



NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 14 No. 52

LORD’S DAY 26 DECEMBER 2010

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Evening Service – 4pm</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 117	Psalm 134
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 42 – “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him”	RHC 76 – “Day Is Dying in the West”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 51	Genesis 16
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 51, verses 1-8</i> (to the tune of St Louis, RHC 171)	RHC 353 – “God Will Take Care of You”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 161 – “There’s a Song in the Air”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 8:18-22	Genesis 21
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>The Followers of Jesus</i>	<i>Hagar in the History of Redemption</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 423 – “Follow, I Will Follow Thee”	RHC 355 – “Day by Day”
<i>Benediction / 3-Fold Amen *</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	<i>RHC 13 (stanzas 1 & 4)</i>

* Congregation Stands

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

Church Theme 2010 – “Believers Built in Christ”

BIBLICAL PRAYER – PART 7

Last week, we studied about Hezekiah's prayer and his prayer request to Isaiah when there was a threat from the Assyrian army under the leadership of its captain, Rabshakeh, who blasphemed the name of the Lord. I wonder how I could relate it to current events and circumstances. I decided to skim through today's newspapers and found two outstanding items that may catch out attention. One is about Assange's Wikileaks, and the other is about US politics over gay men and women in the US military. I understand that what Assange has done on the internet was not a small event but sensational enough to make everybody surprised. I do not need to talk about whether what he has done on the internet is right or wrong. Readers may make their own judgments on this matter. What bothers me is the case against him in relation to two Swedish women. I do not feel the need to discuss whether what he did to and with them was legal, illegal, or a criminal offence. I'll leave this matter to you. What bothers me is a simple but fundamental issue. Revelation 22:15 says, "For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." The Greek word for whoremongers refers to people who indulge in unlawful sexual intercourse. The NAS translates it as "immoral persons," and the NIV as "the sexually immoral." The immoral and ungodly society in general has become callous and insensitive to the laws of God and His righteousness. People like Assange are not ashamed of their immorality but show their stony faces with pride. They are interested in knowing whether he will receive a criminal charge or not. That's all they want to know. The whole society appears to be dull to the issues of morality. It seems that not many people are concerned about morality or ethics any more. It may not be a strange development in a society that denies the absolute God and His absolute truth. Aren't we living in a time when we need to pray? God's name is not honored but blasphemed. President Obama's pride over the new policy that allows homosexuals into the US military will not be his great achievement but a shame. The following is a part of an article about the new policy: "Gay rights activists and liberals were celebrating after a surprise Senate vote yesterday that will allow gay men and women to serve openly in the US military for the first time." Knowing this changed policy concerning homosexuals within the US military was his election promise in 2008, we should not be surprised at all. All these social changes give us reasons to pray. All the more, liberal and modernists within Christian churches are fervent supporters of such changes, which must challenge and urge us to pray even more than before. As Isaiah prayed, so the people of God prevailed.

Tenth, King Hezekiah prayed when he was gravely ill. 2 Kings 20:1-3, "In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. ² Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, ³ I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done *that which is* good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore." (1) It was a prayer for life, or healing from the deadly illness. People have different kinds of responses or reactions to information about their deadly sicknesses. Some people may pray for more time to live, some people may become hopeless, or some people may accept the reality of life as it is. I am talking about a few examples from at least professing Christians. I cannot say that every one of us may have to face the possibility of death in near future. However, we will face it someday anyway. There was a time when Paul was thinking about his death. He says in Philippians 1:21-25, "For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. ²³ For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: ²⁴ Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you. ²⁵ And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith."

There are many different ways to meet the prospectus of our own death. Whatever attitude we may have, one thing is for sure. We will pray. (2) Hezekiah prayed for life instead of accepting the impending death. He wept sore, which means that he wept bitterly or a lot. He prayed with tears. Then, there was an answer from the Lord in verse 5: "Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD." This prayer answer tells us that (a) God is the prayer hearing and answering God, and also (b) He sees us, our tears and bitterness in our hearts. He is gracious and merciful to us by granting our hearts' desires. One lesson I have learnt from Hezekiah's prayer is that God is always gracious to His people. God was gracious to Hezekiah by extending his life by 15 more years. However, God was also gracious by intending to take his life around the time when Hezekiah was notified of his soon-coming death. It was because Hezekiah did not please the Lord while he lived more years on earth. He failed to be faithful till he died. If he had not lived another 15 years, he could have ended his life with a testimony of his faithfulness. I am not saying that it was bad that he lived another 15 years. What I simply want to point out is that God is always gracious to His people. At the same time, all of God's children need to consider that death is not a remote possibility but very relevant event to them, which may happen to them at any moment.

