

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 16 December 2018 ... Baptismal Worship Service

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

MEDITATION

☪ REV DR CHARLES TAN ☪

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Text: Isaiah 11

THE JESSE TREE

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS IN ANCIENT EUROPE

Christmas was celebrated in many different ways in different countries. In ancient Europe and in early America, there was a practice of decorating what is called "The Jesse Tree." This idea was inspired by what Isaiah wrote.

(continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

*There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. Isaiah 11:1*

1. Jesse

- a) He was the father of King David
- b) His line was called "the stem of Jesse"

2. A Rod/ A Branch

- a) This is a reference to the Messiah
- b) He would be the Messianic David

THE BUILDING OF A JESSE TREE

Symbolic ornaments were hung on a tree during the Advent period leading to Christmas Day. The following things were added to decorate the tree.

1. Decorations

- a) These trace major events (Old Testament)
 - i) Creation
 - ii) Abraham
 - iii) The Exodus
- b) New Testament
 - i) Prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus Christ
 - ii) Prophecies fulfilled
- c) Decorations were often hand-made crafts

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(Continued from page 2)

2. The focus of the Jesse Tree

- a) To remember the significance of the event of the birth of Jesus
- b) To prepare the heart for the celebration of Christmas
- c) To appreciate the Lord Jesus in a fresh new way

3. Home Jesse trees

- a) The setting up of Jesse trees seems to have experienced a revival in the US
- b) Many homes build their own Jesse trees to celebrate Christmas meaningfully

A HEART FULL OF GRATITUDE

How our hearts must be filled with gratitude as we celebrate Christmas yet again. Let us thank God for His grace and mercy and love in His profound divine plan to send the Saviour of the world- the Lord Jesus Christ! May He be the royal King of our life! †

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 deeply encouraged and blessed through worship and fellowship! †

*Welcome
to Bethany IV*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2ND BAPTISMAL SERVICE TODAY

Paedo-Baptism

Oliver Lin Zhi Quan (son of Nelson Lin and Justina Lin)

Transference of Membership

David Cai Jinhang

Baptism

1. Danny Kong Chun Fon
2. Kang Jin Hao, Ryan
3. Low Pauline
4. Ong Dingjie
5. Tan Wei Kee
6. Tong Lai Mun
7. Woon Fong Chin
8. Yeo Boon Khiang

Re-affirmation Of Faith

1. Benjamin Poey
2. Goh Wei En Marcus
3. Grace Lim Wen Xin
4. Rebecca Toong

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

1. The Prophecy Candle

2 December

2. The Bethlehem Candle

9 December

3. The Shepherds Candle

16 December

4. The Angels Candle

23 December

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SHEPHERDS CANDLE

1. The selection of humble shepherds display the greatness of God
 - a) He chose people of very humble occupations to announce the birth of the Messiah
 - b) The shepherds were so greatly privileged to see and hear angels sing
 - c) What an outstanding display of magnanimity
 - d) What a divine profound message!

 2. Our calling to salvation and service
 - a) We come from humble backgrounds too
 - b) Yet we are called to salvation
 - c) We are also called to serve the Lord!
 - d) May we serve with great joy and faithfulness
-

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

21 & 22 DECEMBER 2018

TIME: 8.00PM

CHRISTMAS AT SHANGRI LA

25 DECEMBER 2018

TIME: 10.30AM

1. Our Christmas Worship at Shangri La has been our special way of celebrating Christmas for the past 2 decades
2. Let us do everything we can to maintain this special spirit of joy.
3. Plan to book your table today!
4. Plan to bring a relative or a friend to this Christmas worship at Shangri La

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOWN MEMORY LANE

31 DECEMBER 2018

TIME: 8.00PM

Text: Psalm 30

Title: "Give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name"

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT & TRUTH

Psalm 96:6

*Honour and majesty are before Him;
Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.*

1. In the Presence of the Lord are:

- a) Honour
- b) Majesty
- c) Such is the Presence of the Lord
- d) These command regard and respect

2. In His sanctuary

- a) Strength
- b) Beauty
- c) The power of the Lord is always manifest
- d) May we ever find safety and peace in His shelter! †

SHEPHERDS GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD

Seeing the Angels of God was a once-in-a-lifetime event for the shepherds;
They would never be able to understand why they were so well-regarded!
There were many who were high-born and noble in heart and mind;
The visitation of the Shepherds would reflect Divine Love sublime.

