



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. 52

LORD’S DAY 29 DECEMBER 2013

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 147:1

Psalm 105:1-4

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 24 – “Praise to the Lord,
The Almighty”

RHC 65 – “And Can It Be That I
Should Gain?”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 50

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 50 second tune v1-6
(to the tune of Beatitudo, RHC 63)

*Announcements &
Memory Verse*

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings &
Doxology **

RHC 553 – “Love Found a Way”

Scriptural Text

Jeremiah 29:11

Hebrews 4:9

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Mark Biddle

Rev Mark Biddle

Sermon Message

*God's Thoughts Toward His
People*

There Remaineth A Rest

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 386 – “Be Thou My
Vision”

RHC 80 – “The Day Thou
Gavest, Lord”

*Benediction/3-Fold
Amen **

Rev Mark Biddle

Rev Mark Biddle

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

THEREFORE WATCH

My Dear Readers,

29-12-2013 – Do you have the time? That used to be a common expression before the era of cell phones, handhelds, and i-pads. People wore a wrist watch or carried a pocket watch – to tell the time. This is the final Lord’s Day of 2013. At Midnight on Tuesday we advance into a new year. On older practice in many congregations was of having a “Watch Night Service” on New Year’s Eve. The idea was for believers to gather, hear the Word of God proclaimed, reflect on the past year, resolve any unresolved spiritual matters, anticipate the coming year, and enter the New Year with a time of corporate prayer. Due to heightened dangers of being out late at night, many churches have discontinued the practice. But the idea of “watchfulness” does not take a break for the child of God.

In recent weeks we have been reminded of the watchfulness of the shepherds outside Bethlehem at the time of our Lord’s birth (Luke 2:8). While the rulers and religious leaders slept soundly, or were otherwise occupied in Jerusalem, the shepherds were keeping watch over their flock in the middle of the night. The terms “keeping watch” are in the original language two uses from the root word *fulake* which means “to guard.” You must understand that a shepherd was considered to be on the bottom tier of society. The rabbinic sources tell us that if a person wished to know if a piece of bread was too moldy to eat, she should offer it to a shepherd. If he refused it, you could toss the bread with no pang of conscience. His testimony in a court of law was not admissible. Yet the angelic announcement of the birth of was to that very group of people. As has been reviewed in recent weeks, they ran to the place where Jesus was and found Him with Mary and Joseph. They were surely rewarded for having been “watching.” I do not believe their lives were ever the same after that night when they found the Christ child. In a real way they had to make a determination of what they would do with Jesus. We are not told that they worshiped Him. Rather, having discovered Him, they went out and told others of their experience. Likewise, you may have heard of Jesus, you may have had an experience of seeing Him at work in the lives of others, maybe even of your own life, but what is your long term response to Him?

Later, in the book of Acts, Luke wrote of another event where the word *fulake* is used twice in a context of watchfulness. In Acts 12, James, one of the original apostles, was beheaded by Herod, a Jewish king, presumably in Jerusalem. This judgment brought considerable pleasure to the traditional Jewish religious community who was not happy at all about the growth and development of the church. As a result Herod had Peter arrested and put in prison under “watch.” He had very intensive guarding with four squads of soldiers. This was Herod’s way of assuring that he would not lose his prisoner, and that he would not lose his opportunity to win favor with his subjects. But we find a brief statement in verse 5 that while Peter was being held in prison, unceasing prayer was being offered for him in the church at Jerusalem. The term “church” in the passage does not mean a lovely facility like the place where New Life meets week by week. We learn in the next verses that it was a house where they gathered.

