

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 24 July 2022*

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Psalm 103

## THE EVERLASTING MERCY OF THE LORD

### GREAT GRATITUDE

The Psalmist David expressed a deep sense of gratitude to the LORD for His everlasting mercy! He experienced many perils in his life. Without the mercy of God, he would have perished!

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

<sup>15</sup> As for man, his days are like grass;  
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

<sup>16</sup> For the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
And its place remembers it no more.

<sup>17</sup> But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting  
On those who fear Him,  
And His righteousness to children's children,

<sup>18</sup> To such as keep His covenant,  
And to those who remember His commandments to do them.  
Psalm 103:15-18

## 1. Man's Mortality

- a) His life span is so limited
- b) Two comparisons were made:
  - i) It is compared to grass
  - ii) It is compared to a flower
- c) They do not last very long at all

## 2. The Mercy of the LORD

- a) This stands in stark contrast
- b) God's mercy is everlasting!

## THE RECIPIENTS OF GOD'S MERCY

David highlighted an important truth about the recipients of God's mercy.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

1. Those who fear (reverence) Him
2. Those who trust Him
3. Those who keep His covenant and practise what the LORD teaches

Let us be challenged to treasure the everlasting mercy of the LORD!

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*Write to me at:* [charlestan@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:charlestan@bethanyipc.sg)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### 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!



### CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Mark Tan on the demise of his father on Sunday, 17 July 2022. The late Mr. Philip Tan Kim Heng was 76 years old when he was called home to be with the Lord Jesus Christ.



### SPECIAL REQUEST FOR HOME BAPTISM

Mrs. Janet Thio (92 years old) was baptised on Wednesday, 20 July 2022. Infant baptism was also conducted for Baby Adora Lee. Adora is the great grand-daughter of Auntie Janet! She is the baby daughter of Dao Hong and Olivia.



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **MINISTRY THIS COMING WEEK**

### **25 - 31 July 2022**

#### **1. Special Seniors Program**

Tuesday, 26 July 2022 | 9.30am-11.30am

Thursday, 28 July 2022 | 9.30am- 11.30am

#### **2. Weekend Ministry**

##### **Saturday, 30 July 2022**

Catechism Class | 1.00pm

Fellowship Group Meetings (YPG 1-3; YAG 1-2) | 2.00pm

Youth Worship | 3.00pm

##### **Sunday, 31 July 2022**

All Sunday School Departments (Except SSS 4) | 8.30am

Morning Worship Service | 10.00am

Chinese Worship Service | 10.00am

Children's Worship | 10.00am

Crèche | 10.00am



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# TESTIMONY

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## OUR TESTIMONY FOR ADORA'S INFANT BAPTISM LEE DAO HONG AND OLIVIA

We, Dao Hong and Olivia, would like to testify of the goodness and grace of God. Our daughter, Adora Lee Yue En (李悦恩), was born on 20 June 2022. Her name Adora comes from the word 'adoration', which is a deep love that relates to worship and high regard. It also means 'adored' and 'beloved'. We pray and hope for Adora to grow to become a person in adoration of our wonderful God who loves her so much. 悦 (yuè) means 'joy' which can be found when we have God in our lives. 恩 (ēn) represents 'grace' referring to the precious gift of grace that we can receive from the Lord.

*"...that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God..." (Ephesians 2:7-8)*

We had prayed for God to grant us a child according to His will. Our meditation was on Psalm 139:13-16 about how children are fearfully and wonderfully made by the Lord and He knows their days even before they are born. In His timing, we were given this precious gift which we give praise to God for.

We remember the day that we went to the gynaecologist for the first time. When the ultrasound scan revealed a 2.1cm figure with a fast galloping heartbeat, our hearts were filled with joy and thanksgiving to God for graciously answering our prayers.

Every appointment that we went for allowed us to learn a little more about Adora and we were relieved every time we were told that the baby was developing well. During the second trimester, we discovered that Olivia had placenta previa which meant that we had to be more watchful due to risks of bleeding and premature labour. Olivia was also infected by COVID-19 during pregnancy. Worrying thoughts flooded our minds but it was replaced with the three words: Do not fret! We attuned our thoughts to what we had learnt from

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# TESTIMONY

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Psalm 37. We were reminded to be prayerful and to place our trust in the Lord.

