



BETHANY
INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas
WORSHIP SERVICE

DEC | 25 | 2025

SHANGRI LA HOTEL | 10.30AM

“The Dayspring from on high has visited us.”
Luke 1:78



“The Dayspring from on high has visited us”

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

SHANGRI LA HOTEL | 25 DECEMBER 2025 | 10.30 AM



PRE-WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bethany Orchestra

“The Little Drummer Boy”

Words and Music by Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati and Harry Simeone

Orchestration by Bryan Wong

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Joshua Phang

Mr. Tang Hong Wee

Interpreter: Ms. Tan Hwee Cheng

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Silent Night

O Come, All Ye Faithful



INAUGURATION

REV. DR. TOMAS ZATEL

AS SENIOR PASTOR OF BETHANY MYANMAR CHURCHES

1. Summary of Ministries
2. Charge: 2 Timothy 3:10-17
 - a) Carefully Following
 - b) Continuation
 - c) Completion

Christmas Worship Service 2025

3. Laying on of hands
4. The right hand of fellowship
Pastors and Session Members
5. Special Christmas Gifts for Bethany Myanmar
 - a) From SSS 4
 - b) From Youth Worship
 - c) From Bethany Singapore



SPECIAL ITEM

Combined Choir

"Canticle of Joy"

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

Title: "The Dayspring from on high has visited us"

Text: Luke 1:67-79

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

CLOSING HYMN

O Holy Night!

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Tomas Zatel

POSTLUDE

Bethany Orchestra

"Sing Noel"

Words and Music by Eddie Carswell and Michael O'Brien

Orchestration by Bryan Wong



“The Dayspring from on high has visited us”

CAROL NO. 1

SILENT NIGHT

JOSEPH MOHR

1. Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
 'Round yon virgin mother and Child,
 Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent Night! Holy Night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

3. Silent Night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
 Radiant beams from Thy Holy face,
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.



CAROL NO. 2

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

JOHN FRANCIS WADE

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!
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him!
Christ, the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'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



A CHARGE FROM THE SCRIPTURES

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

- ¹⁰ But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,
- ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.
- ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
- ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
- ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,
- ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.



SPECIAL ITEM

Canticle of Joy

(Sing Joy, Joy to the World, How Great Our Joy!)

*Arranged by Camp Kirkland
and Tom Fettke*

Performed by the Bethany Combined Choir

Sing joy, wonderful joy!
Sing joy, wonderful joy!
Sing joy, wonderful joy!
How great our joy! How great our joy!
Our Lord has come!

Joy to the world, Joy to the world,
Joy to the world, to the world!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high, on high.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, (Joy, joy, joy!)
Repeat the sounding joy, (Joy, joy, joy!)
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy, joy, joy,
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Our Lord has come!



CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

LUKE 1:67-79



⁶⁷ Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

⁶⁸ "Blessed *is* the Lord God of Israel,
For He has visited and redeemed His people,

⁶⁹ And has raised up a horn of salvation for us
In the house of His servant David,

⁷⁰ As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,
Who *have been* since the world began,

⁷¹ That we should be saved from our enemies
And from the hand of all who hate us,

⁷² To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers
And to remember His holy covenant,

⁷³ The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴ To grant us that we,
Being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
Might serve Him without fear,

⁷⁵ In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our
life.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

⁷⁶ “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;
For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

⁷⁷ To give knowledge of salvation to His people
By the remission of their sins,

⁷⁸ Through the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

⁷⁹ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of
death,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.”



CLOSING HYMN

O HOLY NIGHT!

JOHN S. DWIGHT

1. O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

2. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand;
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.

The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend;
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!

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“The Dayspring from on high has visited us”

(Continued from page 11)

3. Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace;
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His Holy Name;
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!



TESTIMONY

God's Grace and I: A Journey of Learning to Serve the LORD

Rev. Dr. Tomas Zatel

Personal Introduction

I am Tomas Zatel from Myanmar. My wife, Tawk, and I have two daughters: Ruth and Anna. We are blessed to join you today celebrating Christmas here in Singapore. It is solely by 'the exceeding riches of God's grace' (Ephesians 2:7) that my family and I have this privilege of being part of you, the LORD's people.

I am privileged to look after Bethany Theological Seminary (BTS), House of Hope (our hostel with 45 secular students at the present), and Bethany Insein (one of the Churches of Bethany Myanmar). Our Churches are mostly in the Rakhine and Chin states. I had never thought of serving the LORD in this way. This truly is the exceeding riches of His grace.

