

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 26 February 2023*

## MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: John 15

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## MY FATHER IS THE VINEDRESSER

### GOD AS THE VINEDRESSER

The Lord Jesus taught His Disciples  
an important truth about God the Father.

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and My Father is  
the vinedresser.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

<sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

<sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

<sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

John 15:1-4

## 1. The True Vine

- a) This was explained simply to the Disciples
- b) This describes a wonderful relationship

## 2. The branches

- a) All true believers are the branches
- b) They must abide in the True Vine

## 3. The Vinedresser

- a) God is the Divine Vinedresser
- b) His work:
  - i) To care for the Vine and the Branches

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

- ii) To make sure the branches bear good fruit
- iii) He will prune the branches that are not bearing fruit so well
- iv) He prunes expertly so that the branches can produce more fruit

## APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

We have learned many deep lessons about God the Father. Let us plan to make appropriate responses:

1. Determine to abide in the True Vine
2. Accept the work of pruning done by the Father
3. Consciously pray about bearing much fruit to the glory of God

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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# WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus with us today. May your heart be lifted up through worship and fellowship!



## NEXT SUNDAY

We will be having Communion at the Morning Worship Service.



## NEW PULPIT THEME: MARCH-APRIL 2023

*"The Son of Man"*

1. Biblical Theology of the Lord Jesus Christ (Christology)
2. The main text of reference is the Epistle to the Hebrews



## MINISTRY IN BETHANY THIS WEEK (27 February ~ 5 March 2023)

1. Seniors Program
  - a) Tuesday, 28 February 2023 | 9.30am- 11.30am
  - b) Thursday, 2 March 2023 | 9.30am- 11.30am
2. Saturday, 4 March 2023
  - a) No YPG/YAG

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- b) No Youth Worship
- c) We have a Pre-Camp Special | 3.00pm

## 3. Sunday, 5 March 2023

- a) Sunday School | 8.30am
- b) Morning Worship Service | 10.30am
- c) Chinese Worship Service | 10.30am
- d) Children's Worship I | 10.30am
- e) Children's Worship II | 10.30am
- f) Crèche | 10.30am
- g) Catechism Class | 1.30pm



## **BETHANY AND BTS ACM**

*Date: 26 February 2023*

*Time: 1.00pm*

The present Session has finished one term of service (3 years) and will be seeking re-election for the next term at our ACM. The Session Members are as follows:

1. Rev. Dr. Charles Tan
2. Rev. Mark Tan
3. Rev. Mitchell Tan
4. Deacon George Thomas
5. Deacon Dr. Daniel Chia
6. Deacon Dr. Tang Kong Choong
7. Deacon Dr. Quek Li Wei

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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8. Deacon Milton Ong
9. Deaconess Ng Lay Eng
10. Deaconess Tan Li Hong
11. Deaconess Dr. Jane Tan
12. Deaconess Tan Hong Suen



### **CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S ANOTHER GIRL!**

Heartfelt congratulations to Si Yu and Yi Yong on the gift of another girl. Baby Joy was born on 22 Feb 2023. Both mother and baby are doing well.



### **GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS**

**BREAKFAST: SSS2 1996 GUYS (SAMUEL MOK, ENZO, RYAN, DING JIE & EVIN)**

**LUNCH: LILY SIOW**



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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## **Psalm 132:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> LORD, remember David  
And all his afflictions;*

*<sup>2</sup> How he swore to the LORD,  
And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:*

### 1. A prayer to the LORD

- a) To remember David
- b) To consider all his afflictions

### 2. An oath to God

- a) This was David's personal vow
- b) He was committed to bringing the Ark of God into Jerusalem

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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**TODAY: 26 February 2023**

***Text: “The Father of mercies”***

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of mercies and God of all comfort  
2 Corinthians 1:3***

1. What God does for His children

- a) He is the Father of mercies
- b) He is the God of all comfort

2. How we should respond

- a) To bless God
- b) To extol Him for the wonderful God that He is

**NEXT SUNDAY: 5 March 2023**

***Text: “Spoken to us by His Son” Hebrews 1:2***

***Has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,  
whom He has appointed heir of all things,  
through whom also He made the worlds  
Hebrews 1:2***



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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## MY FATHER IS THE VINEDRESSER

What a privilege to be attached to the True Vine;  
The branches must abide in the Vine that is Divine.  
The Father Himself is involved wonderfully;  
His work is to care for the Vine deeply.

One area of His work is to prune the branches;  
This may be painful but it is advantageous.  
If the branches are not pruned, they may end up unfruitful;  
The branches must yield to the hand of God that is faithful.