*"Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." (Psalm 37:3-4)*

Thankfully, Olivia's COVID-19 symptoms were mild and she recovered in a few days. Also, by God's grace, the placenta issue resolved itself in the third trimester and we were able to give birth to Adora naturally without any complications. Each prayer regarding delivery was graciously answered by God.

As we present Adora to the Lord through infant baptism, our commitment is to bring her up in a loving Christian home that fears the Lord. Our prayer is that she will experience the loving power and grace of God, and grow up to become a person who will love and glorify our heavenly Father.

Her infant baptism will be conducted with the baptism of Mdm Janet Loh, her great-grandmother (Olivia's maternal grandmother) on the 20 July 2022. This is significant for our family who has prayed for Popo's salvation for decades. We want to specially thank Pastor Charlie, Aunty Sally, Pastor Mark and Pastor Mitch for reaching out to her. Praise be to God!

*"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations." (Psalm 100:4-5)*

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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**TODAY: 24 July 2022**

**Text: “Be strong in the Lord” Ephesians 6:10**

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

1. The challenge given:
  - a) To be strong
  - b) To find this strength in the Lord
2. An understanding of strength
  - a) It is the power of God
  - b) Might is what He gives when we seek strength

**NEXT SUNDAY: 31 July 2022**

**Text: “Strengthened with all might”**

*Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; Colossians 1:11*

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## WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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**Psalms 121:1 - 2**

<sup>1</sup> I will lift up my eyes to the hills—  
From whence comes my help?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
Who made heaven and earth.

1. Lifting up of eyes of Faith
  - a) To the Hills and beyond
  - b) To God who made the mighty hills
2. Focusing on the LORD
  - a) He is our Divine Helper
  - b) He is our great Creator

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# POETRY CORNER

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#1

## THE EVERLASTING MERCY OF GOD

The mortality of Man is most sobering;  
It is compared to things that are not lasting.  
Grass may look green and beautiful;  
But it dies and the land is drab and awful.

The beautiful flowers of the field look appealing;  
But the brevity of their life is truly appalling!  
The brevity of life and its obvious frailty;  
They must cause us to fear our human mortality!

In contrast, we have the LORD's everlasting mercy;  
But to whom would this be given ultimately?  
To those who fear the LORD would mercy be given;  
God watches over them tenderly from Heaven.

To those who have learned to trust the LORD:  
These would be given the great mercy of God.  
To those who keep His commandments to do them;  
The LORD's mercy would ensure they are not overwhelmed!

Charles Tan  
Inspiration: Psalm 103:15-18



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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROVISION

God's provision is evident in both the profound and the plain,  
His Promises of physical and spiritual blessings, even the rain!  
Look around us — God's provision is reflected in a multitude of ways,  
These may be appreciated by consciously making an effort, day by day!

God's provision confirms His promises of blessing, numerous and vast,  
Every heavenly provision evidences God's faithful Word coming to pass!  
To be part of God's congregation is a special provision in itself,  
God, in His goodness, takes in those who cannot fend for themselves.

The reality of provision does not, however, preclude the existence of problems,  
Provision includes nuance of divine protection amidst problems — a vital lesson!  
Though problems may rise up and situations in life may be tough,  
In God's provision we find refuge, His protection is more than enough!

God's provision is most plentiful and abundant — He does not hold back,  
All we require, material and spiritual, He will provide and we will never lack.  
May we recognize that God's provision far surpasses  
any earthly success we build,  
And instead place our trust in Divine provision,  
offering praise in humble gratitude.

Stanley Woo  
Inspiration: Psalm 68:9-14

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## “The Cry of Every Falling Petal”

Who can silence death  
with the beauty of a thousand blooms,  
but the One who loved  
as though it didn't cost?

Who can trace a path  
unperturbed by a thousand winds  
but the One who saw the only way  
from divine heights aloft?

If we learn to be silent  
amidst these storm-tossed souls,  
we might hear like the leaves hear  
as they grow:  
The petals of passion fall with the passing  
the passing of transience,  
the passing of tears,  
the passing of an ultimate life into the yearned-for earth.

If we learn to scatter our cherished hours  
unto the barren lifetimes of every stranger here,  
we might see like the low ones do  
with their finite years:  
The shoots of salvation  
rise with the sowing  
the sowing of despair,  
the sowing of tears,  
the sowing of wordless prayers into the quiet years.