But there was no mistaking what they saw and heard that night;
The glory of the Lord surrounded the angels had caused deep fright;
The powerful Angels had brought a special Message from God;
They announced the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ the Lord!

The Shepherds felt constrained to check what the angels has said;
They made haste to see the Baby with the angelic song in their head.
They were astonished when they came to the Manger where Jesus was born;
All that the Angels had said were true! They remembered the Angels' song.

The Shepherds returned to look after their sheep in the open fields that night;
But they returned with hearts and minds that had seen the Great Light.
They could not help but glorify and praise the God of their forefathers;
They would forever proclaim the joyous Christmas message to others!

Inspiration: Luke 2:8-20
Charles Tan

PLAN C

ONE THING IN LIFE IS NATURAL – WE PLAN FOR MANY THINGS.
FOR SCHOOL, FOR WORK, FOR FAMILY, FOR WHAT EACH DAY MAY BRING.
WE PLAN ONCE, AND THEN AGAIN – A PLAN “B” FOR EVERY “A”.
WE THINK OF EACH CONTINGENCY, OUR OWN FEARS TO ALLAY.

BUT WHAT WE FIND IS SOMETIMES, OUR PLANS OFT COME TO NOUGHT,
OUR BEST-LAID PLANS ARE FUTILE, WE CAN'T GET WHAT WE'VE SOUGHT.
SUCH WAS THE LIFE OF PAUL, WE READ: A ZEALOUS JEW WAS HE,
HE COULD HAVE BEEN A TENTMAKER – BUT GOD HAD IN MIND “PLAN C”.

PLAN C WAS CHRIST AND HIS GREAT LOVE, PLAN C WAS GOD'S OWN CHOOSING;
PLAN C WAS ONE OF MATCHLESS GRACE, INTO PAUL'S LIFE INFUSING.
PLAN C WAS ONE OF COMPLETE CHANGE – PAUL WAS A NEW CREATION!
HE WENT ON TO SERVE THE LORD, WITH UTTER DEDICATION.

WHY WAS THIS PLAN SO SPECIAL? BECAUSE IT WAS FROM GOD!
GOD PLANNED WITH LOVE AND WISDOM, AND WE CAN'T BUT BE AWED.
ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE, ACCORDING TO HIS GRACE,
ACCORDING TO HIS POWER – GOD PLANNED FOR ALL OUR DAYS.

IN LIFE THERE MAY BE FAILURES, OUR PLANS ARE SNATCHED AWAY,
WE SEE OURSELVES UNABLE, WE CANNOT FIND A WAY.
HOW PRECIOUS TO REMEMBER: EVERPRESENT IS GOD'S GRACE!
OUR LIVES CAN BE WELL BUILT ON CHRIST, AND GOD'S PLAN EVER
TRACE.

INSPIRATION:
1 TIM 1:12-14
2 TIM 1:8-9

Will Leong

Joy Extraordinaire

The news of a pregnancy brings much joy to the family;
As a child is the culmination of love in a couple's matrimony.
But what if the woman was still a virgin like Mary of Nazareth?
How would mere mortals react at the prospect of the Virgin Birth?

The greetings brought from the angel Gabriel to Mary were customary;
But the news he brought were far from ordinary!
We saw that Mary was obedient and God's plan for her she did not defy;
Mary's Magnificat as recorded in the Gospel of Luke explained why.

Instead of doubting and opposing God's plan as mortals were inclined;
Mary had magnified the Lord and rejoiced at His leading in her life.
You see, God sometimes puts us in difficult circumstances we struggle to comprehend;
Only to reveal in due time, His higher purpose for us to understand.

