

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 14 April 2024

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Isaiah 43

“I HAVE LOVED YOU”

**ANOTHER GLORIOUS TEXT ABOUT
GOD’S LOVE**

How our hearts must be so thankful that we have a great God who loves us. The following text is a wonderful word that reminds us of His great love.

MEDITATION

¹ But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called *you* by your name;
You are Mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you.

³ For I *am* the LORD your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I gave Egypt for your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in your place.

⁴ Since you were precious in My sight,
You have been honored,
And I have loved you;
Therefore I will give men for you,
And people for your life.

Isaiah 43:1-4

1. Three special deeds of God that speak of His love
 - a) His creation
 - b) His redemption
 - c) His relationship to the redeemed ones

2. Wonderful promises declare God's love
 - a) His presence
 - b) His protection
 - c) His declared love

APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

Let us ponder what the LORD has graciously and tenderly uttered. These words of promise should gladden the heart tremendously!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

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



THIS WEEK IN BETHANY

1. Seniors Program
 - a) Tuesday, 16 April 2024 | 9.30am- 11.30am
 - b) Thursday, 18 April 2024 | 9.30am- 11.30am

2. Saturday, 20 April 2024
 - a) YAG/YPG | 2.00pm
 - b) Youth Worship | 3.15pm

3. Sunday Ministry, 21 April 2024
 - a) Sunday School | 8.30am
 - b) Morning Worship Service | 10.30am
 - c) Chinese Worship Service | 10.30am
 - d) Children's Worship Service I and II | 10.30am
 - e) Crèche | 10.30am
 - f) Catechism Class | 1.30pm



CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Mr. Soo Kia Hock, Mrs. Soo Siew Choo and Teng Ping on the demise of Mr. Soo's mother, Mdm. Niam Kim Neo. The late Mdm. Niam passed away on Thursday, 11 April 2024. She was 96 years old.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNIOR CAMP 2024

"HE LOVED THEM TO THE END"

With great excitement, we are happy to announce that Junior Camp 2024 will be held in the first week of the Mid-Year Holidays! We look forward to a fun and exciting time of learning and growing together!

Details:

Dates: 27-30 May 2024 (Monday - Thursday)

Time: 8.00am - 4.00pm daily (Lunch will be provided)

Venue: Bethany IPC

Junior Camp is open to children aged 7-12.

Register for Junior Camp 2024 today!

You may register for Camp via the QR code below.



If you have any enquiries, please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone of us:

Janelle (Mobile 9711 1023) | Ying Sui (Mobile: 9691 2661)

Yuanli (Mobile: 9155 3173)



GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS

BREAKFAST: EE AI LIN; TIM & CHLOE LEONG

LUNCH: STANLEY, JILL, BELLE & LAURA



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 144:5-8

⁵ Bow down Your heavens, O LORD, and come down;
Touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.

⁶ Flash forth lightning and scatter them;
Shoot out Your arrows and destroy them.

⁷ Stretch out Your hand from above;
Rescue me and deliver me out of great waters,
From the hand of foreigners,

⁸ Whose mouth speaks lying words,
And whose right hand *is* a right hand of falsehood.

1. Remembering the Power of God
 - a) The mountains at the touch of God
 - b) Lightning will scatter the enemy
2. Request to the LORD
 - a) To be delivered from enemies
 - b) To be rescued from wicked people

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 14 April 2024

**Text: “God demonstrates His own love toward us”
Romans 5:8**

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

1. God’s love demonstrated
 - a) He sent the Lord Jesus to atone for our sins
 - b) This is a truly amazing demonstration of God’s love

2. How should we respond to such Love?
- a) To love the LORD
 - b) To learn how we may deepen this love for God

NEXT SUNDAY: 21 April 2024
Text: “Who shall separate us from the love of God?”
Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Romans 8:35

LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

WITH THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR BETHANY

Dear Pastor Charlie, Aunty Sally, the Pastoral team and staff, and our family at Bethany,

Many tears were shed as we mourned Pa’s passing, but some were in gratitude for the love and kindness Pa and our family have received from Bethany over the years, and especially during his fight against cancer. Indeed, Bethany has been our close comfort and strong support during our time of bereavement. And we were deeply moved by many from Bethany who came to support us.

Being able to hold the wake and funerary services in church was a special privilege. We were able to host many relatives, church brethren, friends and colleagues who came to offer their condolences and pay their last respects. Everything was so well taken care of – meals, music, logistics, cleaning, AVA, photography, programme, condolence gift collection, ushering, carpark marshalling etc. – plus special touches like a room for Ma to rest in during the wake. Special thanks to Pastor Ben Quah for helping to oversee and coordinate all the arrangements. Through your ministry to our family, you were truly

LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

ambassadors for Christ to all who visited!

Holding the memorial service in the beauty of God's sanctuary brought us great comfort. We are deeply grateful to Pastor Charlie and the Pastoral team for ministering a Word of comfort and exhortation to us, and for giving Pa a dignified and meaningful send-off. Listening to Pastor's recount of Pa's faith journey, we were thankful afresh for how Pastor guided Pa from resistance and reasoning God away, to the realisation and reality of faith in Christ. And with our Bethany brethren standing with us, our hearts were uplifted as you sang "It is well, it is well with my soul" with us and for us.

At the funeral service at Mandai, we were again comforted with the Lord's Word from Psalm 23, Pa's favourite psalm. Having discovered God real in his life, Pa had also learned to depend on the Lord during his fight against cancer. As we sent Pa off, it was with the deep assurance that he would dwell in the house of Lord forever.

