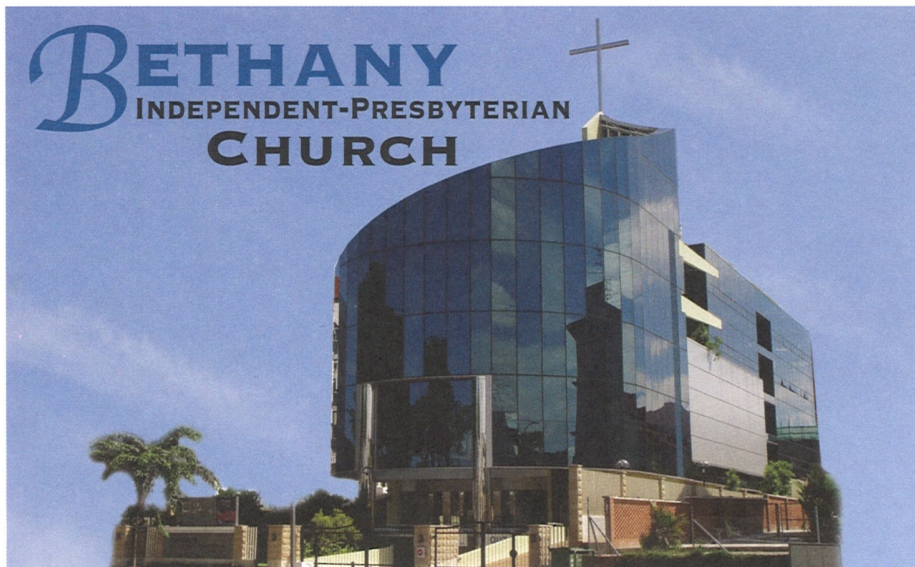


BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH



God's kind of Church...where God is touching lives...and people care for people

Bethany III ... 4 December 2016 ... Holy Communion Sunday

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

MEDITATION

by Rev Dr Charles Tan

Text: Ephesians 2



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“THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE”

PROPHECY CONCERNING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE

There are two main prophecies that speak of a “Cornerstone.” Both apply to the Lord Jesus Christ.

(continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

*Therefore thus says the LORD God:
"Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation,
A tried stone, a precious cornerstone,
A sure foundation;
Whoever believes will not act hastily." Isaiah 28:16*

*The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.*

*This was the LORD's doing;
It is marvellous in our eyes. Psalm 118:22-23*

1. A prophecy from the prophet Isaiah

- (a) This word came from the LORD God Himself
- (b) It is the LORD who would lay this cornerstone
 - i. A tried stone
 - ii. A precious cornerstone
 - iii. A sure foundation

2. A prophecy from a Psalmist

- (a) He did not disclose his identity
- (b) But he wrote prophetically too describing the cornerstone
 - i. The builders (leaders of Israel at the time of the Lord Jesus Christ)
 - ii. They had rejected the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah
 - iii. Thus they had also rejected Him as the chief cornerstone

(Continued on page 3)

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- iv. But this was the Lord's doing
- v. It was marvellous in the eyes of the author and those who shared a similar faith

APPLYING THE CONCEPT

The Apostle Paul wrote about this in his Epistle to the Ephesians, in the context of the building of the Church.

*Having been built on the foundation
Of the apostles and the prophets ,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone;*

*In whom the whole building, being fitted together,
Grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*

*In whom you also are being built together
For a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:20-22*

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone
2. The Apostles and the prophets were part of the foundations laid
3. We, as believers, are fitted together
4. We are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit

Let us rejoice in this wonderful truth. The Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ did not end at the manger in Bethlehem. It culminated in the formation of the Church that continues to exist today! ✠

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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! ☩

WELCOME

to Bethany III

THE LORD'S SUPPER TODAY

We observe The Lord's Supper today. May we always remember the Lord lovingly in this special manner.

The Bread

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Matthew 26:26

The Cup

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26:27-28 ☩

MEET THE SESSION TODAY

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: 4th floor Auditorium (East Wing, near the Bubble Lift)

All seeking baptism will be meeting the Session today. ☩



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL (COMBINED)

8.15am
Singspiration

8.30am
Sunday School Class

9.15am
Class Fellowship †

CONGRATULATIONS!

Heartfelt congratulations to Debbie and Kevin on the occasion of their wedding on Saturday, 3 December 2016. May the Lord bless you richly as you begin your marriage. †

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

Today is the 2nd 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 †

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR 2016

1. Baptismal Services

11 and 18 December 2016

2. Christmas Carolling

17 December 2016

4.00pm

3. Christmas Worship at Shangri La

25 December 2016

Time: 10.30am

Christmas Lunch Fellowship: 12.30pm

4. Commissioning Service

Moses Kwek

Eugene Seow

Let us rejoice that we have another two young men who are willing to devote their lives to serving the Lord. †

A & A PROJECT

1. Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessings on this project
2. Let us give as we are able to support the Project †



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Date: 31 December 2016

Time: 8.00pm

1. If you wish to share your testimony, please be sure to check with the Pastoral team
2. May the Lord's name always be glorified. †



WORSHIP

Psalm 71:1-2

*In You, O LORD, I put my trust;
Let me never be put to shame.*

*Deliver me in Your righteousness,
And cause me to escape;
Incline Your ear to me and save me.*



1. Precious Trust in God
 - (a) This must be personal
 - (b) This must be genuine
2. Pleading with the Lord
 - (a) Never be put to shame
 - (b) For deliverance
 - (c) For escape from the power of sin and the snares of wickedness
 - (d) That God would incline His ear and to bring about salvation †

ADVENT POETRY

THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE

An ancient Prophecy foretold the Messiah's birthplace,
Bethlehem was a little town that took up but a little space.
How could the great Messiah be born in a place like that?
Just a few believed in this prophecy; oh, how very sad!

