



NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: newlifebplondon @ yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.newlifebpc.org.uk

Supervisory Pastor: Rev Lim Chee Boon

Resident Minister: Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Email: pastor @ newlifebpc.org.uk

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

Vol. 25 No. 52

LORD’S DAY 26 DECEMBER 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 2pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 149:1-4

Psalm 150

Opening Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Opening Hymn *

RHC 164 – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

RHC 163 – “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 134

Second Hymn

Psalm 134 (to the tune of Christmas, RHC 159)

Scriptural Text

Isaiah 9:6

John 21:15-17

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

Unto to Us a Child is Born, a Son is Given

Lovest Thou Me?

Closing Hymn *

RHC 157 – “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

RHC 152 – “Joy to the World!”

Benediction/3-Fold

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Amen *

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* Congregation Stands

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 95

Q: To whom is Baptism to be administered?

A: Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible Church – till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.

Comments:

We are here taught the persons who may be baptized. They consist of two classes – *adults* who are Christians, but who may not have been already baptized; and the *infants* of church members. The former are baptized because the meaning of the ordinance is to declare that the persons baptized profess themselves to be Christians; and the latter are baptized because the promises of God to his people extend to their children as well as to themselves.

Scriptural Reference:

Acts 2:41, Acts 2:39

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

This Week

“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

John 20:31

Next Week

“But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.”

Nehemiah 1:9

WHO IS CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS?

(ISAIAH 9:1-7)

We live in a troubled world today with many disasters and calamities around us. In business, especially in retail, Christmas is a time when they either make or break with all the sales. Christmas to many is also a nice holiday to be with family, buy some gifts for one another and have a meal together even in the midst of a global health crisis. As a Christian, is there something more to Christmas than all these revelry, fun and food? Many times, when we come to an event, we ask ourselves what is the origin of this event that we celebrate. Sad to say, after a long period of time, we lose the meaning and significance why things happen in the first place.

We go back 740 years before the birth of Christ to know why we remember Christmas. Isaiah the prophet predicted the birth of someone very special in his book, which comprises 66 chapters (like a complete bible), and tells the birth, life, death, resurrection and second coming of Christ. In chapter 9, we are given a glimpse of the nature and character of this person.

In verse 6, the prophet Isaiah made it clear that a special child was born and given to mankind for a special purpose. We know from another prophet, Micah that Christ was born in Bethlehem, a very small town not far from Jerusalem. Bethlehem has an amazing background, history and future. (Mic 5:2).

There are 5 descriptive words that will showcase the personage and very character of Christ who was born on Christmas day.

1. Wonderful

In Hebrew, the word “Wonderful” has a sense of mystery — a sense of lofty concept in a high-sounding manner. The original word can be rendered as wonder of a counsellor, and there are 3 ways to be seen about Christ:

(a) Christ is wonderful in the way He was born

Isaiah 7:14 tells us how this child was born. Normally, a child is born as a result of two persons in marriage and the wife gives birth after pregnancy. This birth is wonderful in the sense that the virgin Mary conceived and bear Jesus the son without the help of Joseph, her husband-to-be. Humanly speaking, it is impossible. This is the only case in the world where God allows Mary to conceive of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ, and born of her alone and not from her and Joseph. In the bible context, words used to describe a birth are usually plural and masculine. In the case of Mary’s birth, it was singular and feminine. This is significant because if Christ was born of Joseph and Mary, he would receive the original sin that comes from man; in this case, without the involvement of man, Christ was without sin.

(b) Christ is wonderful in His humanity (how He became a man)

I Timothy 3:16 tells us that God was manifest in the flesh. God is a spirit and has no dimensions. But the second person of the Trinity took on human form, with a living soul, and subject to the vagaries of the demands of a human body in order to qualify to die for us. That amazing transformation from God in heaven to become a man is beyond any human comprehension. Imagine we become an ant and live among the ant community. Is that conceivable? For God who is the sovereign creator of the universe, Christ limited himself and became a man to die on the cross on our behalf. John 1:14 describes the whole process of God becoming man. In John 1:17, John identified this person as the incarnation of Christ, the Son of God from heaven.

(c) Christ is wonderful in His Humility

If a king comes to this earth, we expect him to be born in a royal family with pomp and pageantry and great expectations. But this scene did not happen in the birth of Christ. He was born in an insignificant

town, which is unknown if Christ was not born there. Not many live there and there were not many visitors or inns. He grew up in Nazareth, which only have shepherds who attend to sheep. There were no expectations of anything coming from these small towns. The greatest humility was the humility to the cross; that Christ was born, lived and walked the way of the cruel cross of execution on our behalf. Luke recorded that Mary saw all these things and pondered in her heart what would become of her son one day.

2. Wonderful Counsellor

The word invariably brings to mind: is He going to give us advice?

