1.00pm Venue: 4th Floor Auditorium This will the last Catechism Class for this year. \$\forall\$



MEET THE SESSION

4 December 2016 Time: 1.00pm This is for all who are seeking to be baptised. \$\forall\$

WEDDING SERVICE

Debbie Chua and Kevin Seah will be joined in holy matrimony on 3 December 2016. The wedding service is at 11.00am. Wedding Reception follows. All are invited! $\hat{\tau}$

NEXT SUNDAY

We will be celebrating The Lord's Supper. Let us come with prepared hearts and minds. \$\forall\$

A & A PROJECT

The 3rd and 4th Floor on the far side of the Church will be hoarded up. We will have no access.

- 1. The General and Pastoral Offices are functioning
- 2. Please use the Bubble lift instead of the Fireman's Lift

Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessings. \$\foat{\foats}\$



CHRISTMAS BAPTISMAL SERVICES

11 December 2016 Baptismal Service I

18 December 2016 Baptismal Service II

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent 1. 1st Sunday of Advent, 27 November 2016 The Prophecy Candle

- 2. 2nd Sunday of Advent, 4 December 2016 The Bethlehem Candle
- 3. 3rd Sunday of Advent, 11 December 2016 The Shepherds' Candle
- 4. 4th Sunday of Advent, 18 December 2016 The Angels' Candle

CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT SHANGRI LA

Date: 25 December 2016 Time: 10.30am

Plan to book your table as soon as possible.



COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Eugene Seow and Moses Kwek will be commissioned as our Student-Pastors at the Christmas Day Service. Let us plan to be there to give them our support. \hat{V}

POWN MEMORY LANE

Date: 31 December 2016 Time: 8.00pm

Let us review the year and seek to extol the Lord's name! \$\forall



WORSHIP

PSalm 70:4-5

Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually "Let God be magnified!"

But I am poor and needy; Make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.

- 1. Relating to God
 - a) As people who seek Him
 - b) As people who love His salvation
 - c) They will always desire to magnify the Lord's name

- 2. Rejoicing in the Lord
 - a) This is natural
 - b) Gladness is to be found in the Lord
- 3. Looking at ourselves honestly
 - a) Poor and needy
 - b) Pleading with the Lord to hear our prayers
 - c) Believing in the Lord as our Help and our Deliverer &

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 27 November 2016

ISAIAH 44:22 I HAVE REDEEMED YOU

I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.

- 1. Our sins
- a) They have been blotted out
- b) Thank God for such grace and mercy
- 2. Offer of God
- a) To return to Him
- b) Redemption is offered to all who turn to Him in faith

NEXT SUNDAY: 4 December 2016

MATTHEW 1:23 IMMANUEL... GOD WITH US

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us."

POETRY CORNER

I WILL TRUST AND NOT BE AFRAID

There are so many things that make us feel afraid, Problems cause doubts in believing what God said. The heart is so prone to give in to deadly fears, And in the darkest of nights we cry copious tears.

We are afraid that we would not make it in life, We are afraid of difficulties that bring on strife. The fears threaten to control us so that we despair, We are unable to believe that God really does care.

The answer to the problem of despair is trust in God, The One who has provided wells of salvation is the Lord! We do not have to give in to fears when we can have trust, Our hearts may find hope again! Faith in God is a Must!

Let us come to the wells of salvation that God has given, The life-given water we drink is real taste of heaven. Let us come to the waters of life that is given freely to all, We have entrance into heaven if on the Lord Jesus we call.

> Inspiration: Isaiah 12:2 Charles Tan 🕏

POETRY CORNER

THE PROPHECY CANDLE

The Candle was a special source of light in days of old, Without it, the home would be forlorn, dark and cold. The Candle brought light that brightens the heart, Light is a symbol of the hope that God wants to impart.

The world is full of evil and darkness seems to prevail, Light is badly needed, and only God's word will avail. A word of prophecy is given to give that needed light, And through faith we understand how to walk aright.

The most-needed word of prophecy is about the Messiah, He would come to fulfil all our spiritual hope and desire. He would be born of a Virgin so the prophet foretold, But none knew that He would be born in a manger cold.