The unexpected and glorious can result even in the humdrum of what seems ordinary;
It's our attitude that can bring forth what seems jaded into something extraordinary!
Joy extraordinaire is when we can see God's design unfold in our lives' maze;
The opportunity to be involved in His master plan is what counts in Life's race.

Inspiration: Luke 1:26-55

Dr. Sng Li Wah

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 16 DECEMBER 2018

LUKE 2:20

GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

1. The shepherds
 - a) They were not slow in responding to what they saw at the Manger scene
 - b) They glorified God
 - c) They praised the Lord
2. Our challenge
 - a) To emulate their example
 - b) Let us praise the Lord in a fresh new way
 - c) Let us share with others our faith in the Lord!

NEXT SUNDAY: 23 DECEMBER 2018

1 PETER 1:8

YOU REJOICE WITH JOY INEXPRESSIBLE AND FULL OF GLORY
*Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing,
you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory. †*

THEME : REJOICED WITH EXCEEDINGLY GREAT JOY

THIS WEEK @ WORSHIP

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY

"Glorifying and praising God"

Luke 2:8-20

Chairmen

Rev Mitchell Tan

Student-Pastor

Moses Kwek

Speaker

Rev Dr Charles Tan

Pianist

Dr Daniel Chia

Organist

Mrs Sally Tan

Interpreter

Mrs Koh Baoling

TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE

NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

10.30 AM

Shepherd's Candle:

"Who will shepherd My People"

Matthew 2:6

CC I: P1—P3

3rd Floor

Auditorium 3-1

Speaker

Student-Pastor

Jonathan Jacob

CC II: P4—P6

4th Floor

Auditorium 4-1

Speaker

Miss Camille George

EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast : Lim Wei Quan
Fellowship Lunch : YC & Hong Suen

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
Combined Evening-Bilingual		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			Auditorium 4-1	4 th 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

301 Upper Paya Lebar Road, Singapore 534934
 tel : 65-62877713 . fax : 65-62877980 . website URL : bethanyipc.sg

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE
16 December 2018
Order of Worship

PREPARATION

Pre-Worship Singing

Pianist : Dr Daniel Chia
Organist : Mrs Sally Tan

Century Praise 133

Silent Night

Prelude

Call to Worship

Rev Mitchell Tan
Student-Pastor Moses Kwek

Invocation

PRAISE

Hymns

VIP No. 733

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

VIP No. 760

Mary's Boy Child

Century Praise 139

Joy To The World

“PREACH THE WORD”

Message: “Glorifying and praising God”

Text : Luke 2:8-20

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

RESPONSE

Offering

Hymn

Century Praise 157

Angels We Have Heard On High

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude



BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SINGAPORE

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PASTORAL LETTER

16 DECEMBER 2018

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

Dear Brethren,

SHARING AN INTERESTING INTERPRETATION OF THE SONG “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”

1. “My true love”
This was a reference to God who loves us.
2. A partridge in a pear tree
A reference to the Lord Jesus as God’s special gift!
3. Two turtle doves
A reference to the Old and New Testaments
4. Three French hens
A reference to Paul’s highlight of “faith, hope and love” 1 Corinthians 13:13
5. Four calling birds
A reference to the Four Gospels
6. Five golden rings
A reference to the Pentateuch (five books of Moses)
7. Six geese a laying
A reference to the six days of creation
8. Seven swans a swimming
A reference to the seven gifts of the Spirit of God (Isaiah 11:2)
9. Eight maids milking
A reference to the Eight Beatitudes
10. Nine ladies dancing
A reference to the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
11. Ten lords leaping
A reference to the Ten Commandments
12. Eleven pipers piping
A reference to the original Eleven Apostles (minus Judas Iscariot)
13. Twelve drummers drumming
A reference to the Twelve Points highlighted by The Apostle’s Creed.

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie*