

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 25 November 2018*

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

## MEDITATION

☞ REV DR CHARLES TAN ☞

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Text: Jeremiah 31

### **“SING WITH GLADNESS”**

#### THE CALL TO SING TO THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Time and again, the Psalms call all who believe in the Lord to sing to Him with gladness of heart! Jeremiah also takes up the challenge to call upon those who trust the Lord to sing to Him with gladness!

*(continued on page 2)*

# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

*For thus says the LORD:  
"Sing with gladness for Jacob,  
And shout among the chief of the nations;" Jeremiah 31:7*

## SOME REASONS FOR THIS SPECIAL SENSE OF GLADNESS

Jeremiah listed a number of reasons why this sense of gladness was possible!

1. Assurance of God's everlasting love

*"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love" Jeremiah 31:3a*

2. A special work of God to draw His children to Himself

*"Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you" Jeremiah 31:3b*

3. The promise of rebuilding individual lives and the nation

*"Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt" Jeremiah 31:4*

4. Restoration of joy

*"You shall again be adorned with your tambourines,  
And shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice" Jeremiah 31:4*

a) Tambourines

i) Simple community instruments

ii) Communities came together to celebrate happy events with singing and usually accompanied with tambourines (basic musical instrument)

b) Dances

i) This is a reference to a joyous community dance

ii) The event could be the rebuilding of villages and cities

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

iii) Great would be the dances of joy when whole communities are rebuilt!

iv) This joy would be strong and felt by many

5. Promise of blessing for business endeavours

*"You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria;  
The planters shall plant and eat them as ordinary food."* Jeremiah 31:5

a) Samaria was destroyed in 722 BC by the Assyrians

b) Yet this was the promise of the Lord to Israel

c) They will return to their homeland and they would once again experience the Lord's blessings

i) Protection

ii) Power

iii) Provision

The nation would not need to fear invaders if the Lord God Himself would protect and bless His people! How our hearts must rejoice in the promises of the Lord to bless His people! †

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Write to me at: [charlestan@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:charlestan@bethanyipc.sg)

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We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May your heart find much joy through worship and fellowship! †

Welcome  
to Bethany IV

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **NEXT SUNDAY (HOLY COMMUNION)**

We will be observing The Lord's Supper next Sunday.  
Let us come with prepared hearts and minds! †

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## **LAST CATECHISM CLASS TODAY**

*Time: 1.00pm*  
*Venue: Auditorium 4.07*

We complete our Catechism Class ministry for 2018.  
We resume in January 2019. †

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## **MEET THE SESSION**

All baptismal candidates would be meeting with the Session  
next Sunday at 1.00pm. †

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## **FULL-COMBINED WORSHIP IN DECEMBER 2018**

We will have full-combined worship for the month of December.  
The Teens will join the Morning Worship Service! †

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLLING**

Date: 8 December 2018

Time: 4.00pm

Let us come together for a special time of worship!

1. Debut of "A Bethany Orchestra"
  - a) The musicians will accompany the singing of carols
  - b) The music accompaniment was specially written by our friend, Dr. Prateep
2. Christmas Carolling spirit
  - a) Let us maintain a strong spirit of joy
  - b) Let us never allow ourselves to become complacent at any time

Plan to sign up today! Please indicate:

1. If you are 65 and above
2. If you are 12 and below †

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## ***YOUTH CONFERENCE***

2-6 December 2018

"A Wise Master Builder"

Let us pray for the Lord's blessings. The Youth Conference begins next Sunday! May many hearts be richly blessed by the Lord through the ministry of the word of God in particular. †

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## CHRISTMAS AT SHANGRI LA

This has been our "tradition" for many years now! Let us treasure this special tradition. Plan to book your table as soon as possible! †

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### ***THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES***

We light the Advent Candles starting next week:

*2 December 2018  
The Prophecy Candle*

*9 December 2018  
The Bethlehem Candle*

*16 December 2018  
The Shepherds' Candle*

*23 December 2018  
The Angels' Candle †*

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## BAPTISMAL SERVICES

9 December 2018  
Paedo-baptism

16 December 2018  
Adult Baptism/ Confirmation/ Transference

All baptismal candidates are to write a testimony of their salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! †

# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT & TRUTH

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## Psalm 95:6-7

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*

*For He is our God,  
And we are the people of His pasture,  
And the sheep of His hand.*

### 1. Our worship of God

- a) It should be given with deep humility
- b) The word “kneel” suggests that we should offer worship humbly

### 2. The God we worship

- a) He is the LORD
- b) He is our awesome Maker

### 3. Remembering what we are as worshippers

- a) We are the people of His pasture
- b) We are but sheep
- c) But thankfully we are “the sheep of His hand!”
  - i) He knows us individually
  - ii) He knows our name
  - iii) He relates personally †

## AN EVERLASTING LOVE

How wonderful it is to have this declaration by our God;  
"I have loved you with an everlasting love," says the Lord!  
How could the Lord love people who keep on backsliding?  
Only a God with a Deep Love is capable of this kind of loving;

Human love may burn brightly for a short season;  
But soon it withers and fades for many reasons;  
But God's love will never fade away at any time;  
Such is His love, for it is glorious and sublime!

To receive such Divine Love must cause the heart to be happy;  
There is no sadness so deep that God cannot replace completely!  
The challenge is to take time to ponder God's Divine affection;  
There is no one else able to promise such loving devotion!

The love of God is often misunderstood or taken for granted;  
God's everlasting love was meant to be deeply treasured.  
The Lord's everlasting love is a wonderful theme at Christmas;  
May our hearts find a renewed sense of joy and blessedness!

