

Hosanna!

BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you;
He is just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey;
A colt, the foal of a donkey.
Zechariah 9:9*

PALM SUNDAY
10 APRIL 2022



THIS IS MY STORY

TESTIMONIES OF BRETHREN WHO WILL BE
RECEIVED INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
ON 10 APRIL 2022

[A] Paedo-Baptism

Celine Chiong Jing Xuan (daughter of Timon and Charissa)

[B] Transference

Ong Beng Gee, Tony

[C] Adult Baptism

1. Lim Sze Thye (Edmund)
2. Shayna Walia
3. Han Boon Kwang, Vincent
4. Ng Cheng Li, Joyce



A LETTER TO OUR BELOVED DAUGHTER

TIMON AND CHARISSA CHIONG

Dearest Celine,

From the day you were born, your very being has been a precious source of joy; every babble, wail and movement an expression of the life and vigour God breathes into your frame.

On the occasion of your paedobaptism, we count it our duty to share with you the goodness and grace of God our Heavenly Father in bringing you into this world.

The first 7 months of Mummy's pregnancy were uneventful. All was smooth-sailing, until late October 2021 when the situation changed drastically. At week 31, Mummy suddenly vomited large amounts of green, bile-like liquid and lost appetite for a few days. Mummy was admitted to hospital and diagnosed with intestinal obstruction, a rare condition during late-stage pregnancy. Your life was threatened because Mummy's and your nutrition intake were severely reduced.

The thought of you being slowly starved of nutrition shook us to the core.

Mummy's reflection - Trust in God

In an attempt to bypass the intestinal obstruction, the doctors inserted a feeding tube into Mummy's nose and down into the intestine through the stomach. The general anaesthesia administered during the procedure risked inducing early labour. You were significantly underdeveloped at that time, which meant that your organs were at higher risk of failing outside the womb environment. Mummy felt helpless and guilty that she couldn't fulfil her deemed role as a mother to protect you in her womb. Will you survive if you come out now? Will you have to suffer the pain of tubes inserted into you if you end up in intensive care? Amidst all the uncertainty and worries, Mummy learned to turn to God and meditate on His Word. Regardless of the outcome, it is the Lord's will and plan for you and for us. **The Lord has made you and He will carry you** (Isaiah 46:4). By God's mercies, the feeding tube was

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successfully inserted, allowing much-needed milk feeds to be taken in.

After 2 weeks of hospitalisation, Mummy was discharged. Just when Mummy thought the hardest part was over, the feeding tube got blocked! It was traumatising as Mummy's mind was once again filled with depressing thoughts of subjecting you to the risk of starvation or pre-term labour. The blockage could not be resolved despite multiple trips to the hospital, and Mummy had to be warded again for another 1.5 weeks. It felt like you were living on borrowed time inside Mummy. There being no other treatment option, the doctors considered surgery, which presented the highest risk to you.

In spite of the pain and stress Mummy experienced, God is truly merciful. When all seemed lost, out of the blue, Mummy was able to ingest milk feed and blended food orally without vomiting! The doctors could not explain this. You received barely enough nutrition for 2 weeks, until Mummy started vomiting again. Thankfully, you reached full term by that time and it was relatively safer to induce your birth.

Despite another scare at birth that required your admission to intensive care, God pulled you through and brought you to full term on 18 December 2021! You tipped the scales at merely 2.2kg, but we sensed a fighting spirit within you.

The whole episode was a harrowing experience. Besides the physical pain, Mummy went through a roller-coaster ride of emotions as good news alternated with bad news. Every passing day you stayed in Mummy's womb receiving nutrition by the drop was God's blessing. **"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength."** (Isaiah 26:3-4). This was a verse Mummy meditated on during her hospital stays. Prayer and trusting in God brought a whole new deeper meaning. In moments of helplessness and despair, keeping Mummy's mind focused on the Lord brought much peace to her heart. His grace and strength helped Mummy pull through each day during that trying period. Mummy hopes these verses will become as real to you as they were for her.

Daddy's reflection - God's sovereignty & His promise of peace

In the 7-week ordeal leading up to your birth, Daddy appreciated the reality of two verses that uplifted his heart.

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“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the hospital’s policy did not allow Daddy to visit Mummy in the hospital for 1.5 weeks. During that time, Daddy came home to deafening silence, a stark contrast to the buzz that previously reverberated in anticipation of your arrival. The wait for updates was nerve-wrecking and uneasy.

Daddy learned to turn to God in deeper prayer; not out of desperation, but in thanksgiving. For most people, thanksgiving and illness do not go hand in hand. But we could genuinely say that we were thankful; for the able and attentive medical care rendered by the National University Hospital team, for family and friends who blessed us with flowers, gifts and thoughts in love, and for church brethren who prayed and shared encouraging words. Daddy received the peace God promised, not because he harboured hope that you and Mummy would turn out fine, but because he knew God is near *regardless of how you and Mummy would turn out. Daddy pleaded for God to be merciful to you and Mummy. Beyond that, Daddy prayed for God to teach Daddy to accept His will, come what may. God’s strength and provision helped Daddy cope and maintain his sanity, amidst the drama of all that was happening.*

“How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.” (Psalm 36:7)

Although Daddy is accustomed to risk management and contingency planning at work, no amount of foresight could have prepared us for the twists, turns and false dawns leading up to your birth. During the entire episode, there was not much Daddy could do for you and Mummy. Daddy couldn’t buy comfort food to cheer Mummy up as she couldn’t eat. Daddy could only wish to help bear Mummy’s pain. There were moments Daddy tormented himself with worry and negative thoughts of being useless. Thinking about the bad case scenarios was heart wrenching.

Daddy was drawn to seek comfort in the shadow of God’s wings. Every heartbeat and kick of yours detected was a precious sign of God sustaining your life. Not only was Daddy reminded of His presence and sovereignty, Daddy caught a glimpse of God’s heart of lovingkindness. Our hearts yearned and agonised for your well-

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being, even before we saw you in the flesh. If we could feel that strongly for you, how much more would God have felt when he sent His son Jesus to earth to bear the shame and pain of death by the cross, so that we can live in His Kingdom forever. That is how much God loves each one of us.

Our prayer for you - Recognise heavenly things

Even though things could have turned out differently, God in His amazing grace entrusted you into our custody. Each event and circumstance leading up to your birth was executed in God's perfect time and plan.

"Celine", a name of French origin, is said to be derived from "Caelīna", the Latin feminine expression of "heaven". Our choice of name for you was inspired by the Apostle Paul's exhortation to **"seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Always set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth"** (Colossians 3:1-2). As we commit you to God, we earnestly pray that one day, you may come to see and believe that you are a child of our Heavenly Father, who promises love and blessings from above far exceeding what we can ever give you.

To God be the glory in these things.

In our love and our Heavenly Father's,
Daddy Timon & Mummy Charissa



WALKING IN GOD'S PLAN

ONG BENG GEE, TONY

My name is Ong Beng Gee Tony. I am a 78 years old retiree working part-time in the pet industry and I enjoy attending Catechism Class and worshipping in Bethany IPC.

My work career and social life plunged in 2004. Home was less than harmonious. I cried. It was fortunate that intercessory prayers were made for me by my son, Wayne, and his school counselor, Pastor Barnabas, who presented me with a blue Bible, and thereafter my mind was filled with peace. God heard my cry and answered my prayers. Wayne guided me to attend Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church every Sunday. A teenage usher in the contemporary worship service was kind to assist me there and even attended my baptism in 2005 before he left for another Church.

I started reading the Bible. My understanding of what was read was shallow. It was more fun eating food in cell group meetings, singing in choir, having social gatherings and making visits to the Kuala Lipis Church during Christmas than learning the Scriptures. God knew my weaknesses and constantly made the necessary changes in me.

I came to know Bethany IPC through my sister, Patsy. My niece, Ruby, excited about my interest, volunteered to ferry me to Bethany Church from my sister's home. Bethany Independent Presbyterian Church had impressed me much with its culture of caring for each other during my maiden visit in December 2018. Greetings, smiles from pastors, elders, even the juniors' attention; and the warm welcome were like angels and saints in heaven rejoicing over the finding of a stray sheep or wanderer.

God is good and forgave my sins with endless mercy when I made the U-Turn to Him. He has lifted me from darkness to the Light. He deserves our love, praise and worship.

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In life, there is nothing better than having the feeling of love and being the person chosen by God. The worship in Bethany IPC was not by my blood, flesh and mind but the guidance of my Heavenly Father. God made me with a purpose to know Him, love Him, serve Him, and to happily be with Him forever in the next.

