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BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



God's Kind of Church...
Where God is touching lives...
And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 29 November 2026

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Zephaniah 3

I WILL GATHER THOSE WHO SORROW

A GLORIOUS PICTURE OF RESTORATION

Zephaniah concluded his short prophetic book with the description of how the Lord would gather His people who were scattered. He would bring about full restoration in the fulness of time. We cannot but see yet another demonstration of the love of God for His people.

MEDITATION

[18] "I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly,
Who are among you,
To whom its reproach *is* a burden.

[19] Behold, at that time
I will deal with all who afflict you;
I will save the lame,
And gather those who were driven out;
I will appoint them for praise and fame
In every land where they were put to shame.

[20] At that time I will bring you back,
Even at the time I gather you;
For I will give you fame and praise
Among all the peoples of the earth,
When I return your captives before your eyes,"
Says the LORD.

Zephaniah 3:18-20

1. Features of God's love for His people
    a) "I will gather those who sorrow"
    b) "I will save the lame"
    c) "And gather those who were driven out"
    d) "I will appoint them for praise and fame"

2. What would be appropriate responses to such love?
    a) Deepest Gratitude
    b) Glorious praise to be given to God
    c) Great determination to walk with God faithfully

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

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

GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Breakfast: Ryan & Rachel; Daohua Chiam
Lunch: Jesse & Elsie; Daniel & Ivy Khoo; Nate Ng & Noel Ng

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

1st Sunday of Advent
29 November 2026
The Prophecy Candle

2nd Sunday of Advent
6 December 2026
The Bethlehem Candle

3rd Sunday of Advent
13 December 2026
The Shepherds' Candle

4th Sunday of Advent
20 December 2026
The Angels' Candle

CHRISTMAS CAROLING 2026

Christmas remains a special time of remembering God's everlasting love toward us, in the coming of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us ready our hearts to worship the Lord and declare His love this Christmas!

Christmas Caroling will be taking place in December. Kindly sign up at the booth at the Fellowship Hall on Sundays if you'd like to attend.

Details

Date: Saturday, 5 December 2026
Venue: Sanctuary
Time: 3:00pm

CHRISTMAS AT SHANGRI-LA 2026

We will be having our special Christmas Worship Service and Christmas Lunch on 25 December 2026.

Details

Date: Friday, 25 December 2026
Venue: Shangri-La
Time: 10:30am
Christmas Worship Service will commence at 10:30am, followed by Christmas Lunch. Kindly plan to sign up early.

Please scan the QR code below to register for Christmas Lunch. Kindly approach us at the booth at the Fellowship Hall on Sundays if you've any queries.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK IN BETHANY

1. Seniors Program
There will be no Seniors Program during the month of December

2. Youth Conference
Monday- Thursday
30 November - 3 December 2026

3. Saturday, 5 December 2026
a) Christmas Caroling | 3:00pm
b) No YPG/ YAG
c) No Youth Worship

4. Sunday Ministry, 6 December 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) No Catechism Class

CONDOLENCES

1. Heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Drusilla Choong and family on the home-calling of her father-in-law, Mr. Edward Choong Keng Chuen. The late Mr. Choong was called home to be with the Lord on Monday, 23 November 2026. He was 72 years old.

2. Heartfelt condolences to Mr. James Seow and family on the demise of his grandmother, Mdm. Lee Moh Cheng. The late Mdm. Lee was called home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, 24 November 2026. She was 95 years old.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 39:12-13

12 "Hear my prayer, O LORD,
And give ear to my cry;
Do not be silent at my tears;
For I *am* a stranger with You,
A sojourner, as all my fathers *were.*
13 Remove Your gaze from me, that I may regain strength,
Before I go away and am no more."

1. A Prayer offered in despair
    a) Offered with Tears
    b) Feeling estranged

2. A Prayer of Hope
    a) To regain a lost relationship with God
    b) To regain strength

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 29 NOVEMBER 2026

Text: Because of His great love Ephesians 2:4

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us. Ephesians 2:4

1. God's Love described
    a) It is well-described as "great love"
    b) It underscores all the gracious deeds of God

2. God's Love displayed
    a) It is displayed in "rich mercy"
    b) It is evidenced in the salvation He offers

NEXT SUNDAY: 6 DECEMBER 2026

Text: Love one another John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. John 13:34

POETRY CORNER

#1

I WILL GATHER THOSE WHO SORROW

The Love of God is discerned in His plan;
He will gather the sorrowful with His hand.
He will gather them from the farthest place;
He will guide them loving mercy and grace.

