

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 3 May 2026 ... Holy Communion Sunday

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Psalm 119

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UNDERSTANDING "AFFLICTION"

REFLECTIONS ON AFFLICTION

Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm written in the Bible. This Psalm was written by a faithful man who determined to read and to practise what he read from the Scriptures. One of the topics he dealt with is the subject of "affliction."

MEDITATION

⁶⁵ You have dealt well with Your servant,
O LORD, according to Your word.

⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
For I believe Your commandments.

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray,
But now I keep Your word.

⁶⁸ You *are* good, and do good;
Teach me Your statutes.

Psalm 119:65-68

1. With reference to God's dealings with His servant
 - a) He affirmed that God had dealt well with him
 - b) God had dealt according to what He had declared in His word
2. On the part of the Psalmist
 - a) He prayed that he would have good judgment and knowledge
 - b) He had a basic faith in the commandments of the Lord
3. On the subject of "affliction"
 - a) He was going through affliction
 - b) But he did not blame God for the Lord had been good to him
 - c) What he needed was good judgment and knowledge
4. Wise and necessary confession
 - a) Before affliction
He had gone astray
 - b) Affliction had caused him to deal with this problem
God is essentially good even if affliction is allowed

OUR CHALLENGE

1. To ponder the approach taken by the Psalmist
2. To believe that God has been good and faithful to us
3. Affliction is a good teacher of faith and life

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 the Lord bless through worship and fellowship!



COMMUNION MEDITATION

²⁶ 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."

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

²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Matthew 26:26-28



GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Breakfast: Eden Yow; Karen Yap

Lunch: Si Si, Teng Ping & Wei Chang; Chee Meng & Michelle



JUNIOR CAMP 2026 **"GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES"**

We are glad to announce that Junior Camp 2026 will be held in the first week of the School Holidays!

This year, our Theme is "Great and Precious Promises".

We are excited to help the children come to know the great and precious

ANNOUNCEMENTS

promises that God has given us in His Word.

Details:

Dates: 1 - 4 June 2026 (Monday - Thursday)

Time: 8:30am – 4:30pm daily (Lunch will be provided)

Venue: Bethany IPC

Junior Camp 2026 is open to children aged 7-12.

Please sign up using the QR below.



THIS WEEK IN BETHANY

1. Seniors Program

- a) Tuesday, 5 May 2026 | 9.30am- 11.30am
- b) Thursday, 7 May 2026 | 9.30am- 11.30am

2. Saturday, 9 May 2026

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

3. Sunday Ministry, 10 May 2026

- 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



AUDREY'S TESTIMONY

Dear Brethren,

My name is Audrey and I would like to share about my desire to serve in the full-time ministry in Bethany.

My decision to the serve the Lord first came from recognising how it is only through the Lord's mercies that I live today. When I was born, my twin brother and I were two months premature and in dire conditions at birth. But even as we laid in hospital incubators too large for us and bounded by wires fighting to keep us alive, we were surrounded and kept by your prayers here in Bethany. We did not know what was happening then, but it was shared with us how the church came together to pray for us each and every week. The Lord mercifully answered your prayers and saved us both.

And your prayers for us have never ceased since, watching us grow up the past 25 years. More than just being a church who prayed for us at birth, the Lord has blessed me with a church like Bethany devoted to raise me up by the Lord's Word. Looking back, I grew to be teen influenced by the world and at a point in time, so blindly drawn to wanting to be like all my friends in following the ways of the world. But it was through the tireless devotion of the Pastors and Teachers teaching me the Lord's Word, lovingly relating to me and correcting me in my ways, where I came to understand the Lord's gift of salvation for me in saving me from this world and of personal faith I can have in Him. And it is here in Bethany where I have been touched by the Lord's love shown to me, a love that cannot be found on this earth. Above all, I recognise that it is the Lord's mercy and grace in watching over me and keeping me through His church as I grew up.

This is the life and Bethany is the church that the Lord has given to me, and I want to give my life back to Him.

As I considered what about my life I could give to the Lord, a love for His Word and for His Work stood out, planting a desire to answer this call of serving Him in the full-time ministry.

AUDREY'S TESTIMONY

A love for the Lord's Word

The Word of God has come to be something I treasure very much in my life and have come to find a love for. Echoing the thoughts of the Psalmist in Psalm 19, the Word of the God has truly changed me, given me much wisdom, joy, and enlightenment to speak of. Through the challenges of life, the Word of God has been that lamp, that comfort, that instruction, and that inspiration. It is something I cannot live without and something I want to know more of! And given any opportunity, my heart and mind desires to devote so much more time to reading and studying the Scriptures. For there is just so much more about my God that I want to know and understand, and to be able to share with others. It is my prayer that the Lord will grant me the wisdom and understanding to know His Word more.

A love for the Lord and His Kingdom

Next, the Kingdom of God has become so real to me and there is nothing else in this world I would rather spend my time on earth doing than the work of the Lord's Kingdom. I thank the Lord for His blessings to have been able to work in a museum and in a role so suited to my interests. Personally, I count it a privilege to have been able to be involved in such a big project for the nation, but as I considered the work of the Kingdom of God, what greater privilege it is to be able to do the work of my King. As much as I have enjoyed and loved my job, in my heart, I just love the Lord more and there is no greater joy, love, and purpose to be able to do the work of His Kingdom. And so, with all the skills, the strength and with every breath of life the Lord has given to me, I just want to give my all to serving my Lord in His church instead, and to do all that I can for His Kingdom.

Prayerfully, as I make this decision to take this step of entering into full-time ministry, I know that it is a high calling. There is much I must learn that will require my full devotion, diligence and perseverance, according to the Lord's grace upon me. As a church, Bethany must continue to grow and be strong for our IPC Family. It is my commitment to give my life to the work of the Lord in Bethany and to support His churches in the IPC Family.

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 3 May 2026

Text: “God of all comfort” 2 Corinthians 1:3

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. To bless the Lord at all times
2. To bless Him for who He is
 - a) God and Father of the Lord Jesus
 - b) The Father of mercies

NEXT SUNDAY: 10 May 2026

Text: “Who comforts us in all our tribulation” 2 Corinthians 1:4

*Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
2 Corinthians 1:4*

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalms 25:4-5

⁴ Show me Your ways, O LORD;
Teach me Your paths.

⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You *are* the God of my salvation;
On You I wait all the day.

1. Appropriate prayers
 - a) To ask God to show us His ways
 - b) To teach us His paths
 - c) To lead us in His truth
2. An appreciation of the Lord
 - a) As our God of salvation
 - b) As God is personally involved in our lives
 - c) Our need is to wait on the Lord humbly

POETRY CORNER

#1

BEFORE I WAS AFFLICTED I WENT ASTRAY

The Psalmist was candid in his reflection;
He pondered much over his affliction.
He expressed his faith that God was good to him;
The Lord was not punishing him for his sins.

Nevertheless, he meditated earnestly;
He sought to understand better of necessity.
Through his affliction he realised he had gone astray;
Somehow, somewhere, he had lost the way.

It was with humility that he sought to understand his affliction;
The Lord's goodness stood out to him in his meditation.
The Lord in His wisdom was drawing the Psalmist back;
But the path he was now on, did not make his heart glad.

Affliction was allowed by God to come to the Psalmist;
He must seek the Lord to check what was amiss.
Some sins and weakness are not easy to identify;
But wisdom will be revealed, as on the Lord we rely.

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Psalm 119:65-68

POETRY CORNER

#2

We Do Not Cease to Pray

When family and friends encounter trials or are in pain;
We want to be there for them although often it is in vain.

Words of encouragement or condolence are few;
Often, we can only say to them, "I will pray for you".

Yet, prayers are not words cursorily uttered and easily dismissed thereafter;
After all, it is a person's heart and not mere words that matter.
If seeking God's direction and favour were earnest and sincere;
Then praying for ourselves or others ought to be an unceasing gesture.

