

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 7 September 2025 ... Holy Communion Sunday

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Psalm 25

**“TO YOU, O LORD, I
LIFT UP MY SOUL”**

**COMMENCING A NEW YEAR OF
MINISTRY**

We commence our 53rd year of ministry at Bethany. How should we begin the new year of ministry?

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MEDITATION

¹ To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, I trust in You;

Let me not be ashamed;

Let not my enemies triumph over me.

³ Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed;

Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.

Psalm 25:1-3

1. Lifting up of the soul to the Lord

- a) This is a reference to seeking God in prayer
- b) Prayer is not a mere litany of words
- c) Prayer involves the soul being lifted up to seek God

2. Trusting the Lord

- a) Trust in the Lord is not a static thing
- b) It must be evaluated
- c) It must be renewed and deepened

3. Problems in life

- a) There will always be problems
- b) They may come in different forms

4. Human problems are the most difficult to live with

- a) There are "enemies"
- b) There are those who are treacherous

OUR PRAYER AS WE COMMENCE A NEW YEAR OF MINISTRY

1. That those who oppose will not triumph

2. That those who trust in God would never be ashamed of their faith

May the Lord bless as we commence our 53rd year of ministry!

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 lifted up through worship and fellowship!



GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Breakfast: Joanna Yam

Lunch: Magdaline, Audrey & Aaron; Sunday School Superintendents



YOUTH CONFERENCE 2025

"Reconciled to God" - 2 Corinthians 5:20

The much anticipated Youth Conference is around the corner! As we learn about being reconciled to God, may we appreciate our salvation so much more, and may it inspire us to live for Him in every aspect of our lives.

Details

Dates: 1-4 December 2025 (Monday - Thursday)

Venue: Bethany IPC Main Sanctuary

Time: 9.00am to 5.00pm daily

Age

Open to youths aged 13 and above.

Fellowship Lunch

Lunch will be provided every day. It would be an opportunity for us to relate to and fellowship with one another.

Fees

\$25.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do sign up early to assist in the planning of the programme.

If there are any queries, please feel free to contact Joshua Phang at 8028 6194.

You may register online by scanning the QR Code below:



THIS WEEK IN BETHANY

1. Seniors Program

There will be no Seniors Program this week.

2. Saturday, 13 September 2025

- a) YPG/ YAG | 2.00pm
- b) Youth Worship | 3.15pm

3. Sunday Ministry, 14 September 2025

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY TEACHER'S DAY

To our Pastors and Sunday School Teachers,

Thank you for bringing God's life-giving and life-changing word to our Sunday School students every Sunday. We deeply appreciate your commitment in devoting time to prepare for Sunday School, breaking down complex topics to bite size and yet engaging lessons. Thank you for your faithfulness and patience in nurturing the spiritual growth of your students.

God's blessings upon our Sunday School Ministry are unmistakable! Over the years, we have seen many of our Sunday School students growing in their faith and taking their place in Bethany, serving God in various ministries. Some have become Pastors, and some are Sunday School teachers. We thank God and glorify Him for His Hand of blessing!

We thank God also for our dear Pastor Charles. Over the span of 52 years, Pastor Charles has spearheaded the growth and development of our Sunday School ministry! From a small group of about 20 children in the early 1970s, our Sunday School has grown to more than 600 students today.

The key to the growth of our Sunday School Ministry is the centrality of God's Word. All these years, Pastor is committed to training and equipping our teachers, so that they are solidly grounded in God's Word and can teach effectively. Apart from teaching a large class of 150 mature adults (Senior Sunday School 4), Pastor also diligently prepares weekly Sunday School teaching materials and video lessons for our teens (Intermediate Sunday School), JC and tertiary students (Senior Sunday School 1), working adults and older adults (Senior Sunday School 2). These lessons are both insightful and inspiring!