We went to collect Pa's remains the day after the cremation. It was a quiet moment of reflection as we placed the final pieces into a beautiful white marble urn. Back at Ma's place, we placed the urn next to Pa's portrait in the living room. In the same room are many lovely flowers sent to the house or harvested from the wreaths sent to church. Pa and Bethany will be our daily reminder in the days, months and years ahead that God is with us and that we are not alone – "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."

Thanking God for Bethany our comfort,
Robina, Alexandra, Chung Han and Chiew Yen, Xian and Kathy, and the grandchildren

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Joel Lee

PRAYER

HYMNS

Hymn 1 | How Deep the Father's Love
CP 44 | I Sing the Mighty Power of God

MESSAGE

“But have not Love” | Text: 1 Corinthians 13
Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

CLOSING HYMN

HWC 203 | And Can It Be?

BENEDICTION

OFFERING

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

HYMN 1 HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE

STUART TOWNSEND

1. How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

2. Behold the Man upon the cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life —
I know that it is finished.

3. I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.



HYMNS

CP 44 I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD

ISAAC WATTS

1. I sing the mighty pow'r of God,
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full, at His command,
And all the stars obey.

2. I sing the goodness of the Lord,
That filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with His Word,
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the sky!

3. There's not a plant or flow'r below,
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne:
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care;
And ev'rywhere that man can be,
Thou, God, art present there.



HYMNS

HWC 203 AND CAN IT BE?

CHARLES WESLEY

1. And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou My God, shouldst die for me?

Refrain

Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

2. He left His Father's Throne above
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!

Refrain

3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Refrain

4. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal Throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Refrain



POETRY CORNER

1

I HAVE LOVED YOU

God's Love was declared loud and clear;
His redeemed ones to Him are very dear.
From the time He created Man;
Love was always in His Plan.

God's protection was graciously given;
He watched over His own from Heaven.
He sends deliverance when enemies approach;
To these enemies there came divine reproach.

God's presence would never depart;
To the redeemed, His love, He imparts.
In the toughest situation He will be there;
God will manifest His loving and tender care.

The LORD's love cannot be challenged;
His aggrieved people would be avenged.
How we must be assured of God's love;
His affection is a gift from heaven above.

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Isaiah 43:1-4

POETRY CORNER

2

GOD'S ENDURING MERCY

We live in a world that is constantly at war;
We are appalled by the senseless killings and innocent lives lost.
Some choose to empathize with this or that faction;
Many now question why God even allows wars to happen.

We read how God's goodness to Israel had been repeatedly forgotten;
Despite the enduring mercies and forgiveness He had given.
God had ordered the annihilation of those Gentile nations;
For He knew how easily they could ensnare Israel into abomination.

If only man apprehended that his recalcitrant ways arise from deep within;
He would realize that God's only opposition is against sin.
Yet, notwithstanding our disobedience and rebellion;
God's faithfulness prevails and over all things, He holds dominion.

So praise the Lord for He knows our grievances;
And give thanks to Him no matter the circumstances.
For God's mercy endures forever;
And His covenant with His people, He remembers.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Psalm 106

POETRY CORNER

#3

DIVINE LOVE

Blessed are believers in the modern world of today
God shows His love while we were still sinners
He sent His only begotten Son to save us
despite our transgressional ways
May we treasure the significance of the death of Jesus in our hearts

Understanding God's divine love is challenging
due to limited human capacity
To love one's enemies goes against the grain of human nature
Mankind is generally self-serving and prone to vanity
Instead of being compassionate and forgiving revenge we tend to favour

But God's divine love is infinite and awe inspiring
"He makes the sun rise on the evil and good"
Learn to love our neighbour as ourselves conscientiously striving
Seek the Holy Spirit to pour out God's love into our hearts as we should

To love beyond our loved ones is the calling of God
Let His love permeate every aspect of our lives
By faith through the Holy Spirit, we receive the love of the Lord
To the children of God flows His love in great abundance

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Romans 5:8; Matthew 5:45-46

POETRY CORNER

#4

IF YOU WERE RAISED WITH CHRIST

Christ's resurrection is a miracle like no other,
It was a most glorious display of God's power.
Our new life is said to be "Raised with Christ."
Imagine, God's power at work in our lives!

Paul exhorts us to consider this vital truth.
Christ's rising has repercussions for us too.
Instead of being drawn to things of this earth,
We can be empowered to seek things above.

It involves a fundamental change in mindset.
We need not be the same and live with regret.
We can learn to set our minds on things above,
Focusing on things that have eternal worth.

"Raised with Christ," what a wondrous thought.
Therein is hope to live well this life He has bought.
Let us do our part to seek those things above,
That we may discover His hidden plan of love.

Jonas Tan

Inspiration: Colossians 3:1-4

#5

REAL FAITH

Row of pink blossom dazzle the eyes and lift the soul,
A scene so beautiful, undoubtedly, my heart it stole.
I savoured this enchantment as the petals descended,
A harmony of pastels so elegantly blended.

From where I stood, spring's gift stretched out to the skies,
Yet below them on the ground, petals lay before their demise.
Indeed! Just as nature's splendid offer reaches full brilliance,
So too does the spectre of withering threaten its existence.

How does one make sense of continuance that is but finite?
How do we face a journey that heads into the twilight?
Hope comes when the focus is on our Shepherd and Sin Bearer,
For He leads me to dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

I must take heed of the examples of those who had gone before me,
Those who have found reality in a faith they can so clearly see.
A real faith, deep and grounded, confident to be present with the Lord,
A real faith, taking pleasure in the knowledge of the everlasting love of God!

Dr. Tan Kok Yang

Inspiration: Psalm 23, 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

In loving memory of the late Mr. Lai Keng Thye