Fear gripped me in January 2019. A doctor, suspecting an imminent stroke that would befall, instantly referred me to KTPH for a detailed diagnosis. Dr. Tan Kok Yang came shortly after my admission. Intern-Pastor Jon Jacob visited. My faith in God could be better. My only avenue was to seek and trust Him. The time waiting for what was to come in the hospital was spent praying consistently, constantly and unceasingly to Him for extra grace, courage and strength. His presence comforted me to face any oncoming challenges. God answered my prayers and before long, fear vanished and hymn-singing filled my mind. The surgery to remove a tumor near the spine was performed on 31/1/2019.

It was a miracle! God had given me a new lease of life to grow my faith in Bethany IPC, read the Scriptures, obey His commands, care and love each other as what our Lord Jesus has taught us to do. Bethany IPC provides all of the aforementioned and specially designed classes for church members of all ages. Psalm 23:1 says, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want". This verse tells all. It is in the Bible. Jesus has done everything for me and there is nothing more I need except to obey and trust Him. I desire to live this life to be pleasing to Him and for His glory.



BELIEVING IN AND IDENTIFYING WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WHO SAVED ME

LIM SZE THYE (EDMUND)

I grew up in a non-Christian family and I started attending church when I was about 25 years of age. For most part of my childhood and youth, I did not believe in Christ. I followed the religion and tradition of my family. I did not know about God and His Word. Even when my friends invited me to their church, I rejected them. I was contented with my life and I did not see a need to change.

Christine (my wife) believes in Christ and she started her journey of faith when she

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was in secondary school. When Christine and I started dating, she would share about her faith and beliefs. Back then, I was a bit worried that religion would one day become an issue in our relationship. I guess that was the turning point in my life. I decided to give it a try by attending Church service with her. We started attending Zion Bishan Bible-Presbyterian every Sunday. After a year or so, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. At that time, I thought by believing in Jesus and accepting Him, it was good enough. I did not think about growing my faith deeper. The problem of sin was still in me.

After Chloe and Gloria (my daughters) were born, we realised it was hard to focus on the worship and at the same time look after them. Eventually, we stopped attending Church on Sundays. It was not until around 2011 when we decided to attend Church again. We thought of trying out Bethany as Christine was familiar with the Church and knew several friends such as Shuhua and Lihong. After attending Bethany a few times, I began to like the Church. The people in Bethany are warm and friendly. I enjoyed the time of fellowship. I started to make new friends and it now feels like a big family to me.

In 2015, as I was working in ASTAR, I met Choon Peng and Aina. They both encouraged me to go for Family Camp. And so, I decided to give it a try and attended my first Family Camp in 2016. That year, Pastor Charles taught us wonderful lessons about prayer. I enjoyed the time spent studying the Bible and interacting with one another. Since then, I continued to attend subsequent Family Camps till the pandemic hit.

For the past few years, I have been attending Sunday School taught by both Pastor Mark and Pastor Mitch. They have been encouraging me to grow my faith and to increase my knowledge of God's Word. I am very grateful for having two Pastors teach me each week.

As I examine my own faith, I feel it has not grown as much as it should have. I feel the need to take my faith seriously. I have taken my time for granted by procrastinating about baptism. I am determined to hold fast to my little faith and continue to grow my knowledge in God's Word. At this Easter, I seek to be baptised in Christ and to be identified with the Lord Jesus. I can see His works and feel His blessings in my life. I am eternally grateful for the salvation He has given me. I hope to share the following verses that were taught in Catechism Class. *"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."* (Colossians 3:3-4) I will hold fast to this hope and I look forward to the return of the Lord Jesus.



AN IDENTITY IN CHRIST

SHAYNA WALIA

Hello everyone, my name is Shayna, and I am blessed to share with you my testimony today.

I grew up in a family of mixed beliefs. All my life I was confused about where I belonged. Being a mixed child, I tried to identify with the people around me, but I always felt out of place. I turned to the things of this world to help me find a sense of identity, like measuring success with academics, wealth, and philosophy. However, at the end of the day, I rarely felt satisfied with myself. In those times, I did not think of God as my God whom I could talk to or relate to.

