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!

Who is like our God, so great and glorious, yet so gracious as to choose us to be a people near to Him? Let us cherish this precious privilege as we worship Him!

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HIS GLORY IS ABOVE THE EARTH AND HEAVEN

To praise the LORD is to give Him the glory due His name. Are we able to behold His glory that we may render unto Him befitting praise?

[7] Praise the LORD from the earth,
You great sea creatures and all the depths;
[8] Fire and hail, snow and clouds;
Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;
[9] Mountains and all hills;
Fruitful trees and all cedars;
[10] Beasts and all cattle;
Creeping things and flying fowl;
[11] Kings of the earth and all peoples;
Princes and all judges of the earth;
[12] Both young men and maidens;
Old men and children.

[13] Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For His name alone is exalted;
His glory *is* above the earth and heaven.
[14] And He has exalted the horn of His people,
The praise of all His saints—
Of the children of Israel,
A people near to Him.

Praise the LORD!

PSALM 148:7-14

1. The call to praise the LORD was issued to the heavenly bodies Psalm 148:1-6

2. This call was extended to all creation on earth

   a. The creatures Psalm 148:7, 10

      i. Small and great

      ii. In the sky, land and sea

   b. The weather elements Psalm 148:8

   c. The natural landscapes Psalm 148:9

   d. All peoples Psalm 148:11-12

      i. Regardless of their social status

      ii. Regardless of gender

      iii. Regardless of age

3. Behold the glory of God

   a. We often marvel at the beauty of God's Creation

      i. Glory is truly seen in Creation and its continual sustenance

      ii. They reflect the wisdom and power of the Creator

   b. We could also appreciate the glory of men with great standing

   c. Yet God's glory is above all of these and more Psalm 148:13

   d. Indeed His name alone shall be exalted! Psalm 148:14a

4. The Great and Glorious God draws near to His people

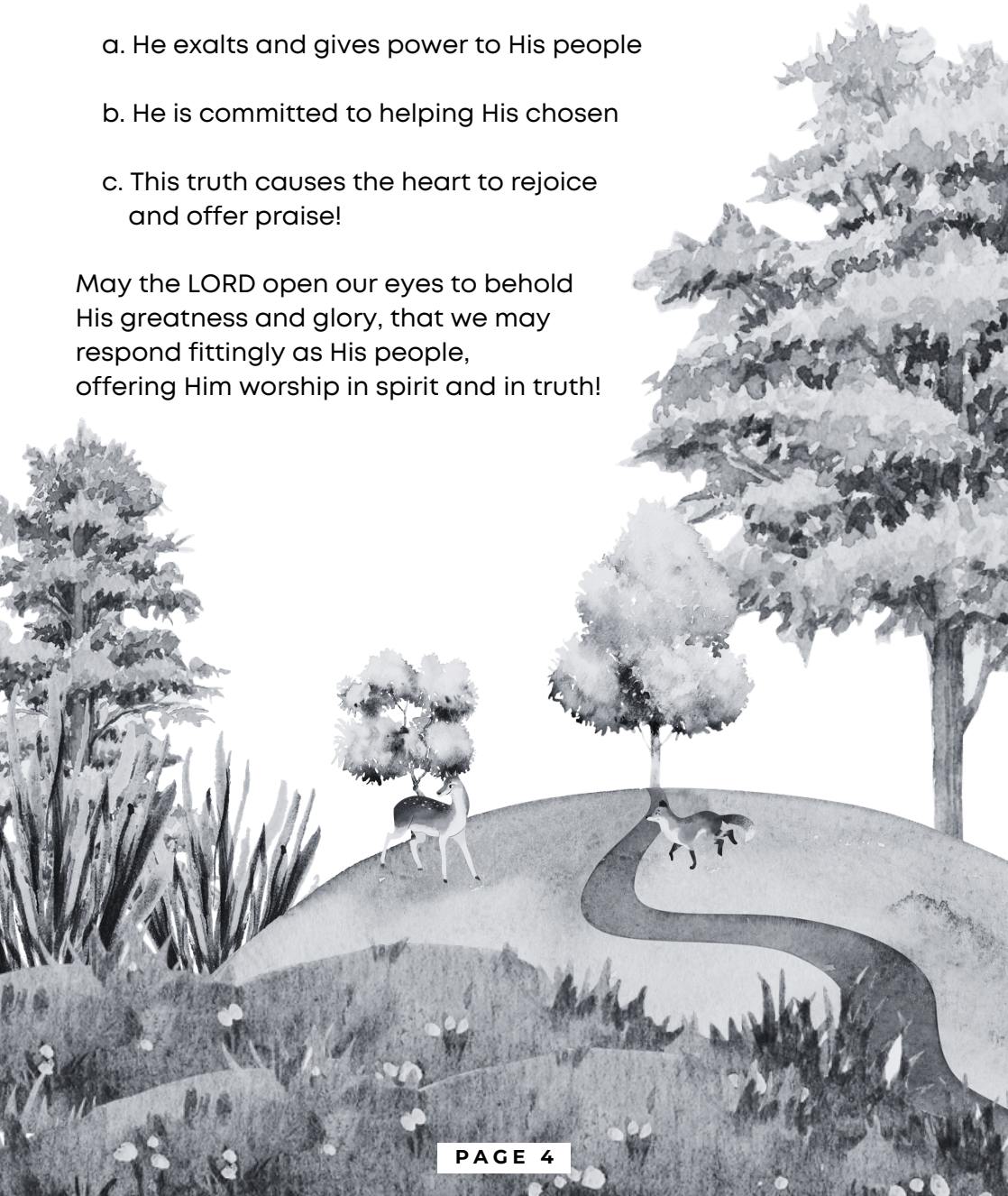
Psalm 148:14b

a. He exalts and gives power to His people

b. He is committed to helping His chosen

c. This truth causes the heart to rejoice and offer praise!

May the LORD open our eyes to behold His greatness and glory, that we may respond fittingly as His people, offering Him worship in spirit and in truth!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE
31 OCTOBER 2026

Prelude	Pianist: Gabrielle Wan
Call to Worship	Pastor Mitchell Tan
Opening Prayer	Pastor Mitchell Tan
Song Leading 1. The Heart of Worship 2. Spirit Wings	Joshua Phang Pianists: Gabrielle Wan and Rayne Quek Guitarist: Jared Ho Cajonist: Jamie Li
Scripture Reading Text: Joshua 8:30-35	Gloria Lim and Tessa Kang
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Eugene Seow
Message "Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God" Text: Joshua 8:30-35	Pastor Mitchell Tan
Closing Prayer	Pastor Mitchell Tan
Offering	
Postlude	Pianist: Rayne Quek