Peter was not aware of the larger arena of things. Evidently he was tired, so went to sleep! That is a demonstration of composure and trust in the providence of God, to be able to go to sleep when chained and surrounded by professional soldiers, while facing execution. Some have stressed that he should not have gone to sleep, but should have prayed for the advance of God's work and for his own deliverance. Yet, there is nothing in the text to rebuke him for having gone to sleep. Oh, he was baffled in Luke 9 when he had gone to sleep on the Mount of Transfiguration. He was also one who had gone to sleep on the night of the arrest of Jesus when He had asked Peter and the other disciples to remain awake to pray with Him as they entered into temptation. On that occasion he was rebuked for having given in to sleep. But we do not find that in Acts 12. Sleep is to be part of the usual life of every person. Remember that it was granted to Adam in the Garden of Eden, before he had rebelled against God (Genesis 2:21). It is not an evil enemy to avoid. Recent studies have demonstrated that appropriate sleep can do a great deal for a person's health. That is not a new idea. Do you recall the response of the apostles when Jesus told about Lazarus sleeping in John 11:13-14? They said, "Lord if he sleep, he shall do well." There are times when the best thing for one to do for spiritual growth is not to stay up praying but to simply get adequate sleep. That can improve our whole perspective.

But back to Acts 12, there was another group that was not sleeping that night. They were earnestly praying for Peter. God was not asleep either. He sent an angel to deliver Peter from the secured prison. The details of the release are truly dramatic to note. What man had devised as an assured method was eclipsed by the God's hand. When Peter awakened, his chains fell off, he even put on his coat and shoes before he was guided from the prison. When they approached the iron gates, the gates yielded and opened for them. Peter was able to exit on to one specific street before the angel departed. Then Peter became aware that he was not having a vision but was really out of the prison (12:7-11). Where did he go? He went to the house of Mary, mother of John Mark, where many were keeping watch, while gathered for prayer. They were part of that company pleading with God for the safety of Peter, the future of the Church, and the intervention of God. As the account unfolds, we learn that they were not prepared for God to answer as He did, but they had been praying!!

As we conclude 2013 and begin 2014, I appeal to you at New Life, to keep watch by continuing in prayer. Do not neglect times of personal prayer, of family prayer, and of congregational prayer. Gather for the Saturday afternoon prayer meetings. Make good use of the Sunday morning prayer time. We need God's direction for the Task Force and the congregation. We need God's anointing on the preachers as they open the Word of God and proclaim it week by week. Pray for one another, for Pastor and Mrs. Ki, Pastor and Mrs. Wong, for those enduring hard times in their families, employment, health, and more. We continue to pray for new folks to come to Christ and fill the empty seats through the working of the Spirit in drawing people to Christ. There are many unanticipated things that lay ahead of us in the coming year in London, let alone the other places around the globe. There are brothers and sisters in Christ living in Nigeria, South Sudan, and in the Central African Republic, who are in danger for their lives, even at this hour. Only later may we learn of ways that God has cared for His flock in those and many other places. But if we fail to pray, we are neglecting a strategic part of our ministry within the body of Christ. Will you watch and pray?

- Faithfully yours, 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 01 Jan No Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome John Ling & Family, Maria, Han & Family and Crystal to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Fri 03 Jan No Young Adults Fellowship	
Sat 04 Jan 4:00pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	<u>TODAY: 29/12/2013</u> Chairman: John Organist: Anthony Pianist: Sarah Ushers: Daniel / Tom Sunday School: No Sunday School Lunch: Hannah Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott <u>NEXT WEEK: 05/01/2013</u> Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Jasmine Ushers: Daniel / Tom Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael Lunch: Maureen Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott
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, Sharon & Elliora, Fung • Pulpit Ministry: Please pray for the Church and the calling of Rev Colin Wong as our resident minister. • Ladies Fellowship after Lunch: Please see Sis. Elizabeth or Sis. Helen for more information. • The Task Force would like to wish the congregation a Blessed New Year. 	
Last Sunday - Hilltop Ministries: £1016.06, Love Gift: £140 Attendance - Morning: 34 (A) 10 (C), Evening: 18 (A) 4 (C)	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 103

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

*A: In the Third Petition – (which is, **THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**) – we pray, That God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.*

Comments:

God's *will* means what he wishes to be done. This will is obeyed perfectly in heaven, and in this petition we pray that it may be obeyed as perfectly on earth. This can never be done in our own strength, and therefore we ask that God would help us to know perfectly what his will is, and having learned it, to do and suffer it.

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 119:34, Matthew 26:39

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<i>"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."</i> Proverbs 3:6	<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> Jeremiah 9:24	<i>"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."</i> Matthew 9:37