Finding a reason for Christ

I came to Bethany when I was 10. During my first few years here, I was always reluctant to attend church. I saw the church as mainly a place where Christians went on Sunday, and that was it. To me, it meant an extra hour of sleep that I was missing out on. I did not think I belonged, and I remained indifferent towards Christ.

My turning point came after a series of events. I was encouraged to attend Youth Conference in 2017. As I attended the last few days of the Conference, my brother prompted me to answer a simple question - why was I really going to Church? I pondered and realised that I had no genuine motivation for attending Church, and I did not know what Christ meant to me. On Consecration Night, I felt an overwhelming sense of shame at not being able to profess my faith the way my peers did, standing with such confidence and pride. That night, I decided to take ownership of my faith. After the session, I walked over to Teacher Su An who was sitting at the back of the Sanctuary. I asked her a question that had been sitting at the back of my mind - how do I separate the things of this world (mainly my studies) from God? I sought a balance between the two, but Teacher Su An made me realise that I was limiting God, confining Him to what I knew about divinity and mortality, instead of allowing myself to realise that I did not have to separate God from the rest of my life. Instead, I was meant to involve Him in every aspect of my life.

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In this aspect I had sinned against God. "They did not keep the covenant of God; they refused to walk in His law, and forgot His works and His wonders that He had shown them." (Psalm 78:10-11) Just like the children of Ephraim, I had forgotten the mercy that the LORD had shown me. I had ignored His outstretched hand and had strayed from God without understanding the consequences. This simple revelation served as a reminder that I was approaching Christianity as a concept and not as my faith, and I wanted to correct these misconceptions I had about Christ, as much as I was curious about learning more. I therefore chose to stay at Bethany when I was in secondary school, and it was the best decision I made that year.

Finding love for God's people

As I involved myself more and more heavily in church activities, I began to notice the difference in the attitudes of people in church as compared to mine. Nothing was ever seen as a debt that needed to be owed within the church community. I was taken aback to see favours exchanged so easily, like paying for my seat at Shangri-La just so I could attend the events hosted there, or our Sunday School and Youth Worship teachers covering transport for us after coming together. I slowly started to realise that as a church, no one was excluded from participating. "Brothers and sisters in Christ" is a phrase that adequately describes Bethany's members, which became very real to me over the next few years. I realised that Bethany is a church built on the belief that everyone is equal in Christ, as Paul also stated in his letter to the Galatian church, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26-28) I felt great joy in knowing that I belonged to Christ, and could root my identity in Him, as the rest of the church was doing. Slowly but surely, church felt more and more like home.

I also began to realise that many of my ideals were warped by my sin. Pastor shared in Catechism Class that sin never presents itself as wicked, but creeps up on us, eventually leading to spiritual death. Romans 6:16 says, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" I had grown accustomed to sin deadening my nature for so long that I no longer realised how dependent I had become to my sinful nature, trading God's Word for the ways of this world. I had presented myself to sin and was its slave. I felt great rebuke as I learnt more about how righteousness diametrically opposed sin, and I turned to God in prayer as I asked Him to guide me on His path to righteousness.

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Breaking down my misconceptions about faith felt liberating and changed the way I approached the fleeting things I once found so precious. I was born again, as if I had a new life in which I found salvation in walking with Christ, instead of turning to sin.

Finding strength in Christ

Growing in faith was not smooth sailing either, as I faced my share of challenges. Each week, as attending church became more regular, others took pot-shots at my faith's expense. These issues quickly became the source of my troubles, and I developed anxiety as an impressionable teenager. I found myself turning to God more and more each night to cry out to Him. In answer, God sent much encouragement and guidance my way. One particular lesson that has stuck with me throughout the tougher periods was taught in Youth Worship. We learnt how Moses led the Israelites, guided by God, through the desert. I was reminded of how even though Israel's problems were very real and big, God stood bigger over them, providing protection and guidance at every step of the way. "And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." (Exodus 14:13-14). What a powerful passage! 'The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace' - this was the verse that I held close to my heart as I took my O Levels, and IB exams. It was a confident declaration of faith and protection, one that I sought to have and to proclaim even through my darkest times. I did not need to respond sinfully in anger, because even as I struggled with the stresses of life, if I could say that the Lord would fight for me, I would hold my peace.