Who can conjure life  
amidst the darkness of a thousand years,  
but the One who kept silent  
before the jeers of the ones he loved?

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## POETRY CORNER

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Who can heal a heart  
torn asunder with a thousand cuts,  
but our Lord who felt the cry  
of every falling petal sear?

David Cai Jinhang

# 4

### God's prerogative

The mountains of Bashan are rugged, beautiful and magnificent  
Yet the Lord did not designate it as His dwelling place  
Instead Mount Zion, a little hill was selected for His settlement  
One can only speculate on His reasons for choosing His base

It is the Lord's prerogative to decide what His wants are  
He is known to choose things which are not  
To bring to nothing the things that are  
So gaze not in envy at Mount Zion for the glory it has got

The Lord has His purposes and works in mysterious ways  
Not many wise, mighty, noble according to the flesh was called  
He has chosen the base and despised things devoid of glamour  
He executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed

So may we not be enamoured by outward appearances  
A luxurious house, a flashy car to covet not  
Seek the Holy Spirit to develop and grow His fruits  
Look through the glitter for the inner treasures of the heart

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Psalm 68:15-16; Psalm 103:6; 1 Corinthians 1:27-30

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 5

## **The Mountain of God**

The mountains reflect God's majesty;  
Just as the whole earth is His property.  
Yet, who is to judge what is huge and mighty?  
Except God Himself, in all propriety.

He chose to appear to Moses on Mount Horeb;  
The temple built on Mount Moriah, He chose to accept.  
It is God's prerogative, wherever He chooses to establish His place;  
From which to bestow His mercies and grace.

For in God's mountain He will dwell and be present;  
His ears will hear us and His eyes will open.  
It is where believers will rejoice and at God's greatness marvel;  
It is where He will be our refuge and present help in trouble.

Do not be misled into seeking mere pomp and circumstance;  
Nor with boastful rhetoric, be drawn to a needless romance.  
God's mountain is where His presence and love manifest;  
It is where we can find His peace and rest.

**Dr. Sng Li Wah**

**Inspiration: Psalm 68, 46 & 48; Exodus 3; 2 Chronicles 7:12-16**

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Deacon Milton Ong*

### PRAYER

### HYMN

CP 88 | Day by Day

CP 57 | Worthy of Worship

### MESSAGE

“The Chariots of God”

Text: 68:17-20

*Rev Dr Charles Tan*

### PRAYER

### HYMN

HWC 65 | The Wonder of it All

### POSTLUDE



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# HYMNS

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## CP 88 DAY BY DAY

CAROLINE V. SANDELL-BERG

1. Day by day and with each passing moment,  
Strength I find to meet my trials here;  
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,  
I've no cause for worry or for fear.  
He, whose heart is kind beyond all measure,  
Gives unto each day what He deems best,  
Lovingly, it's part of pain and pleasure,  
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

2. Ev'ry day the Lord Himself is near me  
With a special mercy for each hour;  
All my cares He fain would bear and cheer me,  
He whose name is Counsellor and Pow'r.  
The protection of His child and treasure  
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;  
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"  
This the pledge to me He made.



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# HYMNS

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## CP 57 WORTHY OF WORSHIP

TERRY W. YORK

1. Worthy of worship, worthy of praise, worthy of honour and glory;  
Worthy of all the glad songs we can sing,  
Worthy of all of the off'rings we bring.

Refrain

You are worthy, Father, Creator, You are worthy, Saviour, Sustainer,  
You are worthy, worthy and wonderful; worthy of worship and praise.

2. Worthy of rev'rence, worthy of fear, worthy of love and devotion;  
Worthy of bowing and bending of knees,  
Worthy of all this and added to these...

*Refrain*

3. Almighty Father, Master and Lord, King of all kings and Redeemer,  
Wonderful Counsellor, Comforter, Friend,  
Saviour and Source of our life without end.

*Refrain*



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## HYMNS

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### HWC 65 THE WONDER OF IT ALL

GEORGE BEVERLY SHEA

1. There's the wonder of sunset at evening,  
The wonder as sunrise I see;  
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul,  
Is the wonder that God loves me.

Refrain

O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!  
Just to think that God loves me.  
O the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!  
Just to think that God loves me.

2. There's the wonder of springtime and harvest,  
The sky, the stars, the sun;  
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul,  
Is a wonder that's only begun.

*Refrain*

