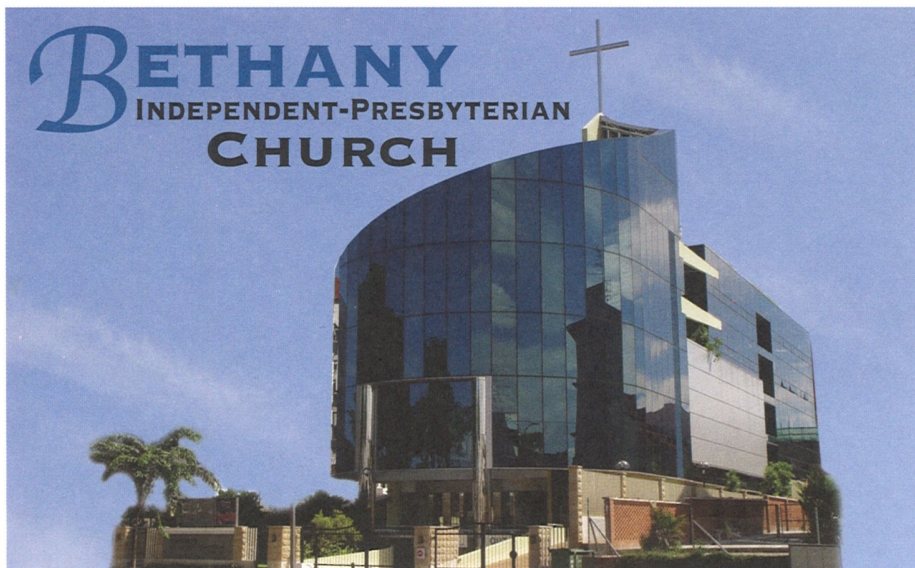


BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH



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

Bethany III ... 11 December 2016 ... Baptismal Worship Service!

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

MEDITATION

by Rev Dr Charles Tan

Text: Ephesians 3



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"THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST"

OUR FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Not everyone understands our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul used the word "mystery" to describe the gospel of the Lord.

(continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

*By revelation He made known to me the mystery
(As I have briefly written already, by which,
When you read, you may understand my knowledge
In the mystery of Christ). Ephesians 3:3*

1. The mystery of Christ
 - a) The message of the Gospel seems simple to the believer
 - b) But to the non-believer it is “a mystery”
2. By revelation
 - a) God has to reveal knowledge
 - b) Paul understood the mystery of Christ only after he came to faith

PRIOR TO THIS REVELATION OF GOD

What was Paul like before he came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
By his own admission, he had this to say: -

1. He blasphemed the Lord
2. He persecuted the church
3. He admitted ignorance 1 Timothy 1:13

IN HIS OWN RIGHT

Paul wrote about what he was like before he came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He took pride in the following: -

1. He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews Philippians 3:5
2. He was a Pharisee Philippians 3:5
3. He felt he was blameless in the keeping of the law Philippians 3:6

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Few had the privilege of being as educated as Paul was, yet for all his learning, he could not understand “the mystery of Christ.”

REVEALED BY THE SPIRIT

Paul was most grateful for the work of the Holy Spirit in his life.

*As it has now been revealed by the Spirit
To His holy apostles and prophets:*

*That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs,
Of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ
Through the gospel.* *Ephesians 3:5-6*

1. The Apostles and prophets
 - a) They were given special revelation
 - b) This was the work of the Holy Spirit
2. The content of this revelation- “the gospel”
 - a) Gentiles are fellow-heirs
 - b) They are of the same body
 - c) They are partakers of God’s promise in Christ

Let us share this wonderful gospel message with great joy and conviction of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! †

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 touched through worship and fellowship! †

WELCOME
to Bethany III

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BAPTISMAL SERVICE TODAY

Let us rejoice with all who are seeking baptism today.

Adult Baptism

1. Ngo Pei Ching
2. Fabian Phua
3. Paul Chia
4. Samuel Mok
5. Roxanne Lim
6. Liew Si Hui
7. Melvin Seng
8. Joyce Chan
9. Jessica Lim

Re-affirmation

Grace Tan

Paedo-Baptism

1. Carissa Goh (daughter of Liangzhou and Weihui)
2. Matthew Seng (son of Melvin and Joyce) ✝



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

1. Christmas Carolling

17 December 2016

Time: 4.00pm

Fellowship Dinner: 5.30pm

2. Christmas Service at Shangri-La

25 December 2016

Worship: 10.30am

Christmas Lunch: 12.30pm †

Children's Christmas Programme at Shangri-la (25 December 2016)

There will be a Children's Christmas Programme (for children aged 7-12) at the Island Ballroom foyer. Ushers will be present to direct the children to the worship.

As Shangri-la is undergoing A&A works, there are no additional rooms to have the crèche programme.

The Tower Ballroom foyer will be made available for parents with young children. †

WEDDING BELLS

Roxanne and Terence will be joined in holy wedlock on Friday, 16 December 2016. The Service commences at 12.30pm. †

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DOWN MEMORY LANE

Date: 31 Dec 2016

Time: 6.00pm

Let us conclude the year with worship! ✝

MISSIONS

Pastor Charles Tan will be ministering in Myanmar this week
(12 - 15 December 2016). ✝

A & A PROJECT

Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessings. There is still much to be done.

1. Air-conditioning
 - a) Please plan to bring a sweater if you are feeling too cold
 - b) We will try and arrive at the "right temperature"
2. Worshipping at the Balcony

TVs have been installed to help all worshippers at the 2M level ✝

PSALM 71:3

*Be my strong refuge,
To which I may resort continually;
You have given the commandment to save me,
For You are my rock and my fortress.*

1. The Lord

- a) A strong refuge
- b) A rock
- c) A fortress

2. The challenge

- a) That the Lord may become personal and real
- b) To resort to the Lord continually
- c) To believe in the Lord's word of salvation †

ADVENT POEMS

THE SHEPHERDS CANDLE

The Divine plan of salvation was an amazing work of the Lord,
Few could comprehend it fully, not even the prophets of God!
The message of God had to be revealed to those would believe,
Only then could the deep wisdom of God be truly perceived.

The promise of a Messiah who would be Saviour was lost to many,
Those who set God aside walked in darkness, living in misery.
The Light that was promised had come to the world that was lost,
Jesus had come to redeem mankind, no matter how high the cost.

To the scribes of the Scriptures, this truth should have been plain,
But sadly, for all their knowledge, they studied the Word in vain.
But to humble shepherds the truth of God's salvation was revealed,
They heard about the Saviour's birth; the truth was no longer concealed.

The Angels broke into a glorious carol, singing of glory to the Lord
The Shepherds saw the Baby, and with all their heart they believed in God.
The Shepherds' Candle brings hope to all who are contrite in heart,
From those who believe, Jesus the Glorious Saviour would never depart!

Inspiration: Luke 2:8-20

Charles Tan †

IMMANUEL

Many groan in despair at the hardship of life,
There is so much anguish, pain and strife.
Who would understand life's tough reality?
God does! He stands with us in solidarity.

He knows how hard it is to sustain faith in Him,
There is so much distress, and many are grim.
Immanuel- God with us- is the Divine solution,
In Christ Jesus there is hope of true salvation!

He will don flesh and become fully Man,
He will seek to fulfil God's salvation plan.
He will feel poverty, hardship and sorrow,
He has saved us and offers a better tomorrow.

Immanuel- "God with us," is a glorious name,
Though we fail, yet of us, He is not ashamed!
How precious it is to know Jesus as our Lord!
Let us with joy, offer true worship, to our God!

Inspiration: Isaiah 7:14

Charles Tan ✠

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Today, 11 December 2016

Luke 1:77 Knowledge of salvation

To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins.

1. This was Zechariah's prophetic word concerning his infant son
2. John's ministry was proclaimed
3. He would teach people how they may be saved
4. He would become the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ

Next Sunday, 18 December 2016

Luke 1:78 The Dayspring from on high has visited us

*Through the tender mercy of our God,
with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us. †*

THEME : BEHOLD, GOD IS MY SALVATION

This Week @ Worship

— COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE —
10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY
“Behold, I lay in Zion a Foundation”
Isaiah 28

Chairmen

Dr Tang Kong Choon
Mr Milton Ong

Pianist

Dr Daniel Chia

Organist

Mrs Sally Tan

Speaker

Rev Dr Charles Tan

Interpreter

Mr Foo Yit San

— TEENS’ WORSHIP SERVICE —

NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE

— CHILDREN’S CHURCH —

10.30 AM

“Behold, I bring you good tidings of
great joy”
Luke 2:10

COMBINED CC (P1—P6)

Speaker

Student-Pastor Benjamin Chong
4th Floor Auditorium

— COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE —

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast : Nicholas, Linda & Dana
Fellowship Lunch : Eddie & Siok Lian Peh

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		8.30am	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School				
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
11 December 2016
Order of Worship

PREPARATION

Pre-Worship Singing

Pianist : Dr Daniel Chia
Organist : Mrs Sally Tan

New Song

Joy Has Dawned

Prelude

Call to Worship

Dr Tang Kong Choong
Mr Milton Ong

Invocation

PRAISE

Hymns

Century Praise 148

O Come All Ye Faithful

Century Praise 119

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

HWC No. 148

O Holy Night

“PREACH THE WORD”

Message: “Behold, I lay in Zion a Foundation”

Text : Isaiah 28

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

RESPONSE

Offering

Hymn

Century Praise 144

Once in Royal David's City

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude



CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

Dear Brethren,

11 December 2016

BAPTISMAL SERVICE TODAY

Seeing people baptised should always bring a special sense of joy to the heart. Today we have a number of people who will be baptised!

REJOICING IN THE LORD

Let us look at some of the reasons why we may be able to rejoice in the Lord.

1. The symbol of baptism

- a) It represents our being joined to the Lord Jesus Christ
- b) There is a wonderful sense of being united with the Lord

2. For the individual

- a) It represents salvation found in the Lord
- b) It further represents a level of faith that expresses a desire to be the Lord's

3. For the Church

- a) We welcome all who share the same spirit of faith
- b) We pray that the new members will prove to be a blessing to the church

THE SHEPHERDS CANDLE

We light the Shepherds Candle today. This Candle represents a number of things.

1. The Shepherds

- a) They may be poor and humble but they are not forgotten by the Lord
- b) May this display of tender love warm our hearts deeply

2. Christmas

- a) Let us find special joy in our faith in the Lord
- b) Let us continue to seek new and deeper meaning in our faith

Prayerfully,

Pastor Charles Tan



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