The Vinedresser has wonderfully skilled hands;  
He will always have a glorious game plan.  
He will never cause hurt unnecessarily;  
He seeks to increase our productivity.

God desires all branches to be fruitful;  
Our part is to yield and to be trustful.  
How wonderful to bear fruit for the LORD;  
May we ever seek to bring glory to our God!

Charles Tan  
Inspiration: John 15:1-8

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## OUR FATHER, OUR GOD

We are reminded that God is Creator, Provider and Protector;  
We can call Him 'Father' for we are His chosen people.  
Out of the wilderness He led the people of Israel;  
He manifested as rain when the land had thirsted for water.

The Lord's manifestations to His people are numerous;  
Not least His plan to save man through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.  
So although earthly challenges continue to accost us fast and furious;  
In Christ, we can surely deem our battle against death as victorious.

Yet man can be stubborn and recalcitrant;  
Whose repeated backsliding and defiance necessitates chastisement.  
But God will forgive and preserve us if we are repentant;  
Just as He rebuilt the nation of Israel from her remnants.

It leaves us to seek God and cry out in fervent prayer;  
For Him to strengthen and deliver us from fear.  
For us to give praise and glory to a God of victory and the Lord of lords;  
For He is undoubtedly our Father and our God.

Dr. Sng Li Wah  
Inspiration: Psalm 68

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## BE AWAKE

Christians are exhorted to awaken themselves  
For they may be asleep and not know it  
To be in such a situation is indeed precarious  
Unaware of the risks and dangers which may hit

May we emerge from darkness in our slumber into the light  
Jesus will shine on us as He is the light of the world  
As children of light LIVE as children of the light  
Unfruitful works will be made manifest by the light and to be avoided

Strive conscientiously to be imitators of the Lord  
He is perfect and upholds an impossibly high standard  
To love as Christ sacrificing Himself for us to God  
Love your enemy for to love those who love us is substandard

Be wise and seize the opportunity to understand God's will  
Let not false prophets deceive but arm up with good knowledge of the Word  
By faith ask for the Holy Spirit in us to be refilled  
Praise and worship the Lord for all His goodness undeterred

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: (Ephesians 5:1-21; John 8:12; Matthew 5:44-4)

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 4

## THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD

It is very difficult to fight the problem of sin,  
For sin plagues us and is entrenched within.  
As much as we desire to walk with God aright,  
We often fail to do what is good and right.

Yet, with God, we will find no condemnation!  
This is part of His priceless gift of salvation.  
God also gives us His Spirit as a vital Helper,  
Who will work in us and help, He will render.

The Spirit indwells and creates new life within,  
We are no longer under the dominion of sin.  
He helps us to reject carnality and sinfulness,  
And teaches us how to walk in righteousness.

Let us consciously seek the Spirit's renewal,  
And set our minds on things that are spiritual.  
May we draw from the Spirit the help needed,  
To grow and become more spiritually minded!

Yvette Seow  
Inspiration: Romans 8:1-11

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Dr. Tan Kok Yang*

*Mrs. Isobel Tan*

## PRAYER

## HYMN

CP 331 | Be Thou My Vision

CP 399 | Make Me A Blessing

## MESSAGE

“Giving Thanks to the Father”

Text: Colossians 1

*Rev Dr. Charles Tan*

## CLOSING HYMN

HWC 379 | Take My Life And Let It Be

## BENEDICTION

## OFFERING

## POSTLUDE



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## HYMNS

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### CP 331 BE THOU MY VISION

ELEANOR H. HULL

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Riches I heed not, or man's empty praise,  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.
4. High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.



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# HYMNS

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## CP 399 MAKE ME A BLESSING

IRA. B. WILSON

1. Out in the highways and byways of life  
Many are weary and sad:  
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife,  
Making the sorrowing glad.

### Refrain

Make me a blessing, make me a blessing,  
Out of my life, may Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O Saviour I pray,  
Make me a blessing to someone today.

2. Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love  
Tell of His pow'r to forgive:  
Others will trust Him if only you prove true,  
Every moment you live.

### *Refrain*

3. Give as 'twas given to you in your need,  
Love as the Master loved you;  
Be to the helpless a helper indeed,  
Unto your mission be true.

### *Refrain*



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# HYMNS

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## HWC 379 TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love,  
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee;  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold - not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose,  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart - it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal Throne,  
It shall be Thy royal Throne.

6. Take my love – my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself – and I will be ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.



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