Having grown in my faith, I have come to a point where I would like to profess my faith in Christ. After attending Catechism Class for some time, I am seeking baptism. Having understood that baptism means identification with Christ, I seek God's grace in guiding me to continue being identified with Him. God's love shown toward me has been so great and I seek His grace in returning that love. I have witnessed God's glorious grace and His hand in my life, and I know I belong. As I enter university, I would like to embody the Spirit of Christ that lives in His people, knowing that Christ carries me at every step of the way. "If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul." (Psalm 94:18-19)



TO LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY

HAN BOON KWANG, VINCENT

Dear church members, I am Vincent Han. I was working as a chef previously and have since retired from the profession.

I attended Bethany Church previously on occasions like Good Friday & Christmas. Since January this year, I began attending Catechism Class with my wife. The Word of God spoke to me via Pastor Charles' preaching. I listened attentively every Saturday and truly enjoyed spending the one hour listening to Pastor's preaching. Pastor emphasized that we should live for God. Though death is a penalty for our sins, God has given us a wonderful gift which is eternal life in Him.

I was first exposed to Christianity during my Secondary School days when I attended Saint Andrew's Secondary School. However, I didn't think much about Christianity then. I never really had a belief or a religion. Both my late parents were staunch Buddhists. Being the eldest son, I promised them that I would handle their funeral rites and ancestral worship. My mother-in-law, who passed on in April 2020, did not have a son. Therefore, I also promised her that I would help with her funeral rites. When all this passed, I felt it was the right time to reflect upon God's words and His teachings. Also, my family members around me are Christians. Their faith in the Lord prompted me to explore the Christian faith.

The turning point for me was during an emergency at work last year when I suddenly collapsed and was sent to A&E. I wasn't able to move at all. I felt anxious, worried, and helpless. I started to pray earnestly and asked God to heal me. It was only during this trial that I really felt God's presence and protection. He had never been so real to me. Not only did He answer my prayers, He also granted me a speedy recovery. I'm touched by His grace and mercies. I have come to believe that He is truly the Saviour who can save me from my past, present and future sins.

Thank you, Bethany, for loving me with God's love and I look forward to being part of this family to show me His ways and lead me in His path.



A NEW BEGINNING

NG CHENG LI, JOYCE

Today marks a renewed chapter of my life. I wish to write to testify and praise God's goodness that has been showered upon my life.

It had been a regret that in my younger days, I was someone who was not brave enough to follow my belief and do what's right for me. I had a good friend who shared with me about God and gave me a copy of the Daily Bread. I came to know more about our Lord Jesus, I repented and accepted Him as my Saviour. However I had no courage to openly acknowledge Him and seek His words. Although not stepping into a church, I knew I had God as a secret Friend who has stayed close to my heart. Looking back, I was really so thankful to Him that He did not give up on me.

Blind Faith

I feel so foolish that I once used to blindly follow rituals that were really hard to explain. Believing in feng shui, mantras and burning joss papers during the seventh month. I was plain superstitious. I did these as I believed that my family and I will all be blessed and protected. But everything just did not make any sense at all. Things hit me when I started becoming a mother. I pondered really hard. Do I want my children to end up like me? To be told, "Do not question and just follow what I am doing and all will be good for you." Or do I *want a faith that is real and will bring them much wisdom, strength, joy and comfort to their hearts to face the daily challenges that will come along their way in their lives?*

His Grace and Mercy

I am a primary school teacher and I have been teaching for 24 years. By His grace, I came to teach in a mission school in 2009. I am very thankful that I was able to be part of their primary school journey for all my 3 girls Charisse, Clara and Cassandra. Deep in my heart, I knew it was all part of God's plan. It was there that I had the opportunity to hear His words every day. I can never forget how unbelievable it was to receive 3 Bibles from 3 different colleagues within a week. Thank you Gillian, Caryn and Yolind and many friends at work for always reaching out to me. It was a good 11 years that I was able to openly declare my relationship with God and the

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beginning of my family's journey with Him.

