

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 23 December 2018

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

MEDITATION

☪ REV DR CHARLES TAN ☪

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Text: Isaiah 11; Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2

“THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD”

THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Christmas story was told by two Gospel writers, Matthew and Luke. What is remarkable in their narratives is the mention of the Holy Spirit.

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

1. The conception of Mary involved the Holy Spirit

- a) There was an ancient prophecy of a virgin conceiving and giving birth to the Messiah (Isaiah 7:14)
- b) This was fulfilled when the Spirit of God caused this conception to take place in Mary's womb (Matthew 1:18, 21-23)

2. The specific mention of the work of the Holy Spirit

- a) In the life of Baby John the baptizer Luke 1:15
- b) In the life of Mary Luke 1:35
- c) In the life of Elizabeth Luke 1:41
- d) In the life of Zacharias Luke 1:67
- e) In the life of Simeon Luke 2:25-26

THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE MESSIAH

There was another ancient prophecy concerning the Holy Spirit with reference to the life and ministry of the Messiah.

*The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:2*

Several things may be noted as we read this text with reference to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. A special anointing from God

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- a) The Messiah would have to be anointed
- b) This was a special anointing for the Lord Jesus

2. The significance of this special anointing

- a) This would be God's special seal on Jesus to confirm Him as the Son of God
- b) This anointing would have permanent and positive consequences
- c) This anointing would result in special empowerment for life and ministry

SEEKING TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Our reading of the Christmas narratives in the gospels of Matthew and Luke should cause us to desire the following:

- 1. To experience the anointing of the Spirit of God
- 2. To seek the filling of the Spirit of God
- 3. To find that special filling of the Spirit of God for life and ministry. †

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! †

*Welcome
to Bethany IV*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Pastoral Staff and Session Members wish all at Bethany a wonderful Spirit-filled Christmas evidenced by great joy! †

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

1. PROPHECY CANDLE
2 December 2018

2. BETHLEHEM CANDLE
9 December 2018

3. SHEPHERDS CANDLE
16 December 2018

4. ANGELS CANDLE
23 December 2018 †

CHRISTMAS AT SHANGRI LA

Date: 25 December 2018
Time: 10.30am (Christmas Day Worship)
12.30pm Christmas Lunch †

TWO GIFTS OF BOOKS THIS CHRISTMAS

1. MSITN
(John 1-6)

2. Book for Special Needs Children
(A book to help children to know God hears and answers prayer)

These two books would be given as Christmas Gifts at the Shangri La on 25 December 2018. †

A NEW CHURCH VAN

We have been blessed with a new church van. This is a gift from SSS 4. †

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2018

Thank God for all who were involved in making the Christmas Concert Program successful.

1. The Choir members
And the soloists
2. The musicians/ the choir directors
3. The Concert supporting teams:
 - a) AVA (sound/ lights/ video)
 - b) Stage hands
 - c) Actors
 - d) Costume

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- e) Make-up
 - f) Script writers
 - g) Choreographers
 - h) Dancers
4. Other supporting teams:
- a) Kitchen
 - b) Sponsors
 - c) Ushers
 - d) Car Park marshals
 - e) Prayer intercessors †
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DOWN MEMORY LANE

31 December 2018
Time: 8.00pm

1. A time of reflection
2. A time of thanksgiving
3. A time of praise
4. A time of worship acknowledging God's wonderful protection and provision for yet another meaningful year!

If you have something special to share, please speak to the Pastoral team. †

SPECIAL BAPTISMAL SERVICE

Mdm. Koh Ah Kar, the mother of Deacon Terence Teng was baptized on 20 December 2018 in a home baptismal service. Mdm. Koh is 96 years old and was very clear about her decision to receive baptism! †

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

To Angeline Loh on the demise of her mother on 18 December 2018.
The late Mdm. Mary Lee was 94 years old. †

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT & TRUTH

Psalm 96:7-8

*Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
Give to the LORD glory and strength.*

*Give to the LORD the glory due to His name;
Bring an offering, and come into His courts.*

1. Give to the LORD
 - a) To ascribe to the Lord
 - b) To give Him what is due to Him (by right)

2. The things we must ever to attribute to the Lord
 - a) Glory
 - b) Strength

3. The offering
 - a) Our way of acknowledging the Lord as our Sovereign God
 - b) Our way of expressing our faith and our allegiance to the Lord as our King †

CALVARY

The righteous and blameless Saviour alone carried the cross,
For someone so unworthy and wretched like me, He paid the cost.
Through redemption in Your Son, we are justified freely by Your grace
With eternal life, may we seek Your face.

