

# **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. 27 No. 52

**LORD’S DAY 24 DECEMBER 2023**

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

#### ***Morning Service – 11am***

<b><i>Prelude</i></b>	<b><i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i></b>
<b><i>Call to Worship</i></b>	Isaiah 9:6-7
<b><i>Opening Hymn *</i></b>	RHC 164 – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”
<b><i>Opening Prayer</i></b>	John Poh
<b><i>Second Hymn *</i></b>	RHC 161 – “There’s a Song in the Air!”
<b><i>Welcome &amp; Announcements</i></b>	John Poh
<b><i>Third Hymn *</i></b>	RHC 165 – “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”
<b><i>Scriptural Text</i></b>	2 Corinthians 9:15
<b><i>Pastoral Prayer</i></b>	Eld George Chew
<b><i>Sermon Message</i></b>	<b><i>The Unspeakable Gift</i></b>
<b><i>Closing Hymn *</i></b>	RHC 152 – “Joy to the World!”
<b><i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i></b>	Eld George Chew
<b><i>Postlude</i></b>	<b><i>The Lord Bless You</i></b>

\* *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.

#### **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.

### **SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 91**

**Q: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?**

*A: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation - not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them - but only by the **blessing of Christ**, and the **working of his Spirit** in them that by faith receive them.*

Comments:

We are here taught the proper way of using the sacraments. We must pray for the blessing of Christ on them. It was he who appointed them and it is he alone who can make them of benefit to our souls. In themselves the sacraments are of no value, nor can the minister (notwithstanding what the Roman Catholic Church says) give them any power whatever apart from Christ.

Scriptural Reference:

1 Corinthians 11:29, 1 Corinthians 3:7

# THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST: THE AMAZING GIFT FROM GOD TO MAN

As we come to the end of the year, we ask, “*What is the true meaning of Christmas?*”

Paul says in 2 Cor 9:15, “*Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*”

The world celebrates the first advent of Christ in a way that is inconsistent with its meaning. Flashing lights, drinking alcohol, revelry, worldly dances and fun characterize this celebration, but Christmas for believers has a serious and profound meaning. It is a joyful yet sobering time to commemorate the birth of Christ. It is a time to recall and recollect God’s supreme gift to mankind.



***The Son of God became the Son of man,  
so that the sons of man can be the sons of God.***

*- a paraphrase of Calvin's words in his Institutes (ICR 2:12.2) -*

How did the Son of God become man? This mystery is addressed in Question 22 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism. It asks, “How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?”

The answer is:

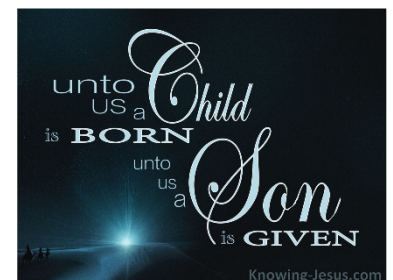
***“Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.”***

It is a free gift of hope, life, joy, peace and salvation.

Luke 2:10, 11 say, “*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*”

Jesus Christ is the only means of reconciliation to God and entrance to heaven (Rom 3:21-28). Christ is the door and the only access to God the Father. John 14:6 says, “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” There is no human solution to the problem of sin but death and condemnation. There will be righteous condemnation for all sinners without the first coming and atoning work of Christ at Calvary. The first Christmas forever changed the destiny of those men who repent and believe, being justified by faith in the life and death of Christ.

Isa 9:6 says, “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*” Christ is the fulfilment of the promised Messiah in the Old Testament for both the Jews and Gentiles. Consider four things about Christ:



1. He is God Himself and He humble Himself to come to earth to dwell among men.
2. He came for a purpose, to reconcile sinners back to God.
3. He fulfilled His objective and died on the cross for the sins of many.

4. Believers have hope and can be saved by believing and accepting Christ alone, repenting of their sins.

There is one heavenly announcement that has eternal consequences for us which we must pay heed to. It is the angel's pronouncement of the first coming of the Saviour of the world, who was born about 4-5 BC. Jesus Christ. We must go beyond the tinsel and the seasonal hype of Christmas to truly appreciate the lasting impact of the Christmas message. Let us seek out the true essence of Christmas and understand the only true reason for the season with the 3Ps of Christmas.

## The Promulgation of the Good News

In Luke 2:8-14, the angels of old announced the first advent of Christ to lowly shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem. From the angle of public relations, humble and lowly shepherds are the least likely target for such significant news outbreak, yet the Lord saw fit not to inform unbelieving kings or religious leaders but to lowly shepherds in the field. None of us are fit to save ourselves nor approach God on our own but God have mercy on us unconditionally and called us unto everlasting life. This is a wonderful news of God's saving grace sovereignly extended to undeserving sinners that if they embrace and believe this message, they will be saved as well.

1 Tim 1:15 says, *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."*



The shepherds' reaction was one of joyful belief, worship and praise. They were told not to be afraid (Luke 2:10) but to rejoice and give thanks for such an unspeakable gift. We are to respond in the same manner with faith, believing in Christ alone as our only Saviour (Rom 10:9, 10). Faith and love in Christ cast out all fear.