Indeed, we want to praise God for His goodness and blessings upon our Sunday School Ministry. *"Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation. The works of the LORD are great. Studied by all who have pleasure in them."* Psalm 111:1-2

With joy and gratitude, let's press on to send forth the light. Let's ask God for

ANNOUNCEMENTS

His grace and wisdom to equip our students on 3 fronts:

1. To grow in faith
2. To sow the seeds of the gospel
3. To defend the Church

May the Lord grant us His grace to continue to be that instrument through whom He writes upon the hearts of our students! May we have the same spirit of faith to *"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."* 2 Timothy 4:2

Happy Teacher's Day!

Deonna Tham

On behalf of Bethany Sunday School Superintendents

LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

Dear Pastor,

I want to extend heartfelt appreciation to the Pastoral Team and all in Bethany who have rallied to support our family during our bereavement, as we remember our late grandfather Mr. Peter Cheong.

While our gong gong is no longer with us in the flesh, I am so thankful that he knows the Lord and is with Him now. Faith makes all the difference! We can look forward in hope, and be comforted.

Furthermore, gong gong has lived to a ripe old age, he has seen his grandchildren grow up and even has carried one great grandchild. Gong gong passed peacefully as well. The Lord is gracious and merciful!

Thankful once again for the Pastoral Team for ministering to our family, the aunties who lovingly provided meals for the family during the wake, and those who came to the wake and services to support. We are truly grateful.

On behalf of the Cheong Family

(David, Anne, Janssen, Sherlyn, Rachel and Gabriel)

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 18:16-19

- ¹⁶ He sent from above, He took me;
He drew me out of many waters.
- ¹⁷ He delivered me from my strong enemy,
From those who hated me,
For they were too strong for me.
- ¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
But the LORD was my support.
- ¹⁹ He also brought me out into a broad place;
He delivered me because He delighted in me.

1. Confrontations in life
 - a) From a strong enemy
 - b) From those who hate

2. Courage and confidence
 - a) In God's deliverance
 - b) In God's delighting over all who trust Him

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 7 September 2025

Text: Men always ought to pray

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart Luke 18:1

1. The problem of "losing heart" in prayer is all too common
2. The Lord Jesus encouraged His disciples to persevere in prayer and not to lose heart at any time

NEXT SUNDAY: 14 September 2025

Text: And there He prayed

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. Mark 1:35

POETRY CORNER

#1

TO YOU, O LORD, I LIFT UP MY SOUL

The challenges of life are numerous;
Some are difficult and even dangerous.
The soul is sometimes vexed or fearful;
Turning to the Lord in prayer is needful.

Enemies are found in the pathway of life;
They seek to create mischief and strife.
The godly and wise will turn to God in prayer;
He will cast upon the Lord his sorrow and care.

Trust in the Lord cannot be taken for granted;
Faith in the Lord must be checked and evaluated.
Renewal of trust in the Lord must be deepened;
This is possible as we seek the Lord in Heaven.

The soul that looks up to God will not be ashamed;
The Lord will honour all who trust in His name.
The lifting up of the soul is the wisest thing to do;
The Lord will manifest that He is faithful and true!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Psalm 25:1-3

POETRY CORNER

#2

We Do Not Lose Heart

We often lament how it is no fun growing old;
Both physical and mental deterioration, they take their toll.
The irrefutable signs of ageing we cannot hide;
What is needed is motivation and strength to take it all in stride.

The outward man must one day perish as this is nature's way;
Our focus ought to be the inward man who is renewed day by day.
Faith in God will sustain us so in Him we must trust;
Let not fears and anxieties about our bodily decline consume us.

Perhaps the people around us and the circumstantial signs that happen;
They are experiences and lessons from which God intends for us to learn.
They serve to galvanize and inspire us to build our faith;
A faith that is genuine, steadfast, and empowered by grace.

Our faith is encouraged by hope for a better tomorrow;
And this hope is further upheld as our faith increasingly grows.
The trials and afflictions we suffer today are but temporal;
We do not lose heart because our hope is for the eternal.