You lovingly sent Your Son to die on the cross of Calvary for me,
Now that salvation is complete, forever, I'm free!
My chains are gone, my debt is paid;
Through the cross, new hope for me is laid.

My soul rejoices because Calvary covers it all;
Despite my sin and shame, You still gave Your call.
You are merciful and faithful to save,
Nothing can separate us from Your love and grace.

Come, let us confess our sins and ask for forgiveness,
The faithful One will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
In Your light, we see light;
For in You is the fountain of life.

Chloe Lim
Pines 2

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

How may we be sure that Jesus is the Messiah?
And that He is truly sent by God to be our Saviour?
We may know and be very certain in our heart;
For God has wonderfully set Jesus Christ apart!

God has given to Jesus the Seven-fold Spirit for ministry;
The Saviour would thus be able to deal with abject misery.
Sin has devastated many lives and leaves a path of destruction;
Jesus, fully empowered by the Spirit, is able to give redemption.

The Spirit of God would grant wisdom and understanding;
Counsel and might would also be given for effective ministering.
There would always be deep knowledge and the fear of the Lord;
The fullness of the Spirit of God would rest on Jesus in full accord.

Our confidence in Jesus need never be shaken;
The Spirit of God would lead God's true children.
He indwells the believer as the Divine Seal and Guarantee;
He will lead all God's children from here to eternity.

Inspiration: Isaiah 11:1-2

Charles Tan

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 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.

1. Joy inexpressible

- a) Found in genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- b) This joy wonderfully confirms our faith in the Lord

2. Joy that is also full of glory

- a) It is a special feature
- b) This is God's special blessing

3. This joy is found:

- a) In our love for the Lord Jesus
- b) In our genuine faith in Him

NEXT SUNDAY: 30 DECEMBER 2018

PSALM 150:6 PRAISE THE LORD

*Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD! †*

THEME : REJOICED WITH EXCEEDINGLY GREAT JOY

THIS WEEK @ WORSHIP

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY

"And the Holy Spirit was upon him"

Luke 2:25-35

Chairmen

Deacon

Dr Tan Peng Hui

Dr Tan Huay Cheem

Speaker

Rev Dr Charles Tan

Pianist

Mrs Esther Ang

Organist

Mrs Sally Tan

Interpreter

Dr Jane Tan

TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE

NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

10.30 AM

Angels Candle:

"A Saviour who is Christ the Lord"

Luke 2:11

CC I: P1—P3

3rd Floor

Auditorium 3-1

CC II: P4—P6

4th Floor

Auditorium 4-1

Speaker

Intern-Pastor

Benjamin Quah

Speaker

Intern-Pastor

Benjamin Chong

EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast : Jimmy & Wai Lin

Fellowship Lunch : Stanley & Jill, and Josephine

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
23 December 2018
Order of Worship

PREPARATION

Pre-Worship Singing

Pianist : Mrs Esther Ang
Organist : Mrs Sally Tan

HWC No. 135

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Prelude

Call to Worship

Deacon Dr Tan Peng Hui
Dr Tan Huay Cheem

Invocation

PRAISE

Hymns

VIP No. 769

When Love Was Born

HWC No. 168

Who Is He In Yonder Stall?

Century Praise 147

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

“PREACH THE WORD”

Message: “And the Holy Spirit was upon him”

Text : Luke 2:25-35

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

RESPONSE

Offering

Hymn

Century Praise 139

Joy To The World

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude



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SINGAPORE

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PASTORAL LETTER

23 DECEMBER 2018

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

Dear Brethren,

SEARCHING FOR GREAT JOY

It is natural to search for great joy in life. The search begins when we were but children, even if we did not know we were looking for it.

1. As children

Joy that comes from possession:

- a) Of toys
- b) Of gifts

2. As young people

Joy that comes from relationships:

- a) Family
- b) Friends

3. As adults

a) Job satisfaction

b) Financial independence

FINDING GREAT JOY ELUSIVE

If we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that great joy is quite elusive.

1. Joy seems to be momentary

2. Joy never seems to last for very long

THE GIFT OF GREAT JOY

Great joy is ultimately a great gift that comes from the Lord! Let us recall what Jesus said to His disciples.

*These things I have spoken to you
That My joy may remain in you,
And that your joy may be full. John 15:11*

There is a special gift of great joy which comes from knowing the teachings of Jesus! Have you found it? If you have, make sure you don't lose it! Be challenged to share it!

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie*