

Youth Worship

BETHANY INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's kind of church, where God is touching lives, and people care for people.

WELCOME TO YOUTH WORSHIP!

Sacred and precious is the Presence of the Lord. It is a privilege that our Living God dwells in the midst of His people. Let us humble ourselves as we draw near to His throne of grace this afternoon!



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THE LORD TAKES PLEASURE IN THOSE WHO FEAR HIM

What God takes pleasure in is in stark contrast to what Man delights in. While Man boasts in valour, strength and might, God takes pleasure in those who fear and hope in Him.

¹⁰ He does not delight in the strength of the horse;
He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.

¹¹ The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
In those who hope in His mercy.

PSALM 147:10-11

1. What God does not delight in

Psalms 147:10

a. Strength of the cavalry

i. War horses in the ancient days symbolise military might and power

ii. Man boasts in the strength of his cavalry

b. Strength of the infantry

i. The strength of an army is reliant on its foot soldiers

ii. Man trusts in his military might for national defense

2. God's sovereign understanding

a. The LORD is our Creator

b. He knows the limitations of every life form He creates

3. What God takes pleasure in

Psalm 147:11

a. Those who fear Him

b. Those who hope in His mercy

OUR ENCOURAGEMENT

1. Develop a deep reverence for God

2. Cultivate trust in God and not in men

3. Exercise hope in His mercies, and not in our human capabilities

ORDER OF WORSHIP

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE

26 SEPTEMBER 2026

Prelude

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

Call to Worship

Pastor Charles Tan

Opening Prayer

Pastor Charles Tan

Song Leading

1. Over all the earth
(Lord, reign in me)
2. O Great God

Christopher Tang and Ryan Quek
Pianist: Gabrielle Wan
Cajonist: Jamie Li

Scripture Reading

Text: Joshua 4

Laura Chan and Thaddeus Heng

Pastor Mark Tan

Pastoral Prayer

Message

“That you may fear the LORD
your God forever
Text: Joshua 4

Pastor Charles Tan

Closing Prayer

Pastor Charles Tan

Offering

Postlude

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

MY NOTES

26 SEPTEMBER 2026

**“THAT YOU MAY FEAR
THE LORD YOUR GOD FOREVER”**

J O S H U A 4

Over all the earth

[Lord, reign in me]

Words and Music by Brenton Brown

Over all the earth,
You reign on high,
Ev'ry mountain stream,
Ev'ry sunset sky.
But my one request,
Lord, my only aim
Is that You'd reign in me again.

Chorus:

Lord, reign in me.
Reign in Your pow'r,
Over all my dreams
In my darkest hour.
You are the Lord of all I am,
So won't You reign in me again.

Over ev'ry thought,
Over ev'ry word.
May my life reflect
The beauty of my Lord;
'Cause You mean more to me
Than any earthly thing,
So won't You reign in me again.

Chorus

(End)

O GREAT GOD

Words and Music by Bob Kauflin

O great God of highest heav'n,
Occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme,
Conquer every rebel pow'r.

Let no vice or sin remain
That resists Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me,
Make me Yours forevermore.

I was blinded by my sin,
Had no ears to hear Your voice,
Did not know Your love within,
Had no taste for heaven's joys.

Then Your Spirit gave me life,
Opened up Your Word to me
Through the gospel of Your Son,
Gave me endless hope and peace.

Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face.

You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n
Glorify Your Name through me.

(End)



REVIEW OF GOD'S WORD

Let us review what we have learnt at our last Youth Worship!

YWS MESSAGE - 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

“AS I WAS WITH MOSES, SO I WILL BE WITH YOU”

TEXT: JOSHUA 3

INTRODUCTION

1. The transition to Joshua as the next leader Joshua 1:1-9
2. Commitment of the new community that had risen Joshua 1:10-18
3. Spying out the land Joshua 2
4. The crossing of the Jordan Joshua 3

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT TO LEAD THE WAY

¹ Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. ² So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; ³ and they commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. ⁴ Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before.”

⁵ And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” ⁶ Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, “Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people.”

So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

Joshua 3:1-6



1. The ark of the covenant

Joshua 3:1-4

- a. It symbolised the Presence of God
- b. It would lead Israel into a way they had never gone before
 - i. Israel to maintain a certain distance from it
 - ii. So that all Israel could see it and know the way to go
 - iii. So that Israel would not approach God's holy Presence casually

2. The command to be sanctified

Joshua 3:5-6

- a. Physical preparations alone were not enough
- b. Israel also needed to sanctify themselves
- c. In preparation for what God was about to do among them

THE ABIDING PRESENCE OF GOD

⁷ And the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. ⁸ You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.' "

Joshua 3:7-8

1. The Presence of God with Joshua

- a. Personally promised Joshua 1:5
- b. Publicly confirmed Joshua 3:7
 - i. God would use the crossing of the Jordan to begin exalting Joshua in the sight of all Israel
 - ii. Not to glorify Joshua

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- iii. But for Israel to know (with certainty) that Joshua was God's appointed leader
 - iv. Just as God was with Moses in leading Israel across the Red Sea
So too would God be with Joshua in leading Israel across the Jordan
 - v. Just as God enabled Moses to lead Israel throughout the wilderness
So too would God enable Joshua to lead Israel in the conquest of the Promised Land

2. The Presence of God with Israel

⁹ So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." ¹⁰ And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: ¹¹ Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.

¹² Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. ¹³ And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."

Joshua 3:9-13

- a. The crossing of the Jordan was also meant to let Israel know
 - b. That the living God was among them (and not just Joshua)
 - c. That God would without fail drive out the inhabitants of the land for Israel
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THE POWER OF GOD DISPLAYED

¹⁴ So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵ and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), ¹⁶ that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

Joshua 3:14-17

1. Obedience at all levels

a. On Joshua's part (the leader)

- i. To hear and speak as God commanded
- ii. To do as God commanded

b. On the part of the priests and Levites (those who serve)

- i. To bear the ark of the LORD
- ii. To step into the Jordan before God cuts the waters off

c. On the part of the people (the whole community)

- i. To sanctify themselves
- ii. To follow the ark of the LORD
- iii. To cross when instructed



2. God cutting off the waters of the Jordan

Joshua 3:14-16

- a. This was a time when the waters of the Jordan were overflowing
- b. The power of God marvellously displayed
 - i. When the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water
 - ii. The waters that went down failed and were cut off
 - iii. All the people crossed over

3. The ark of the covenant

Joshua 3:17

- a. Led the way
- b. Remained amidst the Jordan
- c. Until all Israel had passed

IMPORTANT LESSONS FOR US ALL

1. God

- a. He leads
- b. He abides
- c. He works powerfully

2. Our challenge

- a. To sanctify ourselves
- b. To trust in Him
- c. To obey His Word

REFLECTIONS

YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

LAURA CHAN

Hello young people, welcome back to Youth Worship! Previously, we read from Joshua 3, where the children of Israel were preparing to cross the River Jordan into the Promised Land, under Joshua's leadership.

This wasn't the first time Israel had faced near-impossible waters to cross. God parted the Red Sea for the children of Israel to cross safely, even with Pharaoh's army pursuing them. Even though this was a new generation of Israel facing the River Jordan, it is still the same God who has never left them to face challenges on their own.

The children of Israel were also instructed to keep about two thousand cubits between themselves and the ark as it went ahead of them, so that they would know the way they had to go (Joshua 3:4). This was roughly about one kilometre distance between the people and the ark! The ark of the covenant, which represents the presence of God, was to be regarded and approached with reverence. In this, God invited His people to fix their eyes on Him precisely because the way ahead was unfamiliar, and it was His presence alone, kept in clear view, that could be trusted to show them how to move forward.

But before the actual crossing of the River Jordan, Joshua called for the people to first sanctify themselves (Joshua 3:5) to prepare their hearts to obey the Lord. Joshua knew that the children of Israel who were about to



witness the power of God could not carelessly approach the moment like it was any other normal day. They were meant to fully understand the gravity of the situation while keeping God in high regard.

What stood out to me the most is depicted in Joshua 3:12. The priests were called to step into the flooded waters of the River Jordan first. Only when they stepped in did the River waters stop flowing, so that the whole nation could pass through on dry ground. The priests carrying the ark had to first obey and exercise faith, trusting that God would protect them as they stepped into the River.

In my own life, I must admit that it's hard to have faith in God when I am afraid of the circumstances in front of me. Joshua 3 reminds me that faith is taking a step in obedience first before I see the outcome. Whether it's a difficult task at work or trying to navigate a difficult time with a dear friend, I'm challenged to see beyond my circumstances, trusting that the Lord is already at work in what I cannot yet see. I also want to set myself apart and prepare my heart to obey God, instead of approaching Him carelessly on my own terms. The process of sanctification isn't a one-off, dramatic moment. It consists of small, daily choices to take God seriously: guarding what I let into my heart and mind, being earnest in prayer to Him, and choosing obedience even when no one is holding me accountable.

May we be challenged to cultivate that obedience to God and set ourselves apart in faith to be ready to follow Him wholeheartedly!

YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

RYAN QUEK

Trusting in the Lord amidst challenges

As the children of Israel stood on the brink of crossing the Jordan River, a daunting task lay before them. They knew that the journey ahead would not be easy. In the land beyond the River were formidable enemies and great challenges awaiting them. Yet, despite the uncertainties of what laid ahead, they placed their trust in God. In the midst of a great challenge, their hope remained firmly rooted in the Lord.

Through the events recorded in Joshua 3, we see how the Lord taught the children of Israel valuable lessons about what it truly means to trust in Him. They learned that trusting in the Lord was not merely passive, but required a response of faith and action. Three main aspects of this trust were highlighted.

Firstly, they needed to **sanctify their hearts**. As the people of Israel prepared to cross the Jordan River, Joshua instructed them to make the necessary physical preparations. They prepared food and other provisions for the journey ahead. However, physical preparation alone was not enough. They also needed to prepare themselves spiritually. Joshua commanded the people to sanctify themselves in anticipation of the great works that the Lord was about to perform among them. Before witnessing God's power, they first had to cleanse their hearts for Him.

Secondly, they needed to have **wholehearted trust** in the Lord. As the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant approached the Jordan River, they too had to exercise faith in God's promise. The waters did not part before they approached the River. Instead, the priests first had to step into the water before the Lord stopped the flow of the Jordan. This would not have been an easy act of faith, especially as the River was overflowing its banks. Stepping into the rushing water required complete trust in the Lord's power, His promise, and His ability to deliver them safely into the Promised Land.

Lastly, the people had to **obey** the commands that the Lord had given them. Every member of the community had a part to play, from the people of Israel, to the Levites and priests, and even Joshua himself. Each was called to follow the Lord's instructions faithfully. Their trust in God was therefore demonstrated not only through what they believed, but also through their actions in obeying God's commandments.

My personal application

As I reflected on what it means to trust in the Lord personally, I realised that I had previously approached this idea in the wrong way. I used to think that trusting in the Lord was something passive, believing that simply placing my trust in Him above earthly things was enough. However, this lesson reminded me that there is much more to exercising faith and truly trusting in the Lord. My heart is personally challenged to face the difficulties of life in the same way that the children of Israel faced the daunting task of entering the Promised Land. Their example reminded me that trust in the Lord requires preparation of the heart, wholehearted faith, and obedience to His Word.

When we face difficulties, it is not enough to simply say that we trust in the Lord and then call it a day. We must first prepare and cleanse our hearts by putting aside our carnal approaches towards the problem and learning to see our circumstances from a faith perspective. This requires us to dwell on His Word, allowing it to take root in our hearts and shape the way we think, respond, and act. In doing so, our trust in the Lord becomes more than just something we profess; it becomes a faith that actively guides us through the challenges we face.

What a privilege it is that we can rely on His presence when we face the challenges of life! May we continually seek to place our confidence in the Lord through the way we live and respond to the challenges before us!

THE MAGICIANS COULD NOT STAND BEFORE MOSES

Magicians of old were vastly different;
They were not people who gave entertainment.
They dabbled in dark occultic activities;
The deeds of Moses, they sought to resist.



The Sixth Plague of Boils fell upon the Egyptians;
Everyone was affected, including the Magicians.
They tried to duplicate the mighty deeds of Moses;
But compared to Moses, they were quite hopeless.

They had found more than their match in Moses;
They could not stand before one who was righteous.
Moses was that very special servant of the Lord;
He was able to perform wonders by the power of God!

The heart of the Pharaoh remained hardened;
His hardening would become permanent.
He had chosen to harden his heart in the first place;
The Lord would now withhold His mercy and grace.

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Exodus 9:8-12



ANNOUNCEMENT

HOLD FAST WHAT YOU HAVE REVELATION 3:11

We start looking forward to the Youth Conference even as we enter the second half of 2026! As we learn about the faith that we have, may we seek to hold fast to what we have, ensuring that no one takes away the crown of victory that we can have!

Details: Date: 30 November - 3 December
(Monday - Thursday)
Venue: Bethany IPC
Time: 9.00am to 5.00pm daily

Age: Open to youths aged 13 and above.

Fees: \$25.00

Fellowship Lunch

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

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 80286194.

Scan the QR code to register:



NEXT YWS



3 OCTOBER 2026

"As Commander of the army of the LORD"

Text: Joshua 5:1-15

Deeper lessons of faith had to be learnt for Joshua. As Joshua readied himself to battle against Jericho, he experienced a divine encounter. Facing a Man carrying a drawn sword, Joshua was humbled to realise that this was no ordinary Man, but the True Commander of the LORD's army.



Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church