



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. 17 No. 51

LORD’S DAY 22 DECEMBER 2013

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 7:13-14

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 152 – “Joy to the World”

RHC 151 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 49

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 49 verses 1-9, 16-20
(to the tune of Bethlehem, RHC 251)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 156 – “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

Scriptural Text

Galatians 4

Matthew 1:18

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

When the Fullness of the Time Was Come

The Man God Chose to Raise His Son

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 165 – “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

RHC 148 – “Once in Royal David’s City”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* 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 2013 – “Understand and know God” – Jeremiah 9:24

THE GREATEST GIFT

My Dear Readers,

22-12-2013 -- What do you count as the greatest gift you have been given at Christmas time? As a child, I remember the excitement of the Sunday before Christmas when each of us would receive a small box of chocolate candy. I am not sure how it was provided, but each child happily savored getting our gift. That is the earliest Christmas gift I remember receiving. Sometimes we would eat the candy that day. Other years we would make our candy last for a while, but eventually the last piece would be eaten. In our home, we did not celebrate Christmas in contrast to most of our neighbors and relatives. When my parents were a young couple they made a vow against such celebrations at the urging of a visiting preacher to their church. The preacher had pointed out parallels between practices observed at Christmas and those of ancient Babylonians. Therefore he called for a radical decision of making a vow to seal that commitment. I respect my parents' commitment to keeping their vow to the Lord. They understood the serious nature of making a vow and then reneging on it (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5). Given what I observed in them, I have always remembered the serious nature of making vows. As a preacher, that experience has compelled me to be careful about what vows I call upon people to make.

In our home, with our children, we do celebrate Christmas. We have labored to teach them that we celebrate Christmas as the incarnation of our Savior, Christ the Lord. We give and receive gifts as an expression of our love for one another that ultimately arises from the love of God extended to us in Jesus Christ (1 John 4:7). It is very easy to be pressed into the mould of the world where we become consumed with the material gifts, like a box of chocolate candy, that quickly disappear. Think of the gift given – of the giver – and of the motivation behind a gift.

We easily miss out on the greater things the Lord is doing and has done for us day by day (Psalm 104). Jesus, teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, taught His hearers of God's "common grace" that is extended to all people. The rain falls on the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:45). Every breath we breathe, every sunrise or sunset we enjoy, every sound we nurture, every aroma we savor, every bite of food we eat, every swallow of water we drink, every relationship we cherish, every ... are gifts from our Creator.

Think of the gift of life itself (Psalm 139:16). This past Thursday evening our phone rang about 9:30 PM. It was too late for a telemarketing call. Was it a family member phoning? I listened to my wife's tone of voice and knew at once that something serious had happened. We learned that our daughter was in an auto accident on her way home from the Chinese restaurant where she works. Could we come? At once we made our way up the highway and joined the line of traffic, flanked with flashing lights of ambulances, fire trucks, and police cars.

I was reminded of the term “Chinese city tiger” – as Rev. Timothy Tow used to describe city auto accidents. I pulled over so my wife could take over the driving and began walking to the scene of the accident. Eventually I got there and was so happy to see Katrina standing in the cool night, with only a cut above one of her eyes. While we waited for the police to conduct their investigation, my wife arrived and together we hugged Katrina and thanked the Lord that she is still with us. When I looked at the place where the other car hit her, I realized that had the impact been just a few inches behind where it was, we may well have been visiting a funeral home rather than eventually returning home with our daughter. Automobiles can be repaired or replaced. Human life is not replaceable. To the best we know, she is going to be fine. I thank the Lord for our children each day, but have even greater reason to give thanks for the gift of our children this year.

But then human life is only here for a limited window of time. How grateful I am when I read of the gift of eternal life. The Apostle Paul, in Romans 6:23, teaches: *For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift** of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* How tragic it is indeed when one has excellent physical life, but is dead in trespasses and sin (Ephesians 2:1-2). One day your life will end. Then where will you spend eternity? We cannot merit eternal life by our efforts, because as the Apostle Paul teaches in Ephesians 2:2-3, all of us are entangled with human rebellion and give ourselves over to all manner of things that displease the Lord. Yet because of the mercy of God, He gives us eternal life: *For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift** of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.* The key point is that salvation is the **gift** of God.

After the Apostle Paul commended the Macedonian believers for their generous and sacrificial support for the ministry he wrote of a far greater gift. God had given His Son, Jesus: *Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable **gift*** (2 Corinthians 9:15). As much as we cherish gifts from others, the generosity of God in providing for our daily needs, and even in having our sins forgiven by the atoning work of Jesus Christ, there is something greater. Beyond all comparison, the gift of an abiding relationship with the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, not only at Christmas, but throughout our lifetime and for eternity is the greatest **GIFT** we can receive.

From our family to you and yours: Have a Blessed God-Exalting Christmas!

Faithfully your brother,

Carl T. Martin

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
Wed 25 Dec No Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
Fri 27 Dec No Young Adults Fellowship	
Sat 28 Dec 4:00pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Mark Biddle	Rev Mark Biddle	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TODAY: 22/12/2013</u></p> <p>Chairman: John</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Jasmine</p> <p>Ushers: Daniel / Margaret</p> <p>Sunday School: No Sunday School</p> <p>Lunch: Christmas Carry-In</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 29/12/2013</u></p> <p>Chairman: John</p> <p>Organist: Anthony</p> <p>Pianist: Sarah</p> <p>Ushers: Daniel / Tom</p> <p>Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael</p> <p>Lunch: Maureen</p> <p>Washing Up: Volunteers</p> <p>PA Crew: Scott</p>
Message	TBC	TBC	
Text	TBC	TBC	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor Ki, Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Rev Colin Wong, Elizabeth, Magdalene, Katrina. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Patricia. • Pray for those on travel: Yangfan, Matthew, Jonathan, Sarah & Family, Sharon & Elliora. • Pulpit Ministry: Please pray for the Church and the calling of Rev Colin Wong as our resident minister. • This Lord's Day Offering will be used as a love gift to Hilltop Ministries, Philippines to help aid their ministry after Typhoon Haiyan. • There will be No Christmas Day Service.
<p>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £544.90; Lunch: £31</p> <p>Attendance - Morning: 26 (A) 3 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 4 (C)</p>

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 102

Q: What do we pray for in the Second Petition?

A: *In the Second Petition – (which is, **THY KINGDOM COME**) – we pray, That Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of Grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it, and that the kingdom of Glory may be hastened.*

Comments:

A Kingdom means a people who are ruled by a king. Now, there are three kingdoms mentioned here: the *kingdom of Satan*, or those who obey Satan; the *kingdom of Grace*, or those who obey God; and the *kingdom of Glory*, or those who will reign with Christ in glory. In this petition we ask that the first of these be destroyed, that the second may prosper, and that the time of the third may speedily arrive.

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 68:1, Psalm 51:18, Revelation 22:20

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”</i></p> <p>Proverbs 3:5</p>	<p><i>“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”</i></p> <p>Proverbs 3:6</p>	<p><i>“But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.”</i></p> <p>Jeremiah 9:24</p>