

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 1 March 2020*

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Isaiah 7-8

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## IMMANUEL- GOD WITH US

### PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF EASTER

In April 2020, we will celebrate Easter. This season is one of the most profound time in the Church's religious calendar. It is important that we prepare our hearts and minds lest Easter loses its significance.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

## THE DANGER OF THE LOSS OF SIGNIFICANCE

This can occur subtly and almost imperceptibly.

1. The passing of time can dent its significance
2. Regularity of celebrating an annual event can cause us to take things for granted
3. Worse is the danger of losing a vital sense of vibrancy in our faith-relationship with the Lord our Saviour.

Let us do everything possible to ensure that we do not forget the significance of the Lord sending us a wonderful Saviour in the Lord Jesus Christ.

## THE PROMISE OF A SAVIOUR

The promise of a Saviour was first given in prophecy. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed numerous aspects of the Messiah-Saviour. One of the titles given to the Messiah was "Immanuel."

*Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign:  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,  
And shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

1. The promise of a Saviour
  - a) His birth would be a miracle
  - b) It would be a sign from God Himself
2. The presence of God
  - a) The name "Immanuel" is to be appreciated
  - b) His name is of great symbolic significance
3. Personal significance
  - a) This is our challenge personally

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

- b) The promise of the Lord must be appreciated on a very personal level

## **A DEEPER APPRECIATION**

This must be something we must strive to do:

1. For God's plan of salvation
  - a) It was well-considered
  - b) It was lovingly planned
  - c) It is amazing in its depth and details
2. For a glorious Saviour who came to teach us that God is with us
  - a) He is with us in this critical time (Covid-19)
  - b) He is with us even when we are not able to congregate together for corporate worship
  - c) He is with us in a very personal manner

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

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **NEW SERIES OF PULPIT MESSAGES**

We will commence our new series of Pulpit Messages drawn from 1 Peter. The focus is to dwell on the Lord Jesus Christ as "A living Stone." Let us look forward to learning how we may appreciate our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ even more.



## **BETHANY'S CURRENT MINISTRY**

1. The usual activities remain in suspension
2. Reasons are important to know and to remember:
  - a) We are a responsible Church aware of our social responsibilities
  - b) We are aware that we must do our part in stemming the spread of Covid-19 virus
  - c) We are concerned for all who are vulnerable, especially the older folks
  - d) We have a corporate witness to bear for the Lord
    - i) We must reflect prudence
    - ii) We must not lag behind the efforts made by secular society
3. Things we can do while we are not able to congregate together for a little while
  - a) We can pray for each other
  - b) We can keep in touch with each other
  - c) We can encourage each other
    - i) We can share the Lord's word
    - ii) We can uplift each other
4. Concern about the support for the Lord's work
  - a) We can send funds directly to our Church account  
(Please contact our Church treasurers)
  - b) We can send in cheques

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- c) We can lay aside what we wish to give and we can then give this as an offering
- d) A worthy example worth emulating  
(The Apostle Paul commended the Macedonian churches for the grace of giving that they had exhibited; 2 Corinthians 8-9)



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## BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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### **Today: 1 March 2020**

*Text: Psalm 118:22 The chief cornerstone*

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

1. The Lord Jesus was described as the chief cornerstone
2. But He was rejected by the builders  
This was a reference to the chief priests and scribes who ruled in religious matters.
3. This was a prophetic word that was fulfilled by Jesus

### **Next Sunday: 8 March 2020**

*Text: Ephesians 2:20 Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone*

*Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,*

*Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## Psalm 105:9-12

<sup>9</sup> *The covenant* which He made with Abraham,  
And His oath to Isaac,  
<sup>10</sup> And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,  
To Israel as an everlasting covenant,  
<sup>11</sup> Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan  
As the allotment of your inheritance,"  
<sup>12</sup> When they were few in number,  
Indeed very few, and strangers in it.

1. The Covenant God gave:
  - a) It was originally given to Abraham
  - b) This was ratified with Isaac
  - c) It was further confirmed with Jacob
  
2. Features of the Covenant in this context
  - a) It was an everlasting covenant
  - b) It included giving to Israel a homeland
  - c) This was an inheritance that would be perpetual
  
3. An important insight
  - a) Israel was but a small group of people when they went to Egypt
  - b) They were indeed very few and they were foreigners there
  - c) The Covenant included God's special protection
  
4. Our worship of God
  - a) To remember Him as a Covenant-keeping God
  - b) To appreciate Him for His protection and provision
  - c) To fear the Lord for being faithful and wonderfully gracious

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## THE SPRINKLING OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

The Old Testament contained important teachings,  
About how Man may approach God through cleansing.  
Man cannot take for granted the greatness of the LORD;  
Thus, he must pay close attention to the Biblical record.

An approach to God must be presented with the shedding of blood.  
Man's sinfulness caused him to be under a dark and somber cloud.

An atonement for sin must be made to a holy God;  
Only then would he be accepted by the Lord.