In 2017, my children Clara and Cassandra were invited to Bethany children's camp by Eng Keng and Gillian. I signed up for them so that their June holidays could be filled with more fun and purposeful activities while I was still busy at work. After the camp, they fell in love with Bethany and wanted to attend the Sunday school. Thankfully, my husband Francis was very open to the idea and even encouraged me to attend the Bible class too. It was then that I took up the courage to attend Sunday class with Teacher Annie to learn more about God. I want to take this opportunity to thank Teacher Annie for selflessly and patiently sharing weekly classes with us and reminding us of God's words all these while. She has been such a good role model to us, displaying the fruit of the spirit in all aspects of her life. Stepping into Bethany, my prayer for my family never ceased. Shortly, my eldest daughter Charisse attended the Youth Conference and also began worshipping in Bethany too. What a joy!

When Charisse was sitting for her O levels, I am thankful for the support given by Pastor Mitch, Tr Stanley, Tr Liz, Tr Felicia and Tr Michelle. Despite their busy schedule at work and school, they made time to coach her in her studies. My 2 younger ones were also so well taken care of by their Sunday school teachers who took time to bring them out for outings and meals together. I am really moved and touched by the care and love which they have been given. I thank Bethany for its caring and good-hearted people.

Recently, Francis and I took turns to be infected with COVID and thankfully the girls were spared. However shortly after we recovered from COVID, Clara fainted one morning and the next moment, she had to be admitted into hospital and had to have blood transfusion due to anaemia. Everything just happened so unexpectedly. Through it all, we were very thankful to Dr Daniel who was there to give us astute advice and as such, Clara was able to be diagnosed and received immediate treatment. Thank you to all whom had prayed alongside with us. Bethany never fails to be the church where people care for people.

In His Timing and His Will

As I get to know more of God's words, my faith and relationship with God grew stronger. You can imagine the relief I had. No more rituals that I had to follow blindly, putting my faith in the hands of others. Now, I have chosen to walk close with God and I know God's promises that will bring much peace, strength, comfort and joy to the heart.

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Francis has also started attending Catechism Class with me to know more about God. What more do I really ask for? I have gone in circles and wasted half of my lifetime. I really do not wish to waste the remaining years. I want to be a good example to everyone in my family. God has been my friend all these while, patiently waiting for me till I had the courage to step up to know Him better. He has shown me what True Faith is. He has given me my purpose in this life and I am but greatly humbled to serve a great God who deserves all our praise. I want to treasure every moment I have and set my mind to seek God more.

I am but a sinner but yet on this Good Friday, the Lord Jesus died on the cross for our sins and because of His great love, we are forgiven and born again with a renewed life and hope. Over these 2 years of pandemic, I've been reminded that our days are numbered. Honestly, there's really nothing material I wish to seek except to have a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12) so that I can do my role well as a wife, mother, daughter-in-law, daughter, sister, teacher and friend.

Deep in my heart, I am truly thankful for everything that God has provided for me. Through the challenging moments, God has helped me understand His words better and I feel His presence in my life. As a mother, I used to worry and overthink too much but over the years, I have learnt not to be too hard on myself and have learnt to trust in the Lord with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5) I am learning to entrust my family into His good hands and to seek what's above. I know with God, everything is in His good time and will. Today is only the beginning of a new chapter of my life to discover more of God's plan for my family and me. With Him, I am complete. (Colossians 2: 10)

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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 ... 10 April 2022 ... Palm Sunday!

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Matthew 6:19-34

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TREASURES IN HEAVEN

TREASURES ON EARTH

We are able to understand treasures on earth more easily. The common treasures people seek:

1. Paintings of the old masters
2. Unique statues that have been beautifully crafted

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MEDITATION

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3. Rare Jewels (diamonds, pearls etc.)

These are treasures many seek to obtain. Unfortunately, these earthly treasures are available only to the very wealthy. The common man cannot afford any of these treasures!

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

The concept is similar. These are things of value too. They are well-described in this text.

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

1. These heavenly treasures

- a) Moths cannot destroy them
- b) Nor rust
- c) Nor can thieves steal them

2. What is the greatest Treasure of all? The Kingdom of God (Heaven)!

WHERE THE HEART IS

Where is our heart when it comes to Treasures? Whatever it is that is treasured, the heart would surely be involved! What do we really treasure? Our heart will tell us what it is that we will treasure!

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MEDITATION

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THE THINGS THAT ARE VALUED MORE THAN SILVER OR GOLD

Two may be highlighted. Both are famous texts!