The Prophecy Candle reminds us of how to trust in God, The Scriptures would be fulfilled, as promised by the Lord. The first Christmas Candle reminds us God's provision of light, Jesus is that Great Light that dispels the darkness of night

> Inspiration: Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:1-2 Charles Tan पे

THEME: BEHOLD, GOD IS MY SALVATION

This Week @ Worship

– COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE — 10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY

"A Rod from the stem of Jesse" Isaiah 11 Chairmen

 $\begin{array}{l} {\rm Mr\; Moses\; Kwek} \\ {\rm Mr\; Eugene\; Seow} \end{array}$

Speaker

Rev Mitchell Tan

<u>Pianist</u>

Dr Daniel Chia

Organist

Mrs Elsie Poev

<u>Interpreter</u>

Dr Jane Tan

— TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE —

NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE

- CHILDREN'S CHURCH — 10.30 AM

""God with us" Matthew 1:23

COMBINED CC (P1—P6)

Speaker

Miss Camille George 4th Floor Auditorium

— COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE —

NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Breakfast: Chin Heng & Kar Inn

Fellowship Lunch: Say Sing, Li Kum, Kenneth, Benjamin & Samuel

Bethany Church Activities

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service		10.30 am	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Children's Worship (P1 – P6)	Sun	10.30 am	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Evening-Bilingual	Suii	4.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Worship Service				
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche		8.30am	Church Office	3 rd floor
		10.30am		
Beginners' Sunday School	1	8.30am	3 rd Floor Auditorium	3 rd floor
Junior Sunday School	Sun	8.30am	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Combined		8.30am	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School			,	
Senior Sunday School III		8.30am	BTS	4 th floor
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Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Youth Choir	Sat	5.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Sanctuary II	2 nd floor
BIBLE STUDY		3		
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Home Bible Study	2 nd and 4 th	3.00 pm	- 1 looi / taattoriaiii	- 11001
Tiorne Bible Glady	Thurs	0.00 pm		
Mandarin Bible Study	1 st and 3 rd	7.30 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Walldalli Bible Glady	Fri	7.00 pm	4 1 1001 / taattoriam	1 11001
CATECHISM CLASS	Sun	1.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
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PRAYER MEETING	Mon	8.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS				
Young People's Group	Sat	3.00 pm	3 rd and 4 th Floor	3 rd & 4 th
	ડ કા	-	Auditorium	floor
Young Adults' Group	Sat	3.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor

Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church 301 Upper Paya Lebar Road. Singapore 534934 tel: 65-62877713 . fax: 65-62877980 . website URL: bethanyipc.sg

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE 27 November 2016 Order of Worship

PREPARATION

Pre-Worship Singing Pianist: Dr Daniel Chi

Organist : Mrs Elsie Poey

Century Praise 142 O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Prelude

Call to Worship Mr Moses Kwek
Mr Eugene Seow

Invocation

PRAISE

Hymns

Century Praise 147 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Century Praise 139 Joy To The World

Century Praise 140 The First Noel

SPECIAL SONG ITEM

"Child Of Bethlehem" One Voice

"PREACH THE WORD"

Message: "A Rod from the stem of Jesse"

Text: Isaiah 11

Speaker: Rev Mitchell Tan

RESPONSE

Offering

Hymn

HWC No. 127 Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude

Dear Brethren.

27 November 2016

CELEBRATING ADVENT

The word "Advent" means "Coming." Christmas represents the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to fulfil God's plan of salvation. In order to prevent the problem of taking Christmas for granted, the celebration of Advent was paced out carefully.

4 SUNDAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Four Sundays before Christmas Day are typically set aside for meditation and preparation.

1st Sunday of Advent

This is the first Sunday of Advent. We light the "Prophecy Candle" to remind us of a number of things.

1. The word of God

- a) He gives us His word which we call "The Scriptures"
- b) Thank God for giving us His word or we could never know Him otherwise
- 2. The prophetic word
 - a) Many prophets were raised by God
 - b) These were special servants of God who proclaimed His word i) Preaching
 - ii) Prophesying
 - c) The wonderful thing is that God's prophetic word is fulfilled
- 3. The Prophecy of the Advent of the Messiah
 - a) Many prophecies were made concerning the coming of the Messiah (Christ)
 - b) The Lord Jesus fulfilled them to prove that He was indeed the Messiah

Let us rejoice that we can celebrate the Advent of Christ meaningfully. Let us prepare our hearts well this Christmas!

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