MY NOTES

31 OCTOBER 2026

"NOW JOSHUA BUILT AN ALTAR TO THE LORD GOD"

JOSHUA 8:30-35

The Heart of Worship

By Matt Redman

When the music fades,
All is stripped away,
And I simply come;
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart.

Bridge
I'll bring You more than a song,
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required.
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear.
You're looking into my heart.

Chorus
I'm coming back to the heart of worship,
And it's all about You,
It's all about You, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,
When it's all about You,
It's all about You, Jesus.

King of endless worth,
No one could express
How much You deserve.
Though I'm weak and poor,
All I have is Yours,
Every single breath.

Bridge

Chorus

(end)

SPIRIT WINGS

by Michael Foster and Claire Cloniger

Some birds live in cages, they never learn to fly,
And like those birds I never found my wings.
But Lord, Your love released me,
So I could see the sky,
And now my heart rejoices as I sing.

Chorus
Spirit wings,
You lift me over all the earth-bound things,
And like a bird my heart is flying free.
I'm soaring on the song Your Spirit brings.
Oh Lord of all, (Oh Lord of all,)
You let me see, (You let me see,)
A vision of, (A vision of,)
Your majesty, (Your majesty,)
You lift me up, (You lift me up,)
And carry me on Your Spirit wings.

Now when my heart is lonely, I just look to You
And soon my heart is soaring high above.
Ev'rything is clearer from Your point of view,
Lifted up on Spirit wings of love.

Chorus x 2

(end)

REVIEW OF GOD'S WORD

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

YWS MESSAGE - 24 OCTOBER 2026
"SO JOSHUA BURNED AI"
TEXT: JOSHUA 8:1-29

INTRODUCTION

1. The Battle of Ai Joshua 7

2. Israel was defeated by Ai

3. The lessons learned at Jericho had been forgotten

INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE LORD

[1] Now the LORD said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed;
take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have
given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.

[2] And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king.
Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves.
Lay an ambush for the city behind it."

Joshua 8:1-2

1. The Lord's Word is of vital significance

"Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you,
and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai,
his people, his city, and his land." Joshua 8:1

2. The Defeat of Ai was foretold

"And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king.
Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves.
Lay an ambush for the city behind it." Joshua 8:2

a. Fear of failure must be dismissed

b. The army of Israel must be involved fully

c. God had given the king of Ai, his land and his people to Joshua's hand

JOSHUA IN FULL OBEDIENCE MODE

3 So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai;
and Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valour and sent
them away by night.

