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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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Lessons from Them who Celebrated Christmas Aright

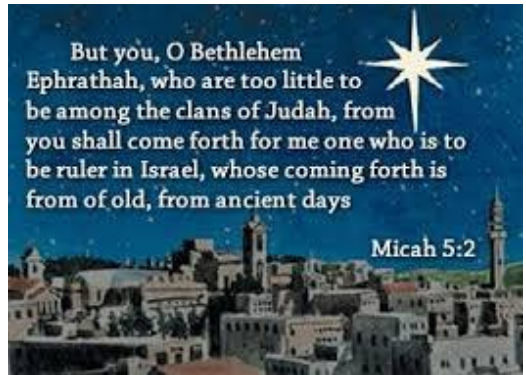
We are coming to the end year season and as we meditate on the theme of the glorious birth of Christ during this Christmas from the book of Luke 2, we note that the following 3 salient points, namely the 3Fs.

1. Fulfillment of Prophecy vs 1-7

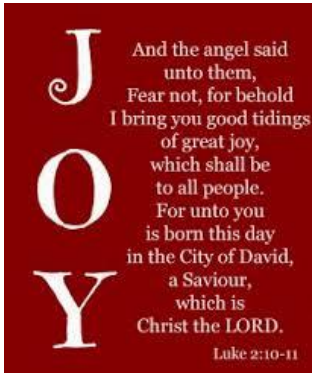
It is amazing how the holy family ended up in Bethlehem for nothing happens by chance. The census and tax required by the Emperor

Augustus brought the holy family back to Bethlehem (vs 4), fulfilling

Micah 's prophecy in Mic 5:2 given about 500 BC. Nothing happened by chance be but by the sovereign will of God One third of the bible is in a prophetic context and every biblical prophecy is or will be fulfilled, including the second coming of Christ which is yet to be.



2. Fear Overcome by the Shepherds vs 8-24



The angels appeared not to the religious or political elite but to a group of humble shepherds in the field by night. The first words that were spoken by the angels were “Fear Not” (vs 10). We are living often in a world of phobias and morbid fear especially in these 11 months of the global pandemic, with 1.5 million deaths and about 70 million infected. But the coming of Christ is the victory over fear for all who seek and worship Him. Are

you still cringing in fear? There are so many phobias in the world that man is much terrorised or obsessed with. But you need not fear death when there is hope and comfort in the Saviour of the world born in Bethlehem.

Come and seek Him and trust in Him as your Saviour and God, as the wise men of old did. Perfect love from God casts out all fear.

3. Faith Honoured in 2 Persons vs 25-40

There are many who got it wrong during this Christmas season, especially King Herod and the Pharisees and we pray that it will not happened to us. There are at least two people who got it right during the first Christmas season. Two senior persons, Simeon and Anna were noted by our Lord in holy scriptures as they waited patiently for the consolation of Israel and were rewarded with the privilege of seeing Christ in his infancy (about 5 weeks old) at the temple. True faith will be tested and will pass the test and be honoured by God. Learn to wait upon the Lord patiently and obey His holy will. Be the godly people that remember and honour Christ in these last perilous days In the right manner in holy worship and adoration.

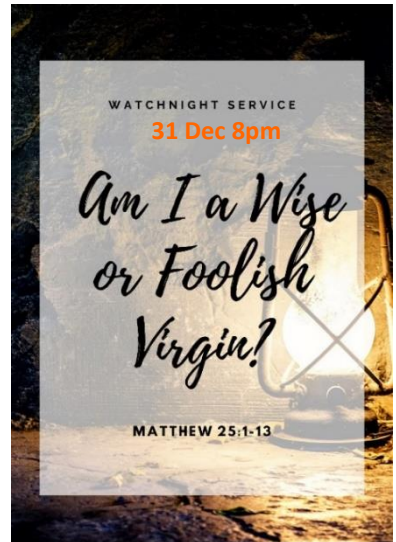
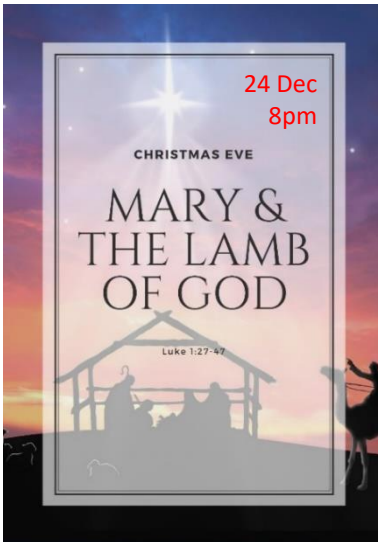