Dr Sng Li Wah

Inspiration: 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

POETRY CORNER

#3

Walk by faith

Who is the mysterious harlot who sits on many waters
Presiding over peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues
Carried by the scarlet beast with seven heads and ten crowns
Imperative not to be swallowed up by her influence

Walk by faith to steer away from the corrupt world system
Navigate life challenges based on trust in the Lord and His promises
May we learn to glorify Him in our daily activities with wisdom
Step forward with faith in full confidence manifesting His ways

Walk in love as the Lord Jesus has loved and sacrificed Himself for us
Lay down our lives to show love to our brothers and sisters
Do not allow love to grow cold with indifference to neighbours
Be filled with the Holy Spirit and show the fruit of His goodness

Understanding God's will through His Word is to walk in wisdom
Walk in the light to dispel the unfruitful works of darkness
The Lord Jesus is the light of the world giving spiritual direction to His kingdom
As children of the light let us reflect His light to shine on others

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Revelation 17:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:7,
Ephesians 1:1-2, John 8:12

POETRY CORNER

#4

WE WALK BY FAITH

The Apostle Paul lived with such profound certainty;
There was faith-hope in the after-life for all eternity.
God had prepared and made an eternal habitation;
This glorious home is wonderfully located in heaven!

For this habitation, Paul had a deep sense of longing;
He was not afraid to suffer, even if it meant dying.
His faith-understanding was so real and powerful;
No matter the cost, he would minister and be faithful.

Paul's faith-knowledge affected his manner of life;
By his walk of faith, it was distinctly characterised.
His focus was not on things physical and transient;
The glory of the eternal was far more significant!

We need eyes of faith to see beyond this earthly life;
To live for God more, even if it requires some sacrifice.
May faith be the underlying factor for all that we do!
May the things above be what we prize and pursue!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon George Thomas

PRAYER

HYMNS

HWC 435 | What a Friend We Have in Jesus
VIP 387 | Teach Me to Pray

MESSAGE

“Filled with the Holy Spirit”

Text : Matthew 4; Luke 4; Mark 1

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

HOLY COMMUNION:

COMMUNION HYMN

HWC 410 | My Faith Looks Up to Thee

CLOSING HYMN

HWC 251 | Breathe on Me

BENEDICTION

OFFERING

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

HWC 435 WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

JOSEPH SCRIVEN

1. What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry ,
Everything to God in prayer.

2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a Friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our Refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.



HYMNS

VIP 387 TEACH ME TO PRAY

ALBERT S. REITZ

1. Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray;
This is my heart cry day unto day;
I long to know Thy will and Thy way;
Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray.

Refrain

Living in Thee, Lord, and Thou in Me;
Constant abiding, this is my plea;
Grant me Thy power, boundless and free:
Power with men and power with Thee.

2. Power in prayer, Lord, power in prayer!
Here 'mid earth's sin and sorrow and care;
Men lost and dying, souls in despair –
O give me power, power in prayer!

Refrain

3. My weakened will, Lord, Thou canst renew;
My sinful nature Thou canst subdue;
Fill me just now with power anew,
Power to pray and power to do!

Refrain

4. Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray,
Thou art my pattern day unto day;
Thou art my surety, now and for aye,
Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray.

Refrain



HYMNS

HWC 410 MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

RAY PALMER

1. My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour Divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

2. May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

3. While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread, be Thou my Guide;
Bid darkness turn today,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

4. When ends life's passing dream,
When death's cold, threatening stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Saviour, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O lift me safe above, a ransomed soul!



HYMNS

HWC 251 BREATHE ON ME

EDWIN HATCH

1. Holy Spirit, breathe on me,
Until my heart is clean;
Let sunshine fill its inmost part,
With not a cloud between.

Refrain

Breathe on me, breathe on me,
Holy Spirit, breathe on me;
Take Thou my heart, cleanse ev'ry part,
Holy Spirit, breathe on me.

2. Holy Spirit, breathe on me,
My stubborn will subdue;
Teach me in words of living flame
What Christ would have me do.

Refrain

3. Holy Spirit, breathe on me,
Fill me with pow'r Divine;
Kindle a flame of love and zeal
Within this heart of mine.

Refrain

4. Holy Spirit, breathe on me,
Till I am all Thine own,
Until my will is lost in Thine,
To live for Thee alone.

Refrain



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