

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 27 November 2022*

---

## MEDITATION

---

REV DR CHARLES TAN

*Text: Isaiah 11*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meditation	1
Announcements	3
Worship	5
Bible Memory Work	6
Poetry Corner	7
Order of Worship	9

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ADVENT

### THE FIRST ADVENT

The first advent ("coming") was prophesied by a number of prophets. But sadly, few failed to understand and appreciate the meaning of the coming (advent) of the Messiah!

*(Continued on page 2)*

---

# MEDITATION

---

*(Continued from page 1)*

Advent is more widely celebrated as “Christmas” all over the world. The Coming of the Lord Jesus has far greater implications than the world realizes.

## **COMMON MISTAKES THAT MANY MAKE**

There are a few common mistakes that many make concerning the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent of the Messiah.

1. Many limit it to His exemplary life on earth
  - a) His life is inimitable
  - b) But there is more to it than that
2. Others limit it to His death on the Cross
  - a) The death of the Lord Jesus is of the greatest significance
  - b) But His death was not everything either
3. The Resurrection is of course theologically most vital
  - a) That is true. The doctrine of the Resurrection is a key teaching in the Scriptures
  - b) But again, there are other things that are missing

## **THE FIRST ADVENT IN ITS CONTEXTUAL PERSPECTIVE**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Advent must be studied in the perspective of its context. Isaiah 11 deserves more attention than it is given!

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Advent focused on what the Saviour came to do
  - a) The focus was essentially spiritual
  - b) The problem of sin and Satan had to be dealt with
  - c) Salvation was offered to all who found faith in the Lord Jesus
2. The context of Isaiah is quite grim
  - a) It is a context of war

*(Continued on page 3)*

---

# MEDITATION

---

*(Continued from page 2)*

- b) A context that points to the necessity of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent
- c) The 1<sup>st</sup> Advent must be linked to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent where the Saviour would restore the earth

## OUR CHALLENGE

Let us be encouraged to deepen our understanding of the Scriptures!

1. Take time to read afresh Isaiah 7-11 for a start
2. Trace the Lord's plan for mankind
  - a) It begins with the 1<sup>st</sup> advent
  - b) It will only conclude with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent

May our hearts and minds be greatly enlightened and strengthened!

---

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

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus with us in Bethany! May your heart be uplifted through worship and fellowship!



### **TODAY IS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

We will be looking at the Gospels as we offer worship this Christmas season.

1. We will also be lighting the 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Candle
2. This is traditionally called "The Prophecy Candle"



---

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Heartfelt congratulations to Ryan and Rachel on the occasion of their wedding on 26 November 2022. May the Lord's richest blessings be yours!



## **MINISTRY IN BETHANY THIS WEEK (28 November- 4 December 2022)**

### 1. Seniors Program

- a) Tuesday, 29 November 2022 | 9.30am- 11.30am
- b) Thursday, 1 December 2022 | 9.30am- 11.30am

### 2. Saturday, 3 December 2022

Youth Worship | 3.15 pm

### 3. Sunday, 4 December 2022

- a) Sunday School | 8.30am
- b) Morning Worship Service | 10.30am (Holy Communion)
- c) Chinese Worship Service | 10.30am (Holy Communion)
- d) Children's Worship Service I | 10.30am
- e) Children's Worship Service II | 10.30am
- f) Crèche | 10.30am



## **MEET THE SESSION**

Date: 4 December 2022 | Time: 1.30pm

Venue: Auditorium 4.8 (opposite the Library)

## **BAPTISMAL SERVICES**

1. 11 December 2022 | 2. 18 December 2022

Let us look forward to these Baptismal Services!

---

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

## **YOUTH CONFERENCE**

**5-9 December 2022**

**Theme: "My strength and my shield"**

1. This will be a non-staying Youth Conference
2. 9.00am- 2.00pm (Monday- Friday)  
Plan to sign up as soon as possible!



## **CHRISTMAS CAROLLING**

17 December 2022

5.00pm

Christmas Dinner: 6.30pm

Please plan to sign up (for catering purposes).



## **CHRISTMAS AT SHANGRI LA**

**25 December 2022**

- 10.30am for Christmas Worship to be followed by a Christmas Lunch  
About 50 tables have been booked already.  
Book your Seat/ Table as soon as possible.