I did not intend to pastor a church while I was studying in the States. However, there was a small congregation around the area where I studied, and they did not have a pastor. They sought me out and asked me to be their pastor until they could find one. This invitation gave me lots of interesting experiences, and truly this ministry brought my wife and myself much joy. One of the people in the church had a son, quite close to my sons' ages. He suffered from kidney problems and in fact had someone else's kidney in his body and was expected to have a kidney transplant once every 15 years. I am not sure about medical and technical developments for such patients since that time. In any rate, he was often taken to the hospital because of infections or high fever. Whenever he was sick, my wife and I were very sad and wanted to do something for the ones who suffered with some physical illnesses. That was the time we began to think about our own deaths more seriously. There were two things we decided. One, whenever the Lord calls us to be with Him, we want to go to be with Him without attempting to extend our lives on earth. We have told our children that just in case, if anything happens to us, we should not be left to depend on machines. Instead, they should let us go into eternity naturally. We want to be with the Lord in eternity without delaying any moment. Our daily prayer is "Come, Lord, today." Two, we want to give any healthy parts of our bodies to those who need them. We became organ donors. If our gifts can make some families happy and their lives more satisfying, we will be happy for them. By the time when we get to heaven, what is the use of our flesh? Our bodies will see their corruption in the graves. Our only concern is for those who will be left behind us including our children and our church families. Well, as for them, we trust that our good Lord will take good care of them. We will see them in heaven. Then, we are ready for the trip to eternity at any moment. Our prayers at the moment of death are already settled with thanksgiving.

I am not so sure about you, my friends. I hope that you are not the friends of this world. King Hezekiah was not a bad man, but one of the good kings. When there was a fear of death, he cried and prayed to the Lord for extra time, and his wish was granted. Are you ready for the moment you have to take your journey to heaven? Do you have words to say when you depart from this life into eternity? What is your ultimate prayer for your life and death?

Lovingly,

Your Pastor

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at 11.00 am and 4.00 pm.

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK			WELCOME
Fri 31 December	No YAF meeting		We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
Sat 01 January	No Prayer Meeting & Bible Study		
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	Today: 19/12/2010
Message	Jesus, the Calmer	God's covenant with Abraham - Part 2	Chairman: Jonathan
Text	Matthew 8:23-27	Genesis 17 & 22	Organist: Anthony
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			Pianist: Anthony
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Saturday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study till the New Year. • Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Today, Pastor Ki will continue the series of studies on "The Doctrine of Church." • Remember to pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Eld Ford, Lydia, Margaret, May, Mrs Ki, Joey & Family. • Remember to pray for those who are/will be travelling: Yetta (S. Africa), Lee Wei (S'pore), Weifeng, Waiyee & Matthew (France), Joy (Brunei), Brian (M'sia), Elizabeth, Scott & Venice (HK) • The Church Theme for 2011 is "Continue in the Word" taken from 2 Timothy 3:14 			Ushers: Daniel / John
			Sunday School: No Sunday School
			Lunch: Carry In
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: John / Joshua
			Next Week: 02/01/2011
			Chairman: Joey
			Organist: Anthony
			Pianist: Anthony
			Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn
			Sunday School: Jonathan
			Lunch: Maureen
			Washing Up: Volunteers
			PA Crew: John / Joshua
<p>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £576.24, Lunch: £57.53 Attendance - Morning: 27 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 19 (A)</p>			MEMORY VERSE
<p>SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 52</p>			<p>Last Week</p> <p><i>"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."</i></p> <p>Romans 8:28</p>
<p>Q: What are the reasons annexed to the Second Commandment?</p> <p><i>A: The reasons annexed to the Second Commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.</i></p> <p><u>Comments:</u> The special reasons added why we should observe this commandment are: 1. God is our Sovereign (I, the Lord); 2. God is our owner (thy God); 3. God is zealous for his own worship (am a jealous God).</p> <p><u>Proofs:</u> Psalm 95:3, Exodus 34:14</p>			<p>This Week</p> <p><i>"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."</i></p> <p>Romans 8:29</p> <p>Next Week</p> <p><i>"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;"</i></p> <p>2 Timothy 3:14</p>