We pray for God to give us spiritual understanding and wisdom;
Even as we persevere in reading His word and His truths, to fathom.
Despite perceived risks, challenges and suffering;
We pray for His strength to empower us to walk worthy of our calling.

Give thanks for God has delivered us from darkness into the light;
And strengthened us with power according to His might.
Remember that God redeemed us through His Son because He loves us;
We pray unceasingly because we too love Him and in Him, we can trust.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Colossians 1:3-14

POETRY CORNER

#3

The Power of God

Let me not cease to pray for Pastor Charles
He is about to undergo a major surgery
Plead for the Lord's divine protection and grace
And mercy for an uneventful and smooth recovery

Nothing is impossible for God who can do all things
Let the power of God who hears and answers prayers manifest
The Lord delivers the righteous from all their troubles
May the Almighty One listen to my plea and request

Prayer puts us in communion with our loving Father
He will kindly and tenderly consider our petitions
Gather together to ask, for it will be done by our Father
Appeal to the Holy Spirit to intercede making effective our prayers

Make known our request to God in prayer with thanksgiving
Keep calling and trusting in the Lord in faith profound
May the Lord's presence be with Pastor as he commits to Him
Seek the Lord to His glory redound

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 1:37,
Matthew 18:19-20; Philippians 4: 6-7

POETRY CORNER

#4

My Example

A stalwart leader through and through,
The depths of his service unmistakable.
In faith he teaches and thus we grew,
His manner humble and relatable.

A scholar with a deep understanding,
His knowledge extensive and vast.
Yet still a learner that is outstanding,
His love for the Word unsurpassed.

A shepherd who loves the congregation,
His heart for this church is evident.
Lives he has touched across generations,
Respect and affection are our sentiments.

My example through and through!
Your high standards I will pursue!

Sonnet written for Pastor Charles Tan in love by Tan Kok Yang
Prayerfully wishing you all the best.

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

Musicians

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Dr. Tang Kong Choong

PRAYER

HYMNS

CP 374 | Sweet Hour of Prayer

CP 388 | All the Way My Saviour Leads Me

RECEPTION OF MISS AUDREY CHIA JIA QIAN:

BETHANY PASTORAL TEAM

Presentation

Prayer

Reception

MESSAGE

"The God of all comfort" 2 Corinthians 1

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

COMMUNION HYMN

HWC 364 | My Jesus, I Love Thee

CLOSING HYMN

HWC 257 | The Comforter Has Come

BENEDICTION

OFFERING

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

CP 374 SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

WILLIAM W. WALFORD

1. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's Throne,
Make all my wants and wishes known.

In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless:

And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!



HYMNS

CP 387 ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOUR LEADS ME

FANNY J. CROSBY

1. All the way my Saviour leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my Guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

2. All the way my Saviour leads me;
Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for ev'ry trial,
Feeds me with the Living Bread;
Though my weary steps may falter,
And my soul a-thirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! a spring of joy I see;
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! a spring of joy I see.

3. All the way my Saviour leads me;
Oh, the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's House above:
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
Wings its flight to realms of day,
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way;
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way.



HYMNS

HWC 364 MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE

WILLIAM FEATHERSTON

1. My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine,
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath,
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."
4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in Heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."



HYMNS

HWC 257 THE COMFORTER HAS COME

FRANK BOTTOME

1. O spread the tidings round wherever man is found,
Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;
Let ev'ry Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:
The Comforter has come!

Refrain

The Comforter has come, the Comforter has come!
The Holy Ghost from Heav'n – the Father's promise giv'n;
O spread the tidings round wherever man is found—
The Comforter has come!

2. Lo, the great King of kings, with healing in His wings,
To ev'ry captive soul a full deliv'rance brings;
And through the vacant cells the song of triumph rings:
The Comforter has come!

Refrain

3. O boundless love divine! How shall this tongue of mine
To wond'ring mortals tell the matchless grace divine—
That I, a child of hell, should in His image shine!
The Comforter has come!

Refrain



Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

301 Upper Paya Lebar Road. Singapore 534934
tel : 65-62877713 . fax : 65-62877980 . website URL : bethanyipc.sg