Studying the Scriptures under Pastor Charles Tan

The LORD brought me to BTS in October 1996 when BTS commenced its ministry to provide formal theological education. There are no accidents in God's plan! As I reflect, I have been greatly blessed to hear Pastor preach the Word, see him reason from the Scriptures, and finally learn to read the Scriptures under his care and counsel. In other words, the LORD has brought me to learn the way of Christ from Pastor. The LORD in His kindness uses Pastor and his instruction, oral and written, to open my eyes of understanding and nourish me in the Scriptures as a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God for his writings. They are my main source of enlightenment and encouragement! I admit that my journey of learning to serve the LORD for these three decades (1996-2025) is nothing short of the exceeding riches of His grace at work.

The Role of Bethany

For all these years, Bethany is not only the sole source, but also the

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pattern, for our living, believing, following and serving the Lord Jesus in Myanmar. The LORD has sustained us – 14 Bethany Myanmar Churches and 3 major ministries, namely, BTS, Bethany Hope Centre, and House of Hope – through Bethany. You have sacrificially poured out your love and resources to us. Your love and care are priceless; your resources are innumerable. To put it into a metaphor, you are *the hand of the LORD*, enabling us to serve Him faithfully in spite of many challenges, personal and societal. In fact, many ministries in Yangon are shrinking in number and strength, let alone churches and ministries in other regions across the country due to the difficult state of our nation today. We thank God for you, Bethany, that the LORD adds to us some new believers every year, empowering us to serve Him faithfully and fruitfully.

Confidence in God

I am strongly confident in the LORD that we will live and serve Him, as He enables us through you, Bethany. Therefore, personally I am not worried about what to envision or how to be creative in ministry. All I need to do is to seek to follow Pastor and Bethany.

Responding to the riches of God's grace

When I was told that I would be commissioned as Senior Pastor of Bethany Myanmar, I knew very well that I do not deserve this appointment at all. This, after all that is said and done, is part of the exceeding riches of God's grace. Deep down in my heart, I do not want to receive God's grace in vain. So, I sought the LORD for His help. He has led me to recall and remember the exceeding riches of His grace.

As I reflected on the goodness of the LORD to us (me, my family and my Myanmar brethren), the kindness of Pastor to us, and the generous support of Bethany to us over three decades and counting, I felt a strong sense of having a great debt to pay. At this moment, the LORD impressed upon my heart Romans 1:14 ***“I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.”*** Consequently, I have prayed that the LORD would help me become a debtor to many for the rest of my days here on earth. Truly may the name of the LORD be praised among all the peoples for the exceeding riches of His grace shown to us all.

CHRISTMAS POEM

#1

THROUGH THE TENDER MERCY OF OUR GOD

The “tender mercy of God” is a worthy theme;
Our hearts are deeply touched as Carols we sing.
The mercy of God is never given condescendingly;
It is manifested most tenderly and graciously.

Through the “tender mercy of God” the Dayspring came;
He did not come to condemn nor to bring us shame.
The Lord Jesus is the Dayspring in love and kindness;
God desires to forgive sins and to offer righteousness.

The Dayspring is the Dawn that God gives amidst darkness;
The Light rays of Dawn are given with great gentleness.
Darkness is slowly dispelled and we see the Light;
The Dayspring would lead us to noon-day bright!

God desires to give Light amidst the gloom of darkness;
The radiant light of God will show us the way of uprightness.
God invites all to embrace and enjoy the Dayspring from on high;
Faith enables us to see the Dayspring and to God draw nigh.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Luke 1:78-79



“The Dayspring from on high has visited us”

CHRISTMAS POEM

#2

O Holy Night

“O Holy night,” a reminder for me,
It fills me with hope that I need.
In this present darkness, it helps me see,
Into His light, His teachings I heed.

“O night divine,” may it bring forth gratitude,
May the meaning of His salvation guide me.
May my faith strengthen in humble attitude,
May the truths of this night set me free.

O Hope of salvation, bring forth my joy,
Set this weary heart at ease.
Confidence in His promise shall I enjoy,
Comforted by this night I embrace peace.

“O Holy night” I entrust my all to the Lord,
O night divine, I yield to the light of God!

Dr. Tan Kok Yang
Inspiration: Luke 1:79
A performance of ‘O Holy Night’



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