

# BETHANY

## INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 3 March 2024 ... Holy Communion Sunday*

## MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Jeremiah 31

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## AN EVERLASTING LOVE

### A GLORIOUS PROMISE GIVEN

Israel had fallen to the Assyrians and Judah to the Babylonians. The people had only themselves to blame for the disaster they experienced! But amidst all their problems, the LORD gave a wonderful promise to all the families of Israel.

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# MEDITATION

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<sup>1</sup> "At the same time," says the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people."

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD:

"The people who survived the sword  
Found grace in the wilderness—  
Israel, when I went to give him rest."

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*:

"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."

Jeremiah 31:1-3

1. He will be their God
2. They shall be His people
3. What God showed to His people
  - a) His grace
  - b) Much-needed rest

## WHY WOULD THE LORD RELATE IN THIS MANNER?

A powerfully moving reason was given! It was because of God's everlasting love!

1. God's love had always been there
2. From of old, God had revealed His love
3. Once again, God declares His everlasting love for His people

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# MEDITATION

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## THE NEED TO REFRESH OUR LOVE FOR GOD

Over time, the love that we have for the LORD becomes stale. It needs to be refreshed!

1. Remember the LORD's love
2. Recall His lovingkindness shown
3. Renew our love for the LORD!

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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 Christ with us today. May your heart be blessed through worship and fellowship!



## COMMUNION MEDITATION

*<sup>26</sup> And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."*

*<sup>27</sup> Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."*

*<sup>28</sup> For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

*Matthew 26:26-28*



## PULPIT THEME FOR EASTER (March-April 2024)

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love"*

*Jeremiah 31:3*

1. We will be focusing on the love of God
2. May our hearts be touched deeply!



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## EASTER 2024

1. Combined Worship Service  
17 March 2024  
1<sup>st</sup> Baptismal Service

2. Palm Sunday  
24 March 2024  
2<sup>nd</sup> Baptismal Service

3. Maundy Thursday  
28 March 2024  
8.00pm  
Holy Communion

4. Easter Sunday  
31 March 2024  
Shangri La



## EASTER AT SHANGRI LA

1. We celebrate our Faith in a Risen Saviour
2. Let us share our faith as a Church
3. Invite a friend or a relative for the Easter Service at Shangri La

Book your table today!

You may sign up using the QR code below.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Andrew and Hwei Li on the demise of Andrew's father, Mr. Frank Wong Yut Wah. The late Mr. Wong passed away on Friday, 29 February 2024. He was 94 years old.



## THIS WEEK IN BETHANY

### 1. Seniors Program

a) Tuesday, 5 March 2024 | 9.30am- 11.30am

b) Thursday, 7 March 2024 | 9.30am- 11.30am

### 2. Saturday, 9 March 2024

a) YPG and YAG | 2.00pm

b) Youth Worship | 3.15pm

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 3. Sunday Ministry, 10 March 2024

- a) Sunday School | 8.30am
- b) Combined Worship Service | 10.30am
- c) Children's Worship Service I and II | 10.30am
- d) Crèche | 10.30am
- e) No Catechism Class



## **GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS**

BREAKFAST & LUNCH: ALBERT LEE & HELEN; BOBBY & MICHELE



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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## Psalm 143:7-8

<sup>7</sup> Answer me speedily, O LORD;

My spirit fails!

Do not hide Your face from me,

Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.

<sup>8</sup> Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning,

For in You do I trust;

Cause me to know the way in which I should walk,

For I lift up my soul to You.

1. When we feel our spirit failing

a) Pray even more earnestly

b) Seek the LORD with faith

2. Exercising Trust in the LORD

a) Lift up the soul to God

b) Trust in God's lovingkindness



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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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**TODAY: 3 March 2024**

**Text: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love”  
Jeremiah 31:3**

*The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying:  
“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.  
Jeremiah 31:3*

1. A glorious declaration of love

a) By the LORD

b) To His people

2. A glorious drawing of the LORD

a) Drawn by lovingkindness

b) Drawn to the LORD’s side

**NEXT SUNDAY: 10 March 2024**

**Text: “God so loved the world” John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever  
believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.  
John 3:16*

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## AN EVERLASTING LOVE

Human love has its memorable moments;  
But love that has grown cold is a torment.  
Fights occur and unhappiness is generated;  
Love is sometimes a feeling that is regretted.

Who may speak of an everlasting love?  
Only the LORD who is in heaven above.  
Only He can love with true and deep affection;  
We need to rediscover His loving compassion.

Human love is so very limited;  
Yet, it is still greatly pursued.  
God offers His lovingkindness;  
We can trust in His faithfulness!

The LORD seeks to draw us to His side;  
He will always help us whatever betides.  
May we rediscover the Love of God!  
Let us return to our gracious LORD!

Charles Tan  
Inspiration: Jeremiah 31:1-3

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## BLESS THE LORD

We praise God for His blessings on a personal level;  
For all that He provides and the protection from the devil.  
We praise God for His goodness shown to fellow brethren;  
For answered prayers and timely deliverance from heaven.

If ever anyone even needs a reason;  
We bless God because He looks out for His children.  
The Lord is ever near to those who are hurting;  
He comforts with a hope that is reassuring.