Inspiration: Jeremiah 31:3

Charles Tan



## God's Seven- Fold Blessings

We all derive joy from a myriad of occasions;  
From marriage, the birth of a child, even college graduations.  
Of course, these bring happiness and call for celebration;  
Yet we rejoice, but only for a short duration.

Consider now God's promise of deliverance from the bondage of sin;  
He gives Salvation which enables a new life to begin.  
He will answer our prayers, a precious thought so reassuring;  
He will even honor His children although they are so unde-  
serving!

God will be with us through our many struggles;  
Believe that He will set us apart from life's snares and tangles.  
And who but God Himself can grant long life for us to enjoy;  
The intricate yet marvelous designs for our lives which He employs?

True joy is ours when we can know and love our God;  
Blessed are we who can call upon the name of the Lord.  
May God grant a spirit of faithfulness and humility!  
To understand and appreciate His priceless Gift to humanity.

Inspiration: Psalm 91:14-16  
Dr. Sng Li Wah

# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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**TODAY: 25 NOVEMBER 2018**

PSALM 149:5 JOYFUL IN GLORY

*Let the saints be joyful in glory;  
Let them sing aloud on their beds.*

1. The saints
  - a) Those who belong to the Lord
  - b) They are "holy" in God's sight
  - c) They are sanctified by the Lord Himself
2. The joy of the saints of God
  - a) They have every reason to have joy in the Lord
  - b) They may be filled with joy from morning to the time they go to bed
  - c) This kind of joy truly can come only from the Lord!

**NEXT SUNDAY: 2 DECEMBER 2018**

MATTHEW 2:10 THEY REJOICED WITH EXCEEDINGLY  
GREAT JOY

*When they saw the star,  
They rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. †*

THEME : REJOICED WITH EXCEEDINGLY GREAT JOY

## THIS WEEK @ WORSHIP

### COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY

"Rejoice, highly favoured one"

Luke 1:26-38

Chairman

Intern-Pastor  
Benjamin Chong

Pianist

Mr Gabriel Ou

Speaker

Rev Dr Charles Tan

Organist

Mrs Sally Tan

Interpreter

Ms Tan Hwee Cheng

Chairman

Ms Sea Su-an

Pianist

Ms Ho Lianya

Speaker

Rev Mitchell Tan

Usher

Miss Bethany Toong  
Miss Amanda Tan

— TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE —  
10.30 AM. 3RD FLOOR AUDITORIUM 3-8  
"Finding exceedingly great joy"  
Luke 2

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

10.30 AM

"Your Father knows the things you  
need" Matthew 6:5-15

CC I: P1—P3

3rd Floor  
Auditorium 3-1

CC II: P4—P6

4th Floor  
Auditorium 4-1

Speaker  
Student-Pastor  
Moses Kwek

Speaker  
Intern-Pastor  
Benjamin Quah

### EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast : Eric & Siok Kuan  
Fellowship Lunch : Say Sing, Li Kum, Kenneth, Benjamin & Samuel;  
Jensen & Yvonne Goh

# Bethany Church Activities

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b>				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Children's Worship I (P1 – P3)			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Children's Worship II (P4 – P6)			Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Teens' Worship Service			Auditorium 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Combined Evening-Bilingual		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Green Turf	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	Auditorium 2-1	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Junior Sunday School I			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Junior Sunday School II			Auditorium 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School I			Fellowship Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School II			Main Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School III			Prayer Room 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School IV			Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Special Needs Ministry			Auditorium 4-7	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
<b>CHOIRS</b>				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	Auditorium 3-2	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Home Bible Study	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	3.00 pm	-	-
Mandarin Bible Study	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	7.30 pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
<b>CATECHISM CLASS</b>				
	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
<b>PRAYER MEETING</b>				
	Mon	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<b>FELLOWSHIP GROUPS</b>				
Young People's Group I	Sat	3.00 pm	Auditorium 2-1	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Young People's Group II			Auditorium 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Young People's Group III			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Young Adults' Group			Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Young Married Group			Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Adults' Ministry		4.00 pm	Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> 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**  
**25 November 2018**  
**Order of Worship**

**PREPARATION**

Pre-Worship Singing

*Pianist : Mr Gabriel Ou*  
*Organist : Mrs Sally Tan*

Century Praise 153

What Child Is This?

Prelude

Call to Worship

*Intern-Pastor Benjamin Chong*

Invocation

**PRAISE**

Hymns

Century Praise 157

Angels We Have Heard On High

Century Praise 301

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

Century Praise 2

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**“PREACH THE WORD”**

Message: “Rejoice, highly favoured one”

Text : Luke 1:26-38

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

**RESPONSE**

Offering

Hymn

HWC No. 495

Heaven Came Down

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude



# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SINGAPORE

*God's Kind of Church...  
Where God is touching lives...  
And people care for people.*

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## PASTORAL LETTER

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25 NOVEMBER 2018

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

*Dear Brethren,*

### YOUTH CONFERENCE 2018

We commence Youth Conference 2018 next Sunday. One of the highlights of the year is the Youth Conference. Why is this such a spiritual highlight?

#### 1. A special work of the Holy Spirit

The special work of the Spirit of God is to be carefully noted and appreciated:

- a) He convicts hearts
  - i) Of sin
  - ii) Of the need to deal with sin thoroughly
- b) He converts hearts
  - i) He brings about regeneration
  - ii) Some are converted
  - iii) Still others are revived
- c) He enlightens
  - i) He opens the heart and mind
  - ii) He helps people to understand the Scriptures
- d) He empowers
  - i) He gives needed strength
  - ii) He enables us to serve effectively

#### 2. A special time of building special bonds

- a) With the church at large
- b) With each other

Let us pray that this year's conference will be wonderfully blessed again. Let us never take the Lord's blessings for granted.

*Prayerfully,  
Pastor Charlie*