4 And he commanded them, saying: "Behold, you shall lie in ambush
against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city,
but all of you be ready.

5 Then I and all the people who *are* with me will approach the city;
and it will come about, when they come out against us as at the first,
that we shall flee before them.

6 For they will come out after us till we have drawn them from
the city, for they will say, *'They are* fleeing before us as at the first.'
Therefore we will flee before them.

7 Then you shall rise from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD
your God will deliver it into your hand.

8 And it will be, when you have taken the city, *that* you shall set the
city on fire. According to the commandment of the LORD you shall do.
See, I have commanded you."

Joshua 8:3-8

1. Joshua sought to obey the Commander of the Lord's Army

2. God had spoken to Joshua about an Ambush

3. Joshua had to plan the details

4. He spoke with great confidence that they will defeat Ai

a. God will deliver Ai to the hands of Joshua

b. Israel must bravely fight against Ai

c. The city of Ai must be razed to the ground

d. The Commander's word must be fully obeyed

THE AMBUSH WAS SET IN MOTION

[9] Joshua therefore sent them out; and they went to lie in ambush,
and stayed between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of Ai; but Joshua
lodged that night among the people.

[10] Then Joshua rose up early in the morning and mustered the people,
and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai.

[11] And all the people of war who *were* with him went up and drew
near; and they came before the city and camped on the north side
of Ai. Now a valley *lay* between them and Ai.

[12] So he took about five thousand men and set them in ambush
between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city.

[13] And when they had set the people, all the army that *was* on the
north of the city, and its rear guard on the west of the city,
Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley.

[14] Now it happened, when the king of Ai saw *it,* that the men of
the city hurried and rose early and went out against Israel to battle,
he and all his people, at an appointed place before the plain. But he
did not know that *there was* an ambush against him behind the city.

[15] And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them,
and fled by the way of the wilderness.

[16] So all the people who *were* in Ai were called together to pursue
them. And they pursued Joshua and were drawn away from the city.

[17] There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out
after Israel. So they left the city open and pursued Israel.

Joshua 8:9-17

1. Joshua and the elders of Israel

   a. They would lead in the battle

   b. They would draw the army of Ai out

   c. They were to lose this battle and retreat

2. Ai and Bethel

   a. Ai had fought the first battle and won

   b. They had become overconfident of themselves

   c. They mustered all their soldiers in the city to give chase

   d. Bethel was a city in close proximity

   e. It had chosen to be allied with Ai

3. Five thousand soldiers who lay hidden

   a. They will arise

   b. They will attack the city of Ai

THE DEFEAT OF AI

[18] Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Stretch out the spear that *is* in your
hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand.” And Joshua stretched
out the spear that *was* in his hand toward the city.

[19] So *those in* ambush arose quickly out of their place; they ran as soon
as he had stretched out his hand, and they entered the city and
took it, and hurried to set the city on fire.

[20] And when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and behold, the smoke of the city ascended to heaven. So they had no power to flee this way or that way, and the people who had fled to the wilderness turned back on the pursuers.

[21] Now when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai.

[22] Then the others came out of the city against them; so they were *caught* in the midst of Israel, some on this side and some on that side. And they struck them down, so that they let none of them remain or escape.

[23] But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua.

Joshua 8:18-23

1. The Commander's word to Joshua

   a. "Stretch out the spear that is in your hand" Joshua 8:18a

   b. "And Joshua stretched out the spear that was in his hand toward the city" Joshua 8:18b

2. The armies of Ai and Bethel

   a. The city of Ai was in flames

      i. They knew what that meant

      ii. Ai had been captured

   b. Joshua was no more in Retreat

      i. He turned to fight the enemies

      ii. They defeated Ai and Bethel soundly

JUDGMENT METED OUT AGAINST AI AND ITS KING

[24] And it came to pass when Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness where they pursued them, and when they all had fallen by the edge of the sword until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned to Ai and struck it with the edge of the sword.

[25] So it was *that* all who fell that day, both men and women, *were* twelve thousand—all the people of Ai.

[26] For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.

[27] Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the LORD which He had commanded Joshua.

[28] So Joshua burned Ai and made it a heap forever, a desolation to this day.

[29] And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until evening. And as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his corpse down from the tree, cast it at the entrance of the gate of the city, and raise over it a great heap of stones *that remains* to this day.

