



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. 18 No. 51

LORD’S DAY 21 DECEMBER 2014

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 22:23-28

Philippians 2:5-11

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 151 – “O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel”

RHC 165 – “Thou Didst Leave
Thy Throne”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 99

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 99 verses 1-5
(to the tune of Manoah, RHC 17)

*Announcements &
Memory Verse*

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings &
Doxology **

RHC 142 – “Tell Me the Story of
Jesus”

Scriptural Text

Isaiah 9:1-7

John 15:17-24

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

Sermon Message

*Christmas – The Light of Hope in
the Shadows of Despair*

*Following the Path of
Friendship with Jesus*

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 295 – “The Light of the World
Is Jesus”

RHC 429 – “We Have Not
Known Thee as We Ought”

Benediction/3-Fold

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Amen **

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 2014 – “Waiting for God” – Isaiah 30:18

A MISSING PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

My Dear Reader,

21-12-2014 In four more days we celebrate Christmas. Are you ready? Do you have everything in order, just as you want it to be? Have you any traditions or special events that accompany this time? Some have: Greetings, visits, cards, parties, dinners, family recipes, gifts, cheer, and much more. Here at New Life, we have a service on Christmas Day to help retain a focus on celebrating the birth of Jesus. I hope you have planned to be with us for that service. Yet for many this is a difficult time as tensions run high and old wounds resurface. The pain of loneliness can become overwhelming. Disappointments can be profound.

The message of Isaiah continues to teach us: *Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river and thy righteousness been as the waves of the sea ... There is no peace saith the LORD, unto the wicked* (Isaiah 48.17-18, 22).

Were you startled by the news of Scot Young's death on December 8th? This man who once reveled in luxury, power, and wealth, died from having been thrown from an upper story flat in an elite section of this city. There have been rumors of the cause of his death, was it accidental, was it suicidal, did he hurl himself, was he thrown by mob bosses, was it his fiancée? One thing is for sure, this Christmas was not a time of celebration and joy for him.

Or take the news this week of the terrorist attack in Sydney, Australia. Unsuspecting shoppers were selecting the best of chocolates when a vigorously committed Muslim gunman took them hostage for seventeen hours. Mercifully, some escaped, and we rejoice for them, but others did not and died in the battle. Residents of Sydney will have a different tone to their celebrations this year, at least for the immediate window of time.

Or the carnage in Pakistan as 132 pupils were shot dead, beheaded, or otherwise brutalized, while 121 other pupils, nine teachers, and three staff were injured by Taliban forces. As you gaze at the photos of people carrying their dead and wounded, does your heart break? The words of David Cameron ring true, calling it "a dark day for humanity." But wait! This is Christmas. This is the time musicians tell us it the best time, the happiest time, of the year. How do we put these things together?

The old Christmas carol, *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* by Henry W. Longfellow (1807-1882) summarizes the same struggle that we encounter today:

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|----|---|----|---|
| 1. | I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men. | 3. | And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men. |
| 2. | I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th' unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men. | 4. | Then pealed the bells more loud and
deep:
God is not dead: nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men. |

In a later chapter, Isaiah taught that the LORD had something to say to the people of his day, *The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come. He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness. ...I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners. I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him. But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God to the wicked* (Isaiah 57. 1-2,18-21).

Israel would have to wait a long 700 years before the night when the angels announced, *Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men* (Luke 2:14). Even with the announcement, the expression of peace would not be realized for another three decades. On the final night before he went out to face crucifixion, Jesus assured the disciples: *Let not your heart be troubled: Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions.... Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid* (John 14.1-2, 27).

In all the hustle and bustle of this season, take some meaningful time to pause and spend time reading God's Word. Reflect on the goodness and generosity of God to you. Take time to quiet your soul in the presence of the LORD. A pastor from the last century, John Henry Jowett, taught: "Create a sensitive quietness about your spirit. Realize the sacred presence. And then slowly and deliberately, in the holy place, present your helpmeets and your antagonisms, your privileges and your necessities, your banes and your pains, your laughter and your tears. And in your life the ancient miracle of grace shall again be wrought, for the Son of Righteousness shall arise upon you with healing in His wings."

Jeremy Taylor, another English pastor from a previous generation reminded us in his book, *Holy Living*, when God gives you a day, for you to be unable to give back an hour in prayer, Scripture reading, and reflection on your spiritual condition, he contended that one is too busy, and will in the end begin to ignore God. The result will be, for even the person who is truly born again, there will be growing absence of peace in one's life.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippian believers, *Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God and the peace of God that passeth all understanding will keep your heart and mind through Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4.6-7). When one is at peace with God, he or she can weather the most unsettling difficulties that we face in our chaotic world.

Wishing for you God's eternal peace this Christmas, CTM

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
Thurs 25 Dec 11:00am Christmas Day Service <i>"Away from Home for Christmas"</i> - Micah 5	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Susan, Joel, Scott and Tai Fatt Wong & Family to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Fri 26 Dec No Young Adults Fellowship	
Sat 27 Dec 4:00pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 21/12/2014</u>
Message	Christian Nurture with a Purpose	True Spirit Enabled Living	
Text	Colossians 2:1-5	John 15:23-27	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: Dr Martin will lead this week's study. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor & Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Rev Colin Wong, Patricia, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Brian Green, Dr Tow, Elizabeth, Magdalene, Jonathan's father, Kalel, Toby & Ellie. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Magdalene. • Pray for those on travel: Ernest, Josias, Sarah, Elizabeth, Margaret, Shirley, Matthew, Keene, Anthony & Helen, Madeline. • Pulpit Ministry: Please pray for Pr Mok Chee Cheong's visa application. • Christmas Day Service will be held at 11am on 25th December 2014 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 28/12/2014</u></p> <p>Chairman: John Organist: Sarah Pianist: Sarah Ushers: Tom / Daniel Sunday School: Hannah / Rachael Lunch: Volunteers Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Jonathan</p>
<p>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £718.60, Lunch: £43.16 Attendance - Morning: 34 (A) 4 (C), Evening: 19 (A) 4 (C)</p>	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 47

Q: What is forbidden in the First Commandment?

A: The First Commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God, as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due to him alone.

Comments:

The First Commandment forbids us: 1. To deny God, which is *atheism*; 2. To worship any other God, which is *idolatry*; 3. To glorify any other God, which is *profanity*.

Scriptural Reference:

Psalm 14:1, Matthew 4:10, Romans 1:25

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."</i></p> <p>Isaiah 53:5</p>	<p><i>"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."</i></p> <p>Isaiah 53:6</p>	<p><i>"And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him."</i></p> <p>Isaiah 30:18</p>