

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 18 October 2026

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Psalm 84

THE LORD GOD IS OUR SUN AND SHIELD

THE LORD IN OUR LIFE

Psalm 84 concluded on a strong note.
The focus of the Sons of Korah was now on
the Lord God of Jacob!

⁸ O LORD God of hosts, hear my
prayer;
Give ear, O God of Jacob!

MEDITATION

⁹ O God, behold our shield,
And look upon the face of Your anointed.

¹⁰ For a day in Your courts *is* better than a thousand.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹ For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield;
The LORD will give grace and glory;
No good *thing* will He withhold
From those who walk uprightly.

¹² O LORD of hosts,
Blessed *is* the man who trusts in You! Psalm 84:8-12

1. The human shield

- a) The earthly king was supposed to protect the Kingdom
- b) He was the Lord's anointed servant-king
- c) But the king could not always give adequate protection and provision

2. The Divine Shield

- a) The Psalmists now focused on God as "the Sun and Shield"
- b) This was the Lord God of Jacob
- c) He provided amply for Jacob
- d) He will not withhold any good thing from those who trust Him

APPROPRIATE CHALLENGE

- 1. To choose to be in the House of God
- 2. To serve as a doorkeeper than to live in luxury
- 3. To deepen our trust in the Lord

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

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



GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Breakfast: Andrew & Hwei Li Wong; Sarah, Jerome & Althea Lau
Lunch: Nic & Lihui Khoo; Glen & Li Ping



CHURCH SPRING CLEANING

We will be having a Church Spring Cleaning for our Church premises.
Thank God for the Church building He has given to us,
and for the privilege to care for it.

Details:

Monday, 9 November 2026
9:00am-12:00nn

Followed by Lunch Fellowship

If you would like to be part of the Church Spring Cleaning,
please sign up with either Deacon George,
Pastor Eugene or Pastor Moses.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH CONFERENCE 2026

"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 our faith in God, 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

Dates: 30 November 2026 - 3 December 2026 (Monday - Thursday)

Venue: Bethany IPC | 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

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 can register online by scanning the QR Code:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Due to the severity of the Haze situation, this week's Seniors Program has been cancelled.

2. Saturday, 24 October 2026

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

3. Sunday Ministry, 25 October 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



WITHDRAWING FROM THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

9 years ago, I was given the privilege to be trained as a Pastor here in Bethany. In my time in the Pastoral Team, I have been a recipient of so much! Pastor Charlie has given so much of himself to instruct, guide, and correct me in truth and love. I have received much encouragement from all in the Pastoral Team whom I have served with, prayed with, and learned alongside. Moreover, the Bethany family has graciously prayed for, supported and loved me each step of the way. I have been greatly blessed!

I had wanted to "give back" to God and the church by being trained and serving in the Pastoral capacity. I had thought that this was my calling. However, after 9 years of being in the ministry and attempt-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ing to serve as a minister of the Word of God, I have come to humbly acknowledge and accept that this is not my calling. I have come to see and understand clearly that I have not been able to minister effectively in the Pastoral capacity. I now recognize that I am not suited for the Pastoral ministry.

What are my thoughts as I step out of the Pastoral ministry? Firstly, I am learning to be at peace with this decision. It might have been a difficult decision to make but I know that it is the right and wise choice. Secondly, I am even more committed to love and support our Pastoral Team. Having had a glimpse of the challenges of ministry, I am committed to pray for our leaders as they lead Bethany locally and globally in time to come. Finally, the resolve to serve the Lord Jesus here in Bethany remains sure and strong. Pastor's encouragement to me is to continue to serve even if it is not in the Pastoral capacity. This is what I wish to still do!

Jonathan Jacob



From a Parent's Heart

It is hard and painful for any parent to see one's child struggle or in pain.

And yet, there can be much pride in seeing and knowing how our child struggles in hardship and overcomes challenges with a spirit of diligence and tenacity.

It takes faith and much courage to live each day facing the unknown and manage the fears of an unknown future.

It takes humility and grace to acknowledge one's limitations and be willing and ready to evaluate, recalibrate and reset one's focus and accept a new path.

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(Continued from page 7)

We are proud of Jonathan.

We have always been proud of him, for his resilience, for his faith, his courage shown in life's challenges, for his love and gentleness.

We thank God for the peace that is in Jon's heart. We thank God for the peace God has laid upon our hearts. May God's peace and hope continue to stay with Jon and Michelle for the years ahead.

We thank God for His interventions in our lives, for His protection and for His provisions. We strive to look for God's hand upon our lives.....always.

Jacob and I thank our God for the privilege and joy of fellowship and service in Bethany all these many years with so many of you. We thank God for the friendships forged.

At this moment, allow me to thank you for supporting and being such an encouragement to Jon as he sought to serve in Bethany.

As individuals and as a family, we hope to continue to have a spirit that honours the Lord - a spirit of humility, calmness and trust in Him who is our Redeemer and Lord.

On bended knees,
Emily and Jacob,
Jon's Mama and Dad

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 37:30-33

³⁰ The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom,
And his tongue talks of justice.

³¹ The law of his God *is* in his heart;
None of his steps shall slide.

³² The wicked watches the righteous,
And seeks to slay him.

³³ The LORD will not leave him in his hand,
Nor condemn him when he is judged.