Joshua 8:24-29

1. The soldiers of Ai were slain

2. The city of Ai was razed to the ground

3. The livestock and spoils of the city were given to the soldiers of Israel

4. The King of Ai was sentenced to death by hanging

CONCLUSION

1. Obedience
   a. To the Divine Commander of the Lord's army
   b. To Joshua, the earthly commander of the Lord's army
2. Victorious
   a. Over Fears and doubts
   b. Battling with faith and hope
3. Debrief
   a. Jericho was a much larger city but it was easily conquered
   b. Ai had a small population of only 12,000 but had defeated Israel who had a very large army
   c. There were deep lessons for all to learn
      i. For Joshua
      ii. For the children of Israel
      iii. God's Presence was of vital significance (not experience)

YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

Bethany Toong

Last week at Youth Worship, we studied Joshua 8:1-29 which marked a turning point for the people of Israel. Having experienced a humiliating defeat when they tried to conquer Ai on their own and without the Lord's presence, this second battle attempt was an opportunity for Israel to choose obedience to the Lord instead.

What transpired in Joshua 8 appears to be a straightforward victory: the Lord commanded the people to lay an ambush for the city, Joshua and the people obeyed, and Ai was utterly destroyed. However, from our study of Joshua 7, we know that this victory was not that simple. More than just following the Lord's battle plans, victory was dependent on the people's total compliance to the Lord's commands. We saw how just one individual's failure to comply with God's commands impacted the entire nation (Joshua 7). In the battle for Ai, Israel's success or failure depended not on the compliance of one individual, but on the entire community.

Obedience is Hard

It is not easy for an individual, let alone an entire nation, to be fully compliant to God. Obedience to God is something I struggle with personally. Earlier this year, I found myself wrestling with wanting to pursue my own desires and obeying God. Obedience to God felt like a restriction of personal freedoms and being limited to only operate within a narrow set of options.
But obedience to God is not about a lack of choice. Obeying God is choosing "life and good" over "death and evil" (Deuteronomy 30:15). We see this literally recorded in Joshua 7, where Achan's choice to steal accursed things from Jericho was not just a matter of covetousness. He had chosen evil, broken God's commandments and as a result, brought about his punishment of death. The alternative to choosing God is not choosing personal freedom, it is choosing destruction. Deuteronomy 10:12-13 reminds us of this, that the purpose of keeping God's commandments and being fully compliant to His Word are for our good.

Obedience to God requires humility to recognise that it is God who knows what is best for us, what is for our own good. While pursuing my own desires initially gave me an illusion of freedom, I realised that spiritually I was getting drier and more distant from God. Like the Israelites, I had my moment of straying from God's will, attempting to act independently without involving the Lord in my life, and it only left me wanting.
This distance from God affected me far more than any 'lack of freedom' could have, and the only way to find revival was to turn back to God.

A Turning Point

The turning point experienced by the Israelites recorded in Joshua 8 is one that moves me because it speaks so strongly of the Lord's grace. This was a second chance for Israel to get things right and obey God as their True Commander. Even so, the Lord began His battle's commands with a word of reassurance, to not be afraid or dismayed. The people need not fear because God promised His presence would be with them as they obeyed Him. They could start afresh, knowing that the Lord had turned from His anger and was offering His closeness to them once again. The Lord's love for His people is the same love He has shown me each time I have returned to Him. But my challenge is to not take this love and grace for granted and to be more firmly committed to obeying the Lord, knowing that this is for my good.

The strength of a community depends on the strength of each individual. Last week's YWS message was another reminder that individual obedience affects the entire community, and collective obedience results in victory. Young people, may we be personally challenged to commit to obeying the Lord and His Word, such that we may be a strong community of faith!

YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

JOVAN WONG

GUARDING AGAINST SIN, DEPENDING ON GOD

Learning from the book of Joshua 7 and 8 has been quite interesting, as I am quite a historical battle nerd! But beyond the history and battles, I am learning deeper truths and principles about faith that I can hold close to my heart and apply in my life.

The problem of sin

Recorded in Joshua 7, we see how one man, Achan, coveting and storing for himself the booty from the fall of Jericho, despite the Lord's command not to take any accursed things, caused Israel to lose their next battle at Ai when God withdrew Himself. Achan's sin was more than just covetousness and stealing, but a disregard for God's commandments - disobedience.