## The Person of the Good News

It is important to know and understand the essence and the central figure of Christmas. It is not Santa Claus but Jesus Christ. He is the Anointed one (*Christos*) and He is Lord (*Kurios*). He is the Messiah and the only Redeemer of all mankind, the Great High Priest, who will mediate a sinful race to a thrice-holy God. He is the Great Shepherd of the sheep, the Prophet, Priest and King. Without Christ there is no Christianity, no hope for the redemption of lost sinners condemned to hell. Jesus of Nazareth is no mere mortal, He is the Living and True God and the only Deliverer of his people from their sins. Christ in John 14:6 says, Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. Luke in Acts 4:12 adds, *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*



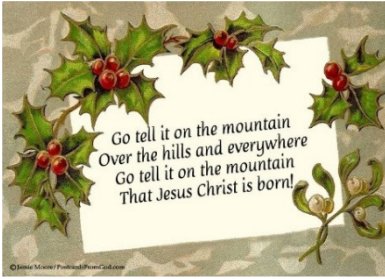
***Without Christ, it is a Hopeless End.  
With Christ, it is an Endless Hope.***

## The Purpose of the Good News

What is the gospel? Luke 2:13-14 describes, *"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on*

*earth peace, good will toward men.*” This is a good example for us to emulate, to go round telling others about Christ in both song and Word for the saving of their souls.

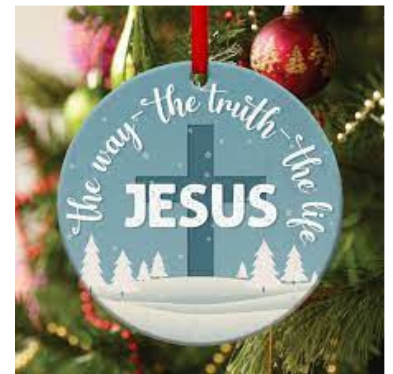
When Samuel Marsden landed on the Bay of Isles in New Zealand in 1815, he preached from this text and brought the good news of salvation. The Christian’s message is one of peace and reconciliation between a sinful generation and a righteous, just and holy God. True peace is not just absence of war but securing of the favour of God, not incurring his righteous wrath. It is a peace with God and the peace of God. Rom 5:8 says, *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*



As depraved sinners, we are all foes of God unless there is a mediator to reconcile them together in peace. Christ alone is our Advocate and Mediator (1 Tim 2:5). Christmas is about making peace with God and men through the perfect life, atoning death and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:1-5). 2 Cor 5:21 says, *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* It is a difficult verse to fully comprehend but what a tremendous message it has for us. As we approach this year-end season for us, do we truly understand and celebrate Christmas in the full appreciation of the Promulgation, Person and Purpose of Christmas. Let us pause and ponder this sober and joyous life-changing message of salvation through Christ alone on Christmas. Come and seek Christ and be saved today. Let us come to Christ while there is yet opportunity and time before it is too late (2 Cor 6:2).

## Conclusion

Do you want peace and hope and life? Jesus Christ, our Lord is the only way to abundant and everlasting life. Born of a virgin Mary (Isa 7:14), He lived a perfect life that He may die a sinless death on the cross for us. Herod the King tried to kill him, but he failed, and the wise men came in search of Him, by watching a star and worshipping Him with gifts from the heart. He is the dream of all that Anna proclaimed in her prayer in Luke 2:11-18. The question is, *“What have you done with the good news of salvation?”* There is no other way but Christ alone (John 14:6).



Are you saved from sin and hell or have you backslided from the Lord this year?

Do you have the joy of salvation and the hope of eternal life?

It can be yours if you repent of your sins and confess Christ as your Lord and Saviour with your heart.

Paul says in 1 Tim 3:16, *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”* He is the true Deliverer of our souls, and He is the Lord that deserves our worship and adoration like the angels of old and the shepherds too. So let us come and seek and worship Him.

***Only Jesus Saves!  
There is no other way.***

*Rev Jack Sin - Sovereign Hope BP Church, Singapore*

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begins with the **Worship Services** at **11.00 am**. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

## NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, we extend a warm welcome to you this Lord's Day. We hope that you have a blessed time of worship with us today.

For those unable to attend Church in person, we are streaming our worship services online. To join our online services or for more information, please call the church manse, or email us at [admin 'at' newlifebpc.org.uk](mailto:admin@newlifebpc.org.uk).

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

**No Children's Sunday School today.**

**After-Service Fellowship** – Join us for Christmas lunch after the morning worship service.

## MEMORY VERSE

### Last Week

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

### This Week

*“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”*

**Matthew 1:21**

## Pre-cautions for Worship Services held at the church premises:

Dear all,

While the legal Covid restrictions having been lifted, we will continue to observe the following precautions:

- We continue to urge those who feel unwell (especially with Covid symptoms) to stay home and join us at our online services.
- Please place your offerings in the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- During worship services, please continue to sit with your own households.
- While not required, the use of face covering is voluntary. Please bring your own face covering.

To join our online services or for more information, please visit the church website ([www.newlifebpc.org.uk](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim  
Task Force Members