Conclusion

We will remember the glorious Incarnation of Christ in our special baptismal church service at 8 pm on 24 December in a few days' time with 2 baptisms and the preaching of the word by Rev Philip Heng, along with a special testimony by a dear Brother, Prof Tan BK. Pray and invite a friend to hear the Word of everlasting life on the first Advent of the Lord, peradventure they may be saved. The Word of God has rich practical and relevant insights for our lives even in the midst of this despairing health crisis and we do well to know them, be affected and to keep them dearly in our hearts.

Jack Sin

Come & Join Us!



“Make me a little cake...first..”

Did you know that the heading for this article comes from the Bible? And it comes from a time where there was a widow who was in great need, living with her son, in a place called Zarephath, where there was also a famine. We do not know her name, but she was very poor, as widows often were, then. There were no government pensions for widows. Things were so bad that food had almost run out and she and her son were facing starvation. And, right at this extremity – a guest arrived!



It was Elijah, a prophet – who had seen her as he entered the city. She was gathering sticks to make a fire to cook what she thought would be their last meal. He asked her for a drink and something to eat.

She hesitated – she had a kind heart and was hospitable, but she was at an end. There was only a little flour and oil left for her son and herself. She explained the situation to Elijah. He encouraged her not to worry, but to go and cook. “Make me a little cake... first”, he requested, “then use the rest for your son and yourself”. He promised her that the Lord would look after her until the famine in the land was over.

What a difficult option! Many would be cynical and say – well, why is there a famine anyway? If God is so helpful, how come we are in this situation? She could have claimed that her first priority was to her own family. Charity begins at home, they say!

But she didn't. She did as Elijah requested and as a result, the Lord ensured that she always had plenty of flour and oil until the famine was over. You can read the story in the Bible at 1 Kings 17: 8 – 16.

ME FIRST

We live in a 'me first' kind of society – and this attitude is encouraged wherever we look – in advertisements, on the television – seemingly everywhere! As a result, we see multiplied many examples of young and old out for number one! Then, as time goes on, we can become concerned more and more – is my super enough for when we retire? Will we ever pay off the mortgage? The credit card bills get larger and larger. Maybe a rich uncle will leave us a lot of money.

But Jesus warned His followers about problems and concerns in life. He said, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you". (Matthew 6: 33)

In our sinful, self-absorbed state, many times we are not able to look beyond our needs and circumstances. But, it is as though God speaks to us like Elijah spoke to the woman. "Make Me a little cake... first". Because of our sin, we are separated from God. He has sent His Son, the

Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and to pay the penalty for the sins of all who repent and put their trust in Him as Lord and Saviour (John 3:16). The remedy for our lives is **first** – look to the Lord – come to Him first and be reconciled to Him! Then He will take care of you in more ways than you could ever imagine!



*Rev Denis Shelton
Presbyterian Reformed Church, Sydney*

Memory Verse

Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found,
call ye upon him while he is near:

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Rev Jack Sin speaks today on “**The Foundation for Contentment**” (**Isa 55: 1-13**).
3. Rev Philip Heng speaks at our Christmas Baptismal Service on Thursday, 24 December at 8pm on “**Mary & the Lamb of God**” (Luke 1:27-47).
4. Rev Jack Sin speaks next Sunday on “**Reforms through the Hand of God**” (Isa 59: 1-21).
5. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - “Rules for Walking in Fellowship by John Owen” – Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Leviticus – Dr Kwong Leen
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have commenced a new series of studies and discussions on History of the Church. Do join us!
7. Pastor & Kin Kheng will be ministering via Zoom at New Covenant BPCI, Bangalore’s Family Retreat & Children’s program respectively on 21 & 22 Dec.
8. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom.
9. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
10. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to Pastor for the weekly.
11. Pastor is still available for counselling via WhatsApp, Email or Mobile.
12. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