This paints the bigger picture that I should not take sin so lightly. Every sin is not just a wrong action, but an act of disobedience against God! It makes me consider how often I may take sin lightly or justify little compromises in my life, thinking that they are insignificant or that they will not lead to anything serious. Yet, Achan's account reminds me that the deeper issue goes beyond the consequences of sin. When I knowingly compromise,

am I not placing my own desires above God's commandments? This reminds me that I must learn to take God's Word seriously and obey Him, even when it is difficult or not understood by others.

Beyond the personal level, we see how sin can spread and influence others. Achan's sin did not just affect himself, but brought consequences upon the entire congregation of Israel. This reminds me that my sin does not just affect my personal walk with the Lord, but it also affects those around me and the church community. When I allow sin to dominate my life, it can affect my relationships and my service to the Lord. I must therefore not treat my walk with the Lord as something that concerns only myself, but recognise that I also have a responsibility towards the church.

Not on my own strength

However, while I recognise the seriousness of sin and my responsibility to guard against it, I am reminded that overcoming sin is not something I can accomplish through my own strength or determination. I may have the conviction and desire to turn away from sin, but I am still weak and easily fall into temptation. I need to continually depend on the Lord, seeking His strength and help to overcome sin rather than relying on my own resolve. This also means drawing closer to Him through His Word and prayer, allowing His Word to guide my decisions and shape my heart.

We read in Joshua 8 that despite Israel's earlier failure at Ai, the Lord gave them another opportunity to move forward. He reassured Joshua, telling him not to fear or be dismayed, and gave Israel the victory over Ai.

What stands out to me is the Lord's faithfulness and mercy towards His people. Despite their earlier failure, He did not leave them without hope, but guided them forward according to His promises.

This reminds me of how much I ought to treasure His mercy in my own life. When I fall into sin, I should not remain in guilt and discouragement, nor should I become complacent about my sin. Instead, I should turn back to the Lord, seek His forgiveness and depend on His grace to help me walk more faithfully.

My part to play

Through the study of these chapters, I am even more determined to guard against sin personally, not allowing little compromises in my daily walk to grow into something greater. I want to be more honest in recognising sin in my heart, rather than justifying it or allowing it to remain hidden. I want to guard my walk with the Lord so that my sin would not affect the church community.
More importantly, I know I can only remain steadfast in these resolutions with the Lord's help, strength and grace each day.

My desire is to learn to take God’s commandments seriously, remain faithful to Him, recognising that my obedience to the Lord matters not just for myself, but also for the people around me!

FORGIVE MY SIN ONLY THIS ONCE

The Pharaoh did not believe the threat of Locusts;
Moses and Aaron must have lost their wits and focus.
Who could bring a swarm of Locusts of such dimension?
What Moses and Aaron warned was but an illusion!

Moses stretched out his Rod against mighty Egypt;
The Lord then sent an East Wind with a terrible reach.
A gigantic swarm of Locusts covered the whole land;
The sun was obscured as the Locusts fulfilled God's Plan.

The Pharaoh was frightened and asked Moses to intercede;
He confessed that he had sinned against the Lord indeed.
He pleaded with Moses to pray to God to remove this Plague;
The swarm of Locusts had caused many to be in great dread.

Once again, Moses prayed to the Lord for His great mercy;
The Lord sent the West Wind to drive the Locusts into the Red Sea.
The Pharaoh had seen another mighty deed of God in his land;
But his heart would remain hardened right to the very end.

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Exodus 10:12-20

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO YOUTH WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

The Church will be conducting the holy matrimony of Yanning and Winston next Saturday, 7 November 2026. May we offer our heartfelt blessings to the couple!

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.

YOUTH CONFERENCE 2026

HOLD FAST WHAT YOU HAVE

REVELATION 3:11

Youth Conference is a month away! At this Youth Conference, we will be looking at how we can grow in our faith as an individual, as a family, and as a Church! We will be studying from various books of the Bible, including Genesis, Galatians and Revelation. We will also be reminded of the dangers and distractions we can face both personally and as a community, and may we be encouraged to hold fast to our faith and be an overcomer!

We look forward to seeing you!

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.
You can register online by scanning the QR Code:

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: 5 December 2026, Saturday
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: 25 December 2026, Friday
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 to register for Christmas Lunch. Kindly approach us at the booth at the Fellowship Hall on Sundays if you've any queries.

14 NOVEMBER 2026

14 NOV

""Do with us as it seems good and right"
Text: Joshua 9

Israel may have experienced another victory in battle, but there were still many lessons to be learnt. The Gibeonites had deceived Israel into making a covenant with them in order to preserve their lives. Unfortunately, Israel had failed to seek the counsel of the LORD before making this decision. God's people would need to learn to depend on the LORD for wisdom and discernment.