The Covenant that God made with Israel was given graciously;  
The blood of oxen was sprinkled on the altar and the people duly.  
That signified the confirmation of the Covenant with Israel;  
The challenge was to make the Covenant relationship real.

Then God gave a New Covenant through Jesus our Saviour;  
All may become children of God and receive His gracious favour.  
It required the shedding and the sprinkling of the blood of the Lord;  
Faith helps us to deeply appreciate our reconciliation to God.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Exodus 24; Matthew 26:28; 1 Peter 1:2

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## A Most Difficult Decision

The COVID-19 epidemic has indeed wreaked havoc;  
The ever increasing numbers afflicted continue to fan our fear and shock.  
Our government has put in place containment measures;  
On our part, some inconvenience we must learn to endure.

We are so used to gathering at church for worship on Sunday mornings;  
Many have taken for granted this privilege we have been enjoying.  
But tough times require tough actions to be taken;  
We have every confidence that decisions were made only after careful deliberation.

The Lord has called on us to love and honour His House;  
This we have always done and will do without grouse.  
But He has also commanded that we love one another;  
So the plight of the more vulnerable in our midst we must consider.

God has raised up pastors and leaders in our congregation;  
It is times like these when we must look to them for direction.  
Let us remember and pray for our leaders as they seek and hear God;  
Let us give them our full support to lead courageously in the Lord!

Dr. Sng Li Wah  
Inspiration: Hebrews 13:7



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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Sometimes, life's circumstances can be complex,  
They can cause us to feel lost and perplexed.  
We do not know how to pray as we ought,  
But the Spirit intercedes for us before the Lord.

The storms of life need not cause us to tremble,  
We must focus on faith even amidst great troubles.  
We know that God's plan will work out perfectly,  
Fullness of faith gives us a sense of certainty.

We have been chosen as God's elect and justified,  
We know that in Christ, we will be glorified.  
The Lord has poured out His love abundantly,  
He will also empower us to live triumphantly!

We may live in times of turmoil today,  
But we can walk boldly by faith each day.  
We trust in a God who is mighty and sovereign,  
His promises offer such great encouragement!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Romans 8:26-39

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 4

## Fearing God throughout Life's Journey

Whilst all around us, the coronavirus strikes fear,  
The Lord's protection has been ever near.  
We see that deliverance is not just a concept,  
As from grave illness we have been kept.

The challenge is to see beyond the present,  
To trust that God's character is always consistent.  
To face the future with firm conviction,  
That no good thing we'll lack - such is God's provision.

Yet, not everyone can lay hold of this promise,  
Only those who fear God - this is the premise.  
This fear must be manifested in righteous living,  
Along with contrition, and praying without ceasing.

All these we must do, throughout life's journey,  
Remaining steadfast in our quest to walk worthy.  
Afflictions may come, we must be prepared,  
But God will redeem our souls, this He has declared!

Alvin Foo  
Inspiration: Psalm 34

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 5

## Fear Not!

“Fear not, for I your God will help you;”  
Such reassurance and how it comforts the heart!  
The Lord walks among us and made us his chosen few;  
A prestigious privilege to be selected to dwell in His court.

Daily, we read of the adverse effects of the covid-19 virus;  
Many people die from it and the world is on edge.  
What lesson does the Lord want us to learn from this?  
As we remember God’s wrath when He sent pestilence as a message.

Oh, for God’s grace for spiritual insight which shall not hinder;  
Our ability to perceive beyond the surface and cloudy murk.  
What He wants us to know and consider;  
In order to better understand His Hand at work.

Does the Lord want to remind us of our part?  
In our relationship with Him... have we considerably slackened?  
Covid-19 allows us to reflect deep down in our heart  
That the Lord is a powerful Supreme, our Master and we, His servants!

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Isaiah 41: 8-13, 20

# 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
Evening-Bilingual Worship		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			Fellowship Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School IV. II			Auditorium 2M	2 <sup>nd</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**

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# 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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1 MARCH 2020

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

*Dear Brethren,*

### **A DEEP SENSE OF MISSING**

Many have expressed a deep sense of missing of attending Bethany over the weekend. This feeling is mutually felt by the Session and the Pastoral Team. The things we miss and deeply include the following:

1. Our Worship Services  
(Morning, Evening–Bilingual, Teens, Children)
  - a) We miss singing together
  - b) Fellowshiping together
  - c) Just being in the Lord's House
2. Our Weekday programs
  - a) Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
  - b) Pre-marital Counseling
  - c) Fellowship Meetings on Saturday afternoons

### **KEEPING THE BETHANY SPIRIT STRONG AND ALIVE**

There are many things we can do to keep the Bethany spirit alive and strong.

1. Pray much
  - a) For our country and its leaders
  - b) For all churches in Singapore besides Bethany
2. Keep in touch
  - a) Phone calls
  - b) Email
  - c) Much depends on your individual creativity

### 3. The world at large

Let us be aware of the new outbreaks of Covid-19 in South Korea and elsewhere. Many have suffered bereavement. Many more are suffering.

*Prayerfully,  
Pastor Charlie*