The Bethlehem Candle is lit to remind us of the power of God,
Prophecy is a special promise that will be fulfilled by the Lord.
The word of God was meant to be a light to help us be strong,
If we keep faith and stay focused, in our heart there will be a song.

How the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem is a story to be told,
God had to do many things, each and every piece added to the whole.
Caesar had to order a census to be taken; Mary and Joseph had to report,
They had to travel all the way to Bethlehem, their names must be on record.

In a manger cold and bare, the beloved Messiah would begin God's plan,
He would offer salvation, full and free, and it would be for every man.
The Bethlehem's Candle reminds us that God would always fulfil His word,
There is no need to remain in darkness of unbelief- that would be absurd!

Inspiration: Micah 5:2

Charles Tan ✠

RETURN TO ME

Time and again the Lord speaks in loving tones,
"Return to Me," He pleads, "Come on Home."
Those are precious words that must touch the heart,
Sin has caused so much hurt, it has driven us apart!

We have transgressed the Divine laws of the Lord,
And we have sinned badly against our good God.
We deserve nothing more than judgment and shame,
Yet He lovingly calls us to return; He will lay no blame!

How wonderful it is to know that there is such love,
There is nothing like His grace which comes from above.
We have no reason to linger on in the realm of sin,
God offers to blot out our sins and cleansing from within.

Let us return to the Lord with great gratitude,
There is no one like Him in gracious magnitude.
How wonderful it is to feel so clean again,
Let us ever sing to the Lord a joyous refrain.

Inspiration: Isaiah 44:22-23

Charles Tan †

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Today, 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.”

1. A tremendous prophecy

- (a) A virgin to bear a child
- (b) Impossible in the reasoning of man
- (c) But nothing is impossible to the Lord

2. Fulfilment of Prophecy

- (a) This was gloriously fulfilled
- (b) Matthew and other Gospel writers studied the idea of “fulfilment”
- (c) They wrote with great confidence about the fulfilment of this prophecy in Christ!

NEXT SUNDAY: 11 December 2016

Luke 1:77 Knowledge of salvation

*To give knowledge of salvation to His people
By the remission of their sins. ✠*

THEME : BEHOLD, GOD IS MY SALVATION

This Week @ Worship

— COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE —
10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY
“He will swallow up death forever”
Isaiah 25

Chairmen

Deacon Jacob Chacko
Deacon Terence Teng

Speaker

Rev Dr Charles Tan

Pianist

Mrs Esther Ang

Organist

Mrs Sally Tan

Interpreter

Mr Alex Tan

— TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE —

NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE

— CHILDREN'S CHURCH —

10.30 AM

“For out of you shall come a Ruler”
Matthew 2:6

COMBINED CC (P1—P6)

Speaker

Mr Jonathan Jacob
4th Floor Auditorium

— COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE —

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast : Pastor Mitch's Discipleship Class
Fellowship Lunch : Moses & Gan Ann

Bethany Church Activities

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Children's Worship (P1 – P6)		10.30 am	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Evening-Bilingual Worship Service		4.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Church Office	3 rd floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	3 rd Floor Auditorium	3 rd floor
Junior Sunday School		8.30am	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Combined Senior Sunday School		8.30am	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School III		8.30am	BTS	4 th floor
CHOIRS				
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		5.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Sanctuary II	2 nd floor
BIBLE STUDY				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th 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	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
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 Auditorium	3 rd & 4 th floor
Young Adults' Group	Sat	3.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor

Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

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COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE
4 December 2016
Order of Worship

PREPARATION

Pre-Worship Singing	<i>Pianist : Mrs Esther Ang</i> <i>Organist: Mrs Sally Tan</i>
Century Praise 153	What Child Is This?
Prelude	
Call to Worship	<i>Deacon Jacob Chacko</i> <i>Deacon Terence Teng</i>
Invocation	

PRAISE

Hymns	
Century Praise 130	One Small Child
Century Praise 144	Once In Royal David's City
Century Praise 146	It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

“PREACH THE WORD”

Message:	“He will swallow up death forever”
Text :	Isaiah 25
Speaker:	Rev Dr Charles Tan

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Hymn	
Century Praise 226	I Cannot Tell
Partaking of the Bread	
Hymn	
HWC No. 512	My Saviour’s Love
Partaking of the Cup	

RESPONSE

Offering	
Hymn	
Century Praise 157	Angels We Have Heard On High

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude



CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

Dear Brethren,

4 December 2016

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE

There is a close connection between the first two Candles:-

1. The Prophecy Candle

- a) This highlights the Prophetic element of the Word of God
- b) The questions related to any prophecy would include the following: ~
 - i) When would it be fulfilled?
 - ii) How would it be fulfilled?
 - iii) Who would be fulfilling the prophecy?

2. The Bethlehem Candle

- a) There was a specific prophecy regarding the birth place of the Messiah
- b) The prophet Micah prophesied that He would be born in Bethlehem
- c) Related questions: ~
 - i) Why Bethlehem?
 - ii) Was it not but a very small town?
 - iii) Would this prophecy actually be fulfilled?
 - iv) How could the Messiah be born in such a small hamlet?

3. To the surprise of everyone

- a) This prophecy was fulfilled
- b) The Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem

4. What is badly needed?

A genuine and strong faith in the Lord and His Divine Word!

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charles Tan*



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