1. The Word of God

More to be desired *are they* than gold,

Yea, than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Psalm 19:10

2. Our Faith

That the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1:7

Are these our treasures? May our hearts learn to value these treasures!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY THIS COMING WEEK

10-17 April 2022

1. Special Seniors Program

Tuesday, 12 April 2022 | 9.30am- 11.30am

Thursday, 14 April 2022 | 9.30am-11.30am

2. Weekend Ministry

Youth Worship, 16 April 2022 | 3.00pm

Easter Sunday, 17 April 2022 | 10.00am

Combined Morning Worship Service

(Chinese Worship Service will combine with Morning Worship)



EASTER BAPTISMAL SERVICE

[A] Paedo-Baptism

Celine Chiong Jing Xuan (daughter of Timon and Charissa)

[B] Transference

Ong Beng Gee, Tony

[C] Adult Baptism

1. Lim Sze Thye (Edmund)
2. Shayna Walia
3. Han Boon Kwang, Vincent
4. Ng Cheng Li, Joyce



BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 10 April 2022

Text: “One pearl of great price” Matthew 13: 46

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:45-46

1. The Kingdom of Heaven
 - a) Likened to a merchant seeking beautiful pearls
 - b) He will be relentless in his search for beautiful pearls
2. The most beautiful of pearls is discovered
 - a) The merchant will seek to obtain that special pearl
 - b) He will sacrifice anything to have that pearl

NEXT SUNDAY: 17 April 2022

**Text: “Every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven”
Matthew 13:52**

Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

Matthew 13:52

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 119:149-150

¹⁴⁹ Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness;
O LORD, revive me according to Your justice.

¹⁵⁰ They draw near who follow after wickedness;
They are far from Your law.

1. Heartfelt prayers

- a) Praying that God hear favourably
- b) According to His lovingkindness
- c) A prayer for Revival

2. Reasons for these prayers

- a) The wicked draw near
- b) These are far from God's law
- c) They draw near to cause mischief to the righteous

POETRY CORNER

1

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

So much time, energy and more are devoted by many;
People will spend millions to cause rivals to envy!
Paintings, objects of art are greatly admired;
These become things that are covetously desired!

With time, all things will decay and die;
Yet, this reality, many will actually deny!
Thus, the search goes on to discover treasures;
These are coveted badly, as life's great pleasures!

But we are called to consider Treasures in Heaven;
These are blessings that God has actually given!
The Word of God is described as better than gold;
Yet to many, the heart is actually rather cold!

Faith is always prized by the LORD greatly;
But few have developed a Faith that is mighty.
Let us check where our Heart really and truly is;
In the search for Great Treasures, let us persist!

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Matthew 6:19-21; Psalm 19:10; 1 Peter 1:7

POETRY CORNER

2

Treasures of heaven

What are the longings of our heart
Is it money, fame, power, influence and possessions
Obsessive preoccupation with earthly treasures merely imparts
Fleeting moments of pleasure and satisfaction

We look towards money and assets to quell life's uncertainties
They give a false sense of security and are actually quite hollow
For to give or take it is the Lord who decides
Seek first the Kingdom of God and everything else will follow

Therefore what does our heart treasure
The choices made show if they can withstand the test of time
Is the condition of our heart up to measure
May we lay up treasures in heaven during our lifetime

Gear up and prepare for eternity with the Lord
Our earthly desires will change once we set this as our priority
The Kingdom of Heaven is given from the good pleasures of God
So let us not procrastinate and enter His Kingdom wholeheartedly

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Luke 12: 32-34; Matthew 6: 19

POETRY CORNER

3

SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Many of us tend to worry about our life,
For material things, we ceaselessly strive.
But it is foolish to focus on earthly things,
Worrying is futile and it changes nothing!

Our mind and faith must not remain weak,
To trust that God provides, we must seek.
Our loving Father even feeds humble ravens,
He would certainly take care of His children!

Our part is to first seek the kingdom of God,
The things above must be earnestly sought.
He has prepared treasures that last forever,
They are glorious and precious like no other.

In God's good pleasure and great wisdom,
He has promised to give us His kingdom.
May our heart be willing to give up anything,
In order to seek and find heavenly things!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Luke 12:22-34

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mitchell Tan

PRAYER

HYMN

CP 27 | O Worship The King

CP 218 | Rejoice! The Lord Is King

BAPTISMAL SERVICE

1. Paedo-Baptism
2. Adult Baptism
3. Transference of Membership

MESSAGE

“What is the Kingdom of God like?”

