



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. 28 Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Day Service – 11am

Welcome

Jonathan Kim

1st Carol *

RHC 141 – *"That Beautiful Name"*

Stanzas 1, 2 & 4

Opening Prayer *

Jonathan Kim

1st Scriptural Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

2nd Carol *

RHC 154 – *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"*

Stanzas 1, 3 & 4

2nd Scriptural Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah 9:6-7

Micah 5:2-4

Luke 1:26-38

3rd Carol *

RHC 151 – *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Stanzas 1, 2, 3 & 5

3rd Scriptural Reading

Luke 2:1-14

4th Carol *

RHC 164 – *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

4th Scriptural Reading

Luke 2:15-20

5th Carol *

RHC 147 – *"Away in a Manger"*

Christmas Day Message

Luke 2:1-20

Scriptural Text

Christmas Day Message

The Good News – Rev Lim Chee Boon

Closing Carol *

RHC 157 – *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Rev Lim Chee Boon

**** Congregation Stands***

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH, LONDON

Welcome to our Christmas service. Please do stay back and join us for our Christmas lunch.

A special thanks to the brethren who had helped to contribute to today's lunch.

The church would like to wish you and your family a **Blessed Christmas**.

1st Scriptural Reading – Introduction of the Good News – Isaiah 52:7-10

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

8 Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.

9 Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

10 The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

2nd Scriptural Reading – The Prophecy in the Old Testament and New Testament – Isaiah 40:1-11, Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2-4 and Luke 1:26-38

Isaiah 40:1-11

1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 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.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Micah 5:2-4

2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

3 Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

Luke 1:26-38

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

3rd Scriptural Reading (part of Scriptural Text) – The Fulfilment of the Good News – Part 1 – Luke 2:1-14

- 1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.
- 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
- 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
- 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
- 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
- 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
- 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
- 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
- 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
- 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
- 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

4th Scriptural Reading (part of Scriptural Text) – The Fulfilment of the Good News – Part 2 – Luke 2:15-20

- 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.
- 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
- 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
- 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
- 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
- 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Dear brethren, this year's Christmas article entitled "Christ-Centered Christmas" written by Rev Matthew Abrahams was originally featured in Lively Hope, the bulletin of Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church, Australia. We trust this article will be edifying to you and help deepen your appreciation of the meaning of Christmas.

Christ-Centered Christmas

Christmas—it's a time for celebration. Christmas is so many things to so many people. It's a time for family and friends. It's a time for shopping and also giving of gifts. But what is Christmas to you this morning? Just like the world, which is oblivious to the real meaning of Christmas, many Christians have forgotten Christ in their Christmas celebrations. Christ is the reason for this season and all Christmas celebrations ought to be Christ centered.

We will have a Christ-centered Christmas when we understand the message of eternal love and unconditional acceptance. God so loves us that he gave Jesus to save us is the simple message of Christmas. The Bible says we love God because He first loved us. Deuteronomy 7 tells us: "The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: but because the Lord loved you . . ." (v. 7-8). If you are not a Christian, I pray that this Christmas you will know Jesus and His greatest gift of eternal life.

We will have a Christ-centered Christmas when we realize it is not just the unsaved who need Jesus, but we Christians too need Jesus every day of our lives. Jesus Christ is God's answer to the growing outcry, emotional hurt, oppression, injustice, and sense of lostness. We need the message of Christmas and the reassurance and hope it brings. The teenager who is rebelling needs Jesus and we know there is hope and forgiveness to those who return. The family that lost a child or someone who has lost a spouse needs to know life is still worth living because of Jesus. The affluent and the self-satisfied who think he or she has all things needs Jesus, for money cannot buy peace, joy, and love. Only God can satisfy the cries of your heart. I am not sure of your disappointment or needs; but one thing we can be sure of this Christmas, Jesus Christ is God's answer to our disappointment and cry of the heart. This Christmas, I pray you will determine in your heart to lean on Him and trust Him more and more with each passing day.

We will have a Christ-centered Christmas when we see our need fulfilled in Christ. His grace is always sufficient for every trial we face in life. I read a helpful definition describing the life of a Christian. A Christian is one who is completely fearless, continually cheerful, and constantly in trouble. As I look back to the year

2020, I have my trials, wounds and sorrows and I don't understand His plans for me. Thankfully God's grace was sufficient for my family and me and the Lord taught me to trust in Him and His all sufficient grace. Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Cor 7:4 "I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation". He does not promise to take the problem away, but He says He will take us through it. He will strengthen us to face it and will give us courage and peace and joy in the midst of it. That joy must be present in us this Christmas.

We will have a Christ-centered Christmas when we look beyond the manger and look to the cross which also held the Son of God. Many Christians today remember the baby Jesus, but they forget Christ's tender call to come and follow Him. God is not looking at an elaborate gift or an expensive gift, but He is looking for a heart that is surrendered to His will. Have you surrendered all to Christ? Give Him obedience and set yourselves apart to serve Him. Such a gift that expresses sincere love is priceless. Your gift may be small but will be loved by the Lord if it is given in the right spirit. This Christmas I pray you will also give your very best for Christ and His work which is obedience.

May the joy of our Savior's birth and what He has done for us draw us even closer to God to love Him and obey His Word. May the Holy Spirit empower us to magnify the Lord in worship and adoration with the "... multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:13b -14). Christmas is centred on the Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world.

Right now, you can find the real meaning of Christmas -- Christ within! Then fear will be a distant stranger, and faith your persistent friend and the guiding factor in your life. Come to Him wholeheartedly and experience the true Joy that Jesus give this Christmas.

Wishing you all a joyous and Christ filled Christmas.