



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. 25 No. 45

LORD’S DAY 07 NOVEMBER 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 2pm

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Prelude

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn *

Responsive Reading

Second Hymn

Scriptural Text

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Message

Closing Hymn *

Benediction/3-Fold

Amen *

Postlude

* *Congregation Stands*

Psalm 128

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Insert – “Jesus, Where’er Thy People Meet”

Psalm 127

Psalm 127

(to the tune of ST PETER, RHC 456)

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Fearing God is the Essence of Christian Living

RHC 388 – “O for a Closer Walk with God”

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

The Lord Bless You

Psalm 134

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

RHC 82 – “This Day at Thy Creating Word”

John 9:35-38

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

The Inward Healing of Faith

Insert – “Heal us, Emmanuel!”

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 88

Q: What are the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of Redemption?

A: The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of Redemption, are His ordinances; especially the Word, Sacraments, and Prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

Comments:

In order that we may be saved, God demands of us not only faith and repentance, but the diligent use of the outward means of grace as well. These outward means are here called *ordinances*, or things which God has *ordained*. They consist mainly in: 1. The Study of the Bible; 2. The observance of the Sacraments; 3. The use of Prayer.

Scriptural Reference:

Acts 2:42, 2 Timothy 3:15

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believes on me shall never thirst.”

John 6:35

This Week

“... If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.”

John 7:37

Next Week

“Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:”

Ecclesiastes 8:12

A BRIEF TREATISE OF THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

II. GOD AND HIS CREATION

3. THE BEING OF GOD (Part 11)

Q4: What is God?

A: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

The next attribute is God's goodness or mercy. Mercy is the result and effect of God's goodness. Psa. 33:5. The most learned of the heathens thought they gave their god Jupiter two golden characters when they styled him good and great. Both these meet in God, goodness and greatness, majesty and mercy. God is essentially good in himself and relatively good to us. They are both put together in Psa. 119:68 — *'Thou art good, and doest good.'* This relative goodness is nothing else but his mercy, which is an innate propenseness in God to pity and succour such as are in misery.

I. Twelve positions concerning God's mercy

[1] It is the great design of the Scripture to represent God as merciful. This is a loadstone to draw sinners to him. 'The Lord, merciful, gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness,' &c. (Exo. 34:6). Here are six expressions to set forth God's mercy, and but one to set forth his justice: 'who will by means clear the guilty.'

[2] God is more inclinable to mercy than wrath. Mercy is his delightful attribute, which he most delights in. Mic. 7:18. Mercy please him. *'Fury is not in me,'* Isa. 27:4; that is, I do not delight in it. Acts of severity are rather forced from God; he does not afflict willingly (Lam. 3:33). The bee naturally gives honey, it stings only when it is provoked; so God does not punish till he can bear no longer. *'So that the Lord could bear no longer, because of the evil of your doings'* (Jer. 44:22). Mercy is God's right hand that he is most used to; inflicting punishment is called his strange work (Isa. 28:21). He is not used to it. When the Lord would shave off the pride of a nation, he is said to hire a razor, as if he none of his own. 'He shall shave with a razor that is hired' (Isa. 7:20). *'He is slow to anger,'* (Psa. 103:8), but *'ready to forgive'* (Psa. 86:5).

[3] When the church was in captivity, she cried out, *'It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed'* (Lam. 3:22). In all afflictions we may see some sunshine of mercy. That outward and inward troubles do not come together is mercy.

[4] Mercy sweetens all God's other attributes. God's holiness without mercy, and his justice without mercy were terrible. Mercy sets God's power on work to help us; it makes his justice become our friend; it shall avenge our quarrels.

[5] God's mercy is one of the most orient pearls of his crown; it makes his Godhead appear amiable and lovely. When Moses said to God, "I beseech you — show me your

glory;" the Lord answered him, *'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will show you mercy'* (Exo. 33:19). God's mercy is his glory. His holiness makes him illustrious; his mercy makes him endearing."

[6] "Even the worst people taste God's mercy; such as fight against God's mercy, taste of it; the wicked have some crumbs from mercy's table. *'The Lord is good to all'* (Psa. 145:9). Sweet dewdrops are on the thistle, as well as on the rose.

[7] Mercy coming to us in a covenant, is sweetest. It was mercy that God would give Israel rain, and bread to the full, and peace, and victory over their enemies (Lev. 26:4-6) — but it was a greater mercy that God would be their God (v.12). To have health is a mercy — but to have Christ and salvation is a greater mercy; it is like the diamond in the ring, which casts a more sparkling lustre.

[8] One act of mercy engages God to another. Men argue thus, "I have shown you kindness already, therefore trouble me no more;" but, because God has shown mercy, he is more ready still to show mercy; his mercy in election makes him justify, adopt, glorify; one act of mercy engages God to more.

[9] All the mercy in the creature is derived from God, and is but a drop from this ocean. The mercy and pity a mother has to her child, is from God; he that puts the milk in her breast puts the compassion in her heart. God is called, *'The Father of mercies,'* because he begets all the mercies in the world (2 Cor. 1:3). If God has put any kindness into the creature, how much kindness is in him who is the Father of mercy!