God's compassion goes to those who are lame;
He will deal with those who are to blame.
The sorrowful need not dwell in the past;
They will know God's love afresh at last!

God will give them praise and fame;
Though they had known only shame.
This was God's way of showering His Love;
The heart must stand in awe at this Love from above.

God's amazing Love is to be treasured greatly;
All too often we are guilty of taking it too lightly.
May this Christmas see us take time for Reflection!
May we find a Revived Faith filled with deep affection!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Zephaniah 3:18-20

POETRY CORNER

#2

An Unchanging Love

Life throws us curve balls unexpectedly;
It is normal that we go through anger, denial, depression and agony.
The future is such that no one can ever foresee;
Only God is in charge and He alone decides whatever will be.

Extreme challenges are tests of where our faith lie, genuinely;
Whether we can wholly trust God with all of our inner fears and anxiety.
Only then can we claim His promise of peace beyond human understanding;
To move forward after setbacks and live life with hope and meaning.

God's love as shown to the Israelites of old had proved unchanging;
He loved them despite their disobedience persisting.
The Lord has formed and redeemed us, our sinful natures notwithstanding;
His love for us today will similarly be everlasting.

So remember as we reflect on God's love shown to us over the years;
The joy He has granted and His taking away our fears.
Thank God for the strength to strike back amidst the tears;
For we can, in His everlasting and unchanging love, abide and endear.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Philippians 4:6-7; Isaiah 43:1-7

#3

Glorify the Lord

The Lord God is our Creator and Redeemer
We are His children and belong to Him
May we not fear afflictions for He is our Protector
Look past tough times with hope to be redeemed

The Lord God is our Father with a loving nature
We have been chosen due to His love for us
An unfailing commitment to His children whom He nurtures
Actively working and shaping us into spiritually mature believers

He created His children to live lives for His glory
To fulfil the purpose of His creation let us glorify Him
As our achievements are His gifts cultivate humility
Practise gratitude for everyday provisions and blessings

May we see through our lives the display of the glory of God
He created mankind and the universe out of the fullness of His love
Develop a keen sense of the purpose of creation of the Lord
Praise and honour Him for our salvation for His sake and love

Jessie Quek
Inspiration: Isaiah 43:3-7

#4

Under Your Guiding Hand

Lord, I give thanks to You every day,
For showing Your love in many ways.
I know You'll lead me on the path ahead;
I trust Your guiding Hand as on You I wait.

With lovingkindness, You send sunshine and rain,
And the rainbow reflects Your glory again and again.
They remind me of the steadfast promises in Your Word,
Giving me courage and strength to press forward.

Your mighty Hand will sustain,
Every living creature on the plain.
I know my every need You'll supply,
And You will hear my humble cry.

I adore You, my King, who reigns on high;
In Your presence, I'll draw nigh.
I'll declare Your goodness to all around me,
So that they may Your glory see!

Raymond Tham
Inspiration: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; and Philippians 4:4–7, 19

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE
Musicians

CALL TO WORSHIP
Deacon Joshua Phang

PRAYER

HYMNS
CP 139 | Joy to the World
CP 148 | O Come All Ye Faithful

ITEM
"Angels' Carol"
One Voice Choir

MESSAGE
"I will pour My Spirit on your descendants"
Isaiah 44:1-5
Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

CLOSING HYMN
HWC 123 | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

BENEDICTION

OFFERING

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

CP 139 Joy To The World

Isaac Watts

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns; let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4. 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, and wonders of His love.

CP 148 O Come All Ye Faithful

John F. 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 Heavn'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

HYMNS

HWC 123 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

John M. Neale

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

3. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Refrain

4. O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.
Refrain

Angels' Carol

Words & Music by: John Rutter
Performed by: One Voice Choir

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
To the humble shepherds who have waited long?

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy, like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light.

He is come in love as the child of Mary;
In a simple stable, we have seen His birth:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing 'Peace on earth'.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
Like a bright star shining in the skies above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
When He comes to reign in purity and love.

Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming;
Let the heavens answer with a joyful morn:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing, 'Christ is born',
Hear the angels singing, 'Christ is born'.