Text: Luke 13

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

PRAYER

HYMN

HWC 495 | Heaven Came Down

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

CP 27 O Worship The King

荣耀大君王

Robert Grant

1. O worship the King, all glorious above,

当俯伏崇拜，荣耀大君王，

O gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;

主权能慈爱须感恩颂赞；

Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,

主恒古常存，我盾牌与保障，

Pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

光华笼罩天地，四周皆颂扬。

2. O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,

当颂扬主恩，见证祂大能，

Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.

光辉是主袍，穹苍是主幔。

His chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,

救主发烈怒密云中雷声隆，

And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

狂风追逐暴雨，主当安车乘。

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HYMNS

(Continued from page 11)

3. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?

当见证福音,主丰富供应!

It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;

在轻风吹拂,在荣光照耀;

It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,

从山间水流,下注遍满平壤,

And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

甘露时雨降落,润泽各地方.

4. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,

当信靠恩主,世人尽尘土,

In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;

能力何奇妙,软弱便刚强;

Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,

恩慈真温和,坚定持久永远,

Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

祢创造並保护,我救主良友.



HYMNS

CP 218 Rejoice! The Lord Is King

乐哉，救主为王

Charles Wesley

1. Rejoice! The Lord is King. Your Lord and King adore;

同来敬拜大君，乐哉救主为王；

Mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:

众心感恩歌颂，庆祝得胜辉煌：

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

万众一心，齐声高唱！

Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

欢欣，欢欣，乐哉欢欣！

2. Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;

救主耶稣为君，真理慈爱之神；

When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above;

洁净我众过犯，如今坐在天上；

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

万众一心，齐声高唱！

Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

欢欣，欢欣，乐哉欢欣！

(Continued on page 14)

HYMNS

(Continued from page 13)

3. He sits at God's right hand till all His foes submit,

在父神的右边，静待敌人归降，

And bow to His command and fall beneath His feet.

俯伏在祂脚前，诚心听候训令。

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

万众一心，齐声高唱！

Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

欢欣，欢欣， 乐哉欢欣！

4. Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come,

喜乐荣耀盼望，耶稣必再降临，

And take His servants up to their eternal Home;

引领祂众仆人回归天上家园；

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

万众一心，齐声高唱！

Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

欢欣，欢欣， 乐哉欢欣！



HYMNS

HWC 495 Heaven Came Down

天上荣耀

John W. Peterson

1. O what a wonderful, wonderful day – day I will never forget;
那是何等奇妙，奇妙日子，那日我永不忘记；
After I'd wandered in darkness away, Jesus my Saviour I met.

当我还在黑暗路中流离，我就遇见主耶稣。

O what a tender, compassionate friend –

He met the need of my heart;

祂是何等温柔怜悯良友，祂照足我心需求；

Shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling,

黑云已远荡我要快乐传讲，

He made all the darkness depart!

祂将一切黑暗驱走！

Refrain 副歌

Heaven came down and glory filled my soul,

天上荣耀充满我的心灵，

When at the cross the Saviour made me whole;

在十架上救主使我完全，

My sins were washed away and my night was turned to day –

我罪已经洗清，黑夜已转为光明，

Heaven came down and glory filled my soul!

天上荣耀充满我的心灵！

(Continued on page 16)

HYMNS

(Continued from page 15)

2. Born of the Spirit with life from above into God's family divine,
由圣灵而生有属天生命，归入神圣的家庭，
Justified fully through Calvary's love, O what a standing is mine!
因加略山的爱得称为义，何等福气与光荣！
And the transaction so quickly was made when as a sinner I came,
当我这个罪人来到主前，主就赦免与欢迎，
Took of the offer of grace He did proffer -
接受主所赐那极大的福祉 -
He saved me, O praise His dear name!
祂救了我，赞美主名！

Refrain 副歌

3. Now I've a hope that will surely endure after the passing of time;
如今我已有了确实盼望，当世上时日过去；
I have a future in heaven for sure, there in those mansions sublime.
将来在天我有稳妥居所，是极华美的住处；
And it's because of that wonderful day when at the cross I believed;
就是因为那奇妙的日子，在十架下我信靠；
Riches eternal and blessings supernal
永远的福气极丰富的赏赐，
From His precious hand I received.
从祂宝贵手中接受。

Refrain 副歌



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