But be watchful of what spews out between our lips;  
For secrets not solely our own are in fact gossip.  
We need to resolve conflicts via peaceful ways;  
For vengeance is hateful and serves only to mar our days.

So trust in God that you may taste of His grace;  
Learn to revere the Father and seek His face.  
To him who practises the fear of the Lord, He will not forsake;  
The decision to continually trust and obey Him, is ours to make.

Dr. Sng Li Wah  
Inspiration: Psalm 34

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## POETRY CORNER

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# 3

### BLESSING THE LORD THROUGH THICK AND THIN

A pain that is disturbing and gnaws at my patience,  
Deep seated and burning, it tests my resilience!  
The bite of the cold wind brings me to shudder,  
This tingling ache is beyond any words I can utter.

I look to the Lord humbly and pray for deliverance,  
Faith and trust must be strong with no indifference.  
Through this agony shines God's infinite goodness,  
And I am grateful for His mercy and His sustenance!

What if this pain is temporary and finally bids farewell?  
What if this unwelcomed visitor continues to dwell?  
Through thick and thin, I must continually bless the Lord,  
A broken heart and contrite spirit, He will not ignore.

For those who seek the Lord shall not lack good things,  
To those who fear Him, a special comfort He brings.  
Through thick and thin, I will continually bless the Lord,  
In supplication, I submit earnestly to be restored!

Dr. Tan Kok Yang

Inspiration: Psalm 34

Dedicated to those experiencing pain of any sort.

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 4

## PRAISE THE LORD AT ALL TIMES

Cultivate a habit of praising the Lord at all times  
Even in situations when feeling lost and abandoned  
Trust in Him for His eyes are on the righteous  
God draws near especially to the abused and oppressed

Bless the Lord as we trace His works in us  
Reflect on the countless blessings He has bestowed  
We undergo purification as we face the affliction furnace  
According to His mercies believers will be delivered

In one resounding voice let us exalt the name of the Lord  
May we boast in Him for He is beyond compare  
Experience for yourself by tasting the goodness of God  
Believers who seek the Lord receive His loving care

Words are inadequate to describe His love for the chosen  
A daunting task to visualize and understand the nature of God  
But let us do our utmost to thank Him in our devotion  
Our challenge is to remember to continually praise the Lord

Jessie Quek  
Inspiration: Psalm 34

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 5

## LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU

The greatness of God is to be acknowledged,  
To be able to pray to Him is truly a privilege.  
We need God's mercy to keep us each day,  
And His hand of blessings for life's pathway.

May more people know God and His salvation!  
Only He has the power to deliver all nations.  
He is the true and righteous Judge and King,  
He governs justly and His reign is everlasting.

We belong to God and He knows what is best,  
He will look after us and He promises to bless.  
Thank God for blessings of mercy and grace,  
The response is a strong desire to give praise.

We sing to the Lord with joy and gladness,  
We lift up His name which is truly glorious!  
How we must keep trusting our own God,  
And walk humbly in the fear of the Lord!

Yvette Seow  
Inspiration: Psalm 67

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Deaconess Dr. Jane Tan  
Deaconess Tan Hong Suen

## PRAYER

### HYMNS

HWC 312 | To Be God's People  
CP 68 | The Love Of God

## MESSAGE

“For God so loved the world” | Text: John 3  
*Rev. Dr. Charles Tan*

### COMMUNION HYMN

HWC 186 | The Old Rugged Cross

### CLOSING HYMN

HWC 309 | Pass It On

## BENEDICTION

## OFFERING

## POSTLUDE



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# HYMNS

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## HWC 312 TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE

CHARLES F. BROWN

1. Almighty Father, give us a vision  
Of a dying world that needs Your love and care.  
We see the need, the yearning for a Saviour,  
In Jesus' name, grant this our prayer.

Refrain

To be God's people in this place,  
Live His goodness, share His grace,  
Proclaim God's mercy through His Son,  
Be His love to ev'ryone.

2. And when we falter, be Thou our comfort;  
Guide us as Your children that our lives may be  
A beacon in this darkness that surrounds us,  
A light that others then may see.

*Refrain*





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# HYMNS

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## CP 68 THE LOVE OF GOD

FREDERICK M. LEHMAN

1. The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star,  
And reaches to the lowest hell.  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,  
God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled,  
And pardoned from his sin.

### Refrain

O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forever more endure,  
The saints' and angels' song.

2. When years of time shall pass away,  
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;  
When men who here refuse to pray,  
On rocks and hills and mountains call;  
God's love, so sure, shall still endure,  
All measureless and strong;  
Redeeming grace to Adam's race  
The saints' and angels' song.

### *Refrain*

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## HYMNS

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3. Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made;  
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,  
And ev'ry man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretched from sky to sky.

*Refrain*



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# HYMNS

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## HWC 186 THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

GEORGE BENNARD

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.

2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

*Refrain*

3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see;  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died  
To pardon and sanctify me.

*Refrain*

4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me some day to my Home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share.

*Refrain*



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# HYMNS

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## HWC 309 PASS IT ON

1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;  
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:  
You spread His love to ev'ryone, you want to pass it on.
2. What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,  
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;  
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:  
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
3. I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found -  
You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound;  
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know:  
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on!