1. The Life of the Righteous

- a) He speaks words of wisdom and justice
- b) The law of God is in his heart
- c) God will protect and preserve him

2. The life of the Wicked

- a) He seeks to slay the righteous
- b) He observes to see how he may attack the righteous
- c) His wickedness is deep though he will seek to hide it

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 18 OCTOBER 2026

Text: “May He send you help from the sanctuary”

Psalm 20:2

May He send you help from the sanctuary,
And strengthen you out of Zion. Psalm 20:2

1. The Sanctuary is in Zion
2. God will bless the godly from His sanctuary
3. He will send the necessary help

NEXT SUNDAY: 25 OCTOBER 2026

Text: “So I have looked for You in the sanctuary”

Psalm 63:2

So I have looked for You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory. Psalm 63:2

POETRY CORNER

#1

OUR SUN AND SHIELD

The children of Israel looked up to their earthly king;
They trusted the ruler for just about everything.
The king was their shield providing protection;
But what if the king cannot go beyond his limitations.

The Psalmists realised that there must be a shift in thinking;
They must return to the Lord who is the True Giver of blessings.
The Lord God was the Sun and Shield for the children of Israel
Many had forgotten that they were redeemed as His people.

No earthly king can provide all the needs of the nation;
He is but another human being, apart from his elevation.
The shield that he provides will be very limited;
Only the Lord God can supply all that is needed!

A new-found appreciation arose from deep within;
There came a fresh sense of love for God and His blessings.
In humble response a new determination was found;
To be a doorkeeper in God's house would cause joy to abound.

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Psalm 84:8-12

POETRY CORNER

#2

To dwell in God's Temple

Righteousness is imputed in Christians who trust in God
Believers live a life of integrity empowered by the Holy Spirit
Blessed are those chosen to dwell in the House of the Lord
As His children may we draw near to His Kingdom to inherit

Who may be able to dwell in His temple to enjoy His protection
Our conduct determines the privilege to abide in His Holy Hill
However no human can fully earn the strict moral perfection
By God's grace we have a gateway to His throne as He wills

But the Lord has expectations of the character of worshipers
They are called to godly behaviour to build a loving community
Where there is no slander and back biting of one another
And the poor and disadvantaged are protected from vulnerability

Worshipers are reminded that God does not care for religious rituals
He watches over what we do and the truth from our heart
No matter the cost even when hurt we should not change the course
Such conduct of worshipers is truly worthy to be in God's presence on their
part

Jessie Quek
Inspiration: Psalm 15

POETRY CORNER

#3

In Your Presence, I Find Strength

In the sanctuary, I worship my God divine,
With all the saints, our hearts combine.
Praising You for Your power and strength,
Through life's storms You help me stand.

To You, O Lord, I kneel in humble prayer,
For I know that You are always there.
You hear me when I call Your name,
Your steadfast love remains the same.

When I am weak and my strength is worn,
You renew my faith and help me press on.
You are my fortress and my might,
Under Your wings I find solace each night.

You may not calm the storm I face,
Yet in its midst I find Your grace.
Whatever tomorrow brings my way,
I'll trust in You, come what may.

Arise my soul, for my Saviour leads me on,
Through life's trials, I shall grow strong,
By His strength, I'll bravely finish the race,
And sing of His unfailing love and matchless grace!

Raymond Tham

Inspiration: Psalm 46:1-3; Psalm 62:5-8; Psalm 84:1-11 and Psalm 91:1-4

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

Musicians

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Jarrod Tam

Mr. Nicholas Khoo

PRAYER

HYMNS

CP 95 | My Jesus, I Love Thee

VIP 721 | Empower Me

SPECIAL ITEM

"In the Shadow of His Wings"

One Voice Choir

MESSAGE

"I have set the LORD always before me"

Psalm 16

Rev. Mitchell Tan

CLOSING HYMN

HWC 382 | Be Thou My Vision

BENEDICTION

OFFERING

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

CP 95 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

VIP 721 EMPOWER ME

1. Nobody knows how weak I am better than You.
Nobody sees all of my needs better than You
And nobody has the power to change me
To what I was born to be.
Jesus, be strong in my weakness: Empower me!

Empower me
Like a rushing river flowing to the sea.
Lord, send Your Holy Spirit flowing now through me
Till I'm living as Your child
Victorious and free.
Send the power of Your love:
Empower me!

2. Nobody's eyes see through my soul
Better than Yours;
And nobody's love can make me whole
No love but Yours;
And nobody has the power to lift me
To reach for eternity.
Jesus, break through all my defenses: Empower me!

Empower me
Like a rushing river flowing to the sea.
Lord, send Your Holy Spirit flowing now through me
Till I'm living as Your child,
Victorious and free.
Send the power of Your love
Empower me!
Send the power of Your love: Empower
Empower, Empower me!
Send Your love and, Lord, empower me!



HYMNS

HWC 382 BE THOU MY VISION

ELEANOR H. HULL

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Riches I heed not, or man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.
4. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.



In The Shadow Of His Wings

Carol M. Hodge & Lloyd Larson

Sometimes God calms the storm and causes waves to cease;
He speaks and winds obey, and conflicts turn to peace.
Sometimes God calms my soul and quiets all my fears;
With tender words of love, He wipes away my tears.

When my footsteps are failing, will I faint along the way?
As the path leads through sorrow, will the Lord still be my stay?
And He answers with His presence and makes my spirit sing
In the shadow, in the shadow of His wings.

Sometimes the noise of pain seems louder than God's voice,
But when my spirit yields, my heart can then rejoice.
He brings an inner peace, though troubled is the night
When fearful shadows fall, His glory casts a light.

When my footsteps are failing, will I faint along the way?
As the path leads through sorrow, will the Lord still be my stay?
And He answers with His presence and makes my spirit sing
In the shadow, in the shadow of His wings.

(Continued on page 19)



If my body grows weaker and my plans all fade away
Then can I trust in His goodness,
Can I rest in Him each day?

When my footsteps are failing, will I faint along the way?
As the path leads through sorrow, will the Lord still be my stay?
And He answers with His presence and makes my spirit sing
In the shadow, in the shadow,
In the shadow of His wings.

Of His wings.



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