[10] As God's mercy makes the saints happy, so it should make them humble. Mercy is not the fruit of our goodness — but the fruit of God's goodness. Mercy is an alms which God bestows. They have no cause to be proud that live upon the alms of God's mercy. *'If I be righteous, yet will I not lift up my head'* (Job.5:15) — That is, all my righteousness is the effect of God's mercy, therefore I will be humble and will not lift up my head.

[11] Mercy stays the speedy execution of God's justice. Sinners continually provoke God, and make *'the fury come up in his face'* (Ezek. 38:18). Whence is it God does not immediately arrest and condemn them? It is not that God cannot do it, for he is armed with omnipotence—but it is from his mercy. Mercy gets a reprieve for the sinner — and stops the speedy process of justice. God would, by his goodness, lead sinners to repentance.

[12] It is dreadful to have mercy as a witness against any one. It was sad with Haman, when the queen herself accused him (Esth. 7:6). So will it be when this queen of mercy shall stand up against a person and accuse him! It is only mercy that saves a sinner; how sad then to have mercy become an enemy! If mercy is an accuser, who shall be our advocate? The sinner never escapes hell, when mercy draws up the indictment."

— adapted and edited from Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pp 93-95

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, as the Church Premises reopens for both Worship Services please note that there will be strict social distancing measures put in place. Face coverings must be worn in the church at all times out of consideration for all worshippers.

For those unable to attend Church in person, we will continue to stream our services online.

If you require the link to our online zoom services, or have any questions or require further clarity, please call the church manse, or email us at admin 'at' newlifebpc.org.uk.

Tithes & Offerings – There will be an offering box at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary for you to place your offerings in.

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £7,690.50

CHURCH NOTICE

Dear fellow worshippers and friends,

We are pleased to inform the worshippers and visitors of New Life Bible Presbyterian Church that the church will resume holding both worship services in the Church premise on Sunday.

The church activities will take place as follows:

- Sunday Morning Worship Service, 11am – Church Premises & Online
- Sunday Afternoon Worship Service, 2pm – Church Premises & Online

Provided that there is no worsening of the pandemic in London, we hope to start holding the Afternoon Worship Service and Fortnightly Bible Study within the church premises in the coming months.

Changes introduced to the Worship Services held at the church premises

In compliance with the current Government guidelines, the following changes have been introduced:

- No offering collection during the worship service. Offerings can be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- Adopt a 2-metre social distancing seating arrangement (household members may sit with each other).
- Face coverings to be worn in the church **at all times** out of consideration for all worshippers. For young children under the age of 11, the use of face covering is optional. **Please ensure you bring your own face covering.**
- No food and drinks will be made available (Fellowship Lunch has been temporarily suspended).
- After Morning Worship Service, you may gather for fellowship inside or outside of the Church premises, but please adhere to social distancing.
- No access to non-essential areas of the church – this includes the Fellowship Hall and kitchen.
- New movement arrangements to be adopted (please follow directions).
- Temperature measurements will be taken for every worshipper and visitor.
- Worshippers and visitors are required to complete the contact details slip for the NHS Test & Trace service. These details will be kept securely in church for 21 days and then destroyed. They will only be submitted to Test & Trace if a Covid-19 case occurs.
- Alternatively, please download the NHS COVID-19 Mobile App and scan one of the QR codes in the Church entrance to check-in.

To join our online services or to obtain further updates, please visit the church website (www.newlifebpc.org.uk) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim
Task Force Members

Jesus, Where'er Thy People Meet

Jesus, where'er Thy people meet,
There they behold Thy mercy-seat;
Where'er they seek Thee, Thou art
found,
And every place is hallowed ground.

For Thou, within no walls confined,
Inhabitest the humble mind;
Such ever bring Thee where they come,
And going, take Thee to their home.

Dear Shepherd of Thy chosen few,
Thy former mercies here renew;
Here, to our waiting hearts, proclaim
The sweetness of Thy saving name.

Here may we prove the power of prayer
To strengthen faith and sweeten care;
To teach our faint desires to rise,
And bring all Heaven before our eyes.

Lord, we are few, but Thou art near;
Nor short Thine arm, nor deaf Thine ear:
O, rend the heavens, come quickly
down,
And make our waiting hearts Thine own!

William Cowper

Tune: WARRINGTON

Heal us, Emmanuel!

Heal us, Emmanuel! we are here,
Waiting to feel Thy touch;
Deep-wounded souls to Thee repair,
And, Saviour, we are such.

Our faith is feeble, we confess,
We faintly trust Thy Word;
But wilt Thou pity us the less?
Be that far from Thee, Lord!

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief:
'Lord, I believe,' with tears he cried,
'O help my unbelief!'

She, too, who touched Thee in the
press,
And healing virtue stole,
Was answered, 'Daughter, go in peace;
Thy faith hath made thee whole.'

Like her, with hopes and fears we come,
To touch Thee, if we may;
O send us not despairing home,
Send none unhealed away.

William Cowper

Tune: ST AGNES