---

## **WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH**

---

### **Matthew 2:9-11**

<sup>9</sup>When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

<sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

<sup>11</sup>And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

---

# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

---

1. Exceedingly great joy
  - a) Worship and Joy go wonderfully well together
  - b) The great joy of the wise men must be our inspiration
2. Presented gifts of treasure to the LORD
  - a) The gifts are fraught with deep meaning
  - b) Each gift we bring to the LORD must also be given with personal significance

---

## BIBLE MEMORY WORK

---

**TODAY: 27 November 2022**

***Text: The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him  
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***

1. This is a reference to the special anointing of the Messiah
  - a) This is a truly unique anointing
  - b) No one else has ever had the same fulness of anointing
2. This anointing was done
  - a) To show that God's seal was truly on the Lord Jesus
  - b) Thus, the Lord Jesus was wonderfully empowered in every way to fulfil all that had been assigned to Him to do

**NEXT SUNDAY: 4 December 2022**

***Text: His delight is in the fear of the LORD  
His delight is in the fear of the LORD,  
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,  
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; Isaiah 11:3***

---

# POETRY CORNER

---

# 1

## THE PROFOUND PLAN OF GOD

Christmas is a glorious Event;  
It is rightly called the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent.  
Advent speaks of the Saviour's Coming;  
He came to save Mankind from Sin!

The Plans of God are never simple to comprehend;  
There are deep layers of thoughts difficult to understand.  
God knows that Man is bent towards war and destruction;  
He has to step in to help or Man would head towards extinction.

A look at the dangerous trends in the world today must cause concern;  
If a nuclear war were to break out, there would be many who would mourn.  
There almost seems to be a streak of terrifying insanity that is driving things;  
We remember prophecies concerning a war in heaven, involving angelic beings.

There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent that is of great significance too;  
Prophecies have been proven to be absolutely true!  
Let us seek to deepen our faith in the LORD:  
Let us seek a refreshed faith in our profound God!

Charles Tan  
Inspiration: Isaiah 11

---

# POETRY CORNER

---

# 2

## **The Sevenfold spirit of God**

Life from the stem of Jesse was brought forth by the Lord  
Like a green shoot sprouting from the roots at tree trunk base  
Jesus came as the Messiah and King duly planned by God  
To fulfil the prophetic messages sent by Him during olden days

When Jesus became man He emptied Himself of His divine power  
On earth He lived and ministered as a man filled with the Lord's spirit  
Dependence on the Spirit of God was needed for His strength and vigour  
Evident in Him were manifestations of the seven aspects of the Holy Spirit

Jesus was the perfect vessel to be filled with the Spirit of God  
And the spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might  
As well as the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord  
With these characteristics in fullness and perfection  
Jesus set about in government

The work of Jesus was a perfect reflection of the work and will of the Father  
He was in total submission to the Father who showed Him greater works  
The relationship of the Father and Son is of love and closeness to each other  
May we be inspired to forge such a relationship with Jesus

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Isaiah 11: 1-3, 9:6; John 5: 19-22



---

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

---



## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev Mitchell Tan

## PRAYER

## HYMN

CP 147 | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CP 148 | O, Come All Ye Faithful

## MESSAGE

“The Gentiles shall seek Him”

Text: Isaiah 11:10

*Rev Dr Charles Tan*

## PRAYER

## HYMN

CP 130 | One Small Child

## POSTLUDE



---

# HYMNS

---

## CP 147 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

CHARLES WESLEY

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

### Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

### *Refrain*

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

### *Refrain*



---

# HYMNS

---

## CP 148 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him born the King of angels!

Refrain

O Come, let us adore Him! (3X)  
Christ, the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels; Sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye bright hosts of Heavn'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the Highest!

*Refrain*

3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n:  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

*Refrain*



---

# HYMNS

---

## CP 130 ONE SMALL CHILD

DAVID MEECE

1. One small Child in a land of a thousand,  
One small dream of a Saviour tonight,  
One small hand reaching out to the starlight,  
One small city of life. O!

2. One king bringing his gold and riches,  
One King ruling an army of might,  
One king kneeling with incense and candle light,  
One King bringing us life. O!

See Him lying, a cradle beneath Him;  
See Him smiling in the stall.  
See His mother praising His Father;  
See His tiny eye-lids fall.

3. One small light from the flame of a candle,  
One small light from a city of might,  
One small light from the stars in the endless night,  
One small light from a face. O!

See the shepherds kneeling before Him;  
See the kings on bended knee.  
See His mother praising His Father;  
See the Blessed Infant sleep.

4. One small Child in a land of a thousand,  
One small dream in a people of might,  
One small hand reaching out to the starlight,  
One small Saviour of life. O!