The coming of Christ is to give purpose, direction and guidance to the people of the world. The word counsel, in the original, has a sense of giving purpose, meaning and advice to people. We live in a world of consultancy; we seek advice on how to build a building, start a company, and have a family and medical consultation. These engineers, accountants, are counsellors in a sense, who help us in our lives. Is it possible to have one person who have all the knowledge, as a one-stop counsellor, who can give us advice for life? The bible says Jesus Christ is that Divine counsellor. Isaiah 46:10 tells us that His counsel will stand forever, is everlasting, sure and absolutely true.

How do I get the counsel from this Counsellor? You need to know Him, trust Him before you can ask Him for His eternal counsel. The most important counsel in life is not about making money, buy a car, a house. It is the true direction in the way of life.

The psalmist said Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105). One of the source of counsel is the word of God, which is the basis of knowing the directions in life. Psalm 119:24 stresses that "Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors." The more you know the word of God, the more you know the counsel of God to guide you in the right and correct purpose and directions in life.

3. Mighty God

The Chinese rendering is accurate and according to Hebrew: He is not only mighty but sovereignly almighty in all His ways that no one can stand up to His might. During Isaiah's time, the people were poly-theistic and believed in many gods. To say that your god is the all mighty god, many would challenge if this were true. There is only one God, the God of the bible. Christ is God himself, there is no other gods beside Him. This God is all powerful, all knowing and all present everywhere. He has our live and destiny in His hand, He decides our beginning to the end. As we come to know this God, we know the truth concerning life and know this God who gives us purpose and meaning, hope and peace forever. Jesus is not just human He is also the almighty God because when they crucified Him, He triumphed over the grave, destroyed death and three days later, He arose from the grave. This is the power of the babe in the manger, not an ordinary child, He is God in our midst, He is God on earth and who is triumphant over all.

4. Everlasting Father

The emphasis in this phrase is on the everlasting which is eternal or without beginning and the end. All of us have a beginning, we were born one day and will die and leave this world. But Jesus Christ, the babe in the manger, that was not His beginning but His incarnation. He has a beginning right from the start, like God the Father, who has no beginning or the end. There was an occasion when Christ was asked about Abraham and the Lord said before Abraham, I am. This shocked His listeners that He already existed before Abraham. In other words, the Lord was helping the people to realise that He was the eternal one.

Our lives are limited. But God, in Christ, is unlimited. If you know and believe this God, and entrust in this God and repent of your sins, you can have everlasting hope in Jesus Christ. To know this God, we have to know Him on His terms, of who Christ is and what He requires of us. We are to believe in Christ,

receive, confess and repent of our sins and come and entrust our lives to Him. It means surrendering to Him and acknowledge Jesus Christ as King of kings and Saviour of our souls.

5. Prince of Peace

When Isaiah was writing this chapter, Israel was under threat of the Assyrians. King Hezekiah prayed to God for deliverance. God protected Israel and 180 thousand enemies perished. Israel today looks for peace in all the wrong places; from alliances and political connections and the middle east is still in turmoil. The bible says Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Peace will not come from UN, USA or super powers but from the true source of lasting peace. Our Lord made a statement in John 14:27 concerning peace.

Do you have peace in your heart today? Peace does not come by having more monetary resources, more fame, more assets or more power. Recently a famous K-pop singer committed suicide, and many suffered from depression, anxiety and phobias despite having fame, power and millions of fans. Peace comes not from the world or self. Peace comes from a person — only Christ is the fountain of peace. Isaiah 26: 3 – 4 To have everlasting peace, you need to focus your mind on Jesus Christ alone. You may wonder why peace eludes you. You can have peace when you have Jesus Christ. Christ alone is the source of perfect peace for this life and the life to come. With Christ, you can have lasting peace in the midst of personal and worldwide turmoil and the adversity.

Conclusion

To know this peace, come to Christ, believe on the Lord Jesus and know that He died on the cross for our sins and He is coming back for us and takes us with Him. Luke 2:10 — We can have hope, peace, joy, all found on the person who came in his first coming to give us peace.

Let this Christmas in 2021 in the midst of a pandemic be a new beginning, new life, new direction, because you truly know this God of Christmas who could give you eternal life and it is forever. If you would trust and believe in your heart and that Jesus is God, accept Him as Saviour and God, you can be saved. The bible says in John 1: 12 — that as many as believe in Him and call upon His name will be saved. The bible says “I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32).

All of us are born sinners, condemned to everlasting hell fire and are helpless and hopeless. Unless we have Christ, and know Jesus as our God and Lord, we are totally condemned in sins and trespasses. Jesus said I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me. (John 14:6). Will you turn to Jesus this Christmas? Something to think and pray about and act upon too.

adapted and edited from Pastor Jack Sin, Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church, Singapore

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.

Sunday School will resume on Sunday 2nd January 2022. For more information, please see Sis Elizabeth.

Church Prayer Meeting will resume in the worship hall on Sunday 9th January 2022 at 10:15am.

Worship Service Collections: 19/12/21 - £292.00, Maintenance Fund: £50.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £8,060.50

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