



# Welcome to Bethel

Independent-Presbyterian Church



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

13<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR OF MINISTRY**

This month's theme:

**SUCH GREAT FAITH**

**"ADD TO YOUR FAITH"**

*"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge"*

2 Peter 1:5

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# BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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## THIS SUNDAY

### **“ADD TO YOUR FAITH”**

*“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence,  
add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge”*

2 Peter 1:5

1. Every reason to grow our faith
  - a. We have a precious faith!
  - b. It is the same kind of faith that the Apostles possessed!
2. Practical steps to grow our faith
  - a. What it takes to grow our faith
    - i. We need to give all diligence to grow in our faith well!
    - ii. We are to diligently “Add” to our faith

b. Add to your faith virtue

- i. We are called as Christians to live a virtuous life that reflects our faith in the Lord Jesus!
- ii. Christian virtues must be cultivated and practiced

c. Add to virtue knowledge

- i. We must continue to grow in our knowledge of God!
- ii. Faith will not progress very far without the discipline of growing in our knowledge of God!

## NEXT SUNDAY

### **“WORK OF FAITH”**

*“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father”*

1 Thessalonians 1:3

# MEDITATION

## THE OFFER OF PARADISE

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Text: Matthew 27; Luke 23;  
John 19

Rev. Charles Tan

### **TWO CRIMINALS CRUCIFIED**

Rome ruled with an iron fist. It would not tolerate criminal activities. Crucifixion was the means chosen to expose criminals to humiliation and pain.

*<sup>39</sup> Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."*

*<sup>40</sup> But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"*

*<sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."*

*<sup>42</sup> Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."*

*<sup>43</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

Luke 23: 39-43

1. One of the criminals blasphemed the Lord Jesus

a) He mocked the Lord Jesus

b) He challenged the Lord to save Himself and extend help

2. The other criminal responded differently

a) He rebuked his friend

b) He asked the Lord to remember him

3. The Lord's word to him

That he would be with Him in paradise! What amazing grace and love!

*Write to me at: [charlestan@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:charlestan@bethanyipc.sg)*



# PASTORAL LETTER

Text: John 12:1-8

*Dear Brethren,*

## **A DEEPLY MOVING STORY OF LOVE FOR THE LORD JESUS**

John recorded one of the most moving expressions of love for the Lord Jesus. This came from a quiet and meek disciple named Mary.

<sup>1</sup> Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. <sup>4</sup> But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

<sup>7</sup> But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial." <sup>8</sup> For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

John 12:1 – 8

### 1. Lazarus, Martha and Mary of Bethany

a. This was a family in the little town of Bethany loved by the Lord Jesus (John 11:5)

b. They hosted a supper for the Lord and His disciples

- c. They wanted to express their gratitude to the Lord for raising Lazarus from the dead
2. Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard
- a. The value of this spikenard would be at least a year's salary of a common labourer
  - b. She poured it out to anoint the feet of the Lord Jesus and wiped it with her hair!
  - c. Not everyone understood Mary's heart, Judas criticized her for it
  - d. The Lord Jesus understood her heart and lovingly defended her
3. Understanding Mary's gift to the Lord Jesus
- a. Mary adored the Lord Jesus as her Teacher, she would sit at His feet to listen to Him (Cf. Luke 10:39)
  - b. She loved the Lord Jesus deeply and had prepared this for His death
  - c. This was her last act of love for the Lord before His death! No cost was too great!

Let us prepare our hearts to celebrate Easter this week with a heart of love for the Lord too!

*Write to me at: [christopherlai@bethelipc.com.au](mailto:christopherlai@bethelipc.com.au)*

## *Abundance of Grace*

*Inspiration: Romans 5:12-17*

The sin of Adam brought devastation;  
But the Son of God brought redemption.  
Through the Lord Jesus we have abundant grace;  
Our challenge is to seek His glorious face!

Through grace we will have God's forgiveness;  
Through grace we will be given His righteousness.  
How abundant is the grace of God so freely given;  
We must not allow sin to spread like leaven.

God's abundance is freely promised to all;  
Our part is to respond to God's gracious call.  
He will cleanse us from all our sins in His grace;  
May we return to God and offer hymns of praise!

God's abundant grace must not be taken for granted;  
The Lord Jesus as our Saviour ought to be treasured.  
Let us draw near to our wonderful Saviour with love in our heart;  
From the proclamation of "Hosanna," may we never depart!

Charles Tan



# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## WELCOME TO BETHEL

We are glad you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. May you be encouraged through worship and fellowship!

## MINISTRY TODAY

1. No BRC and Catechism Class today.
2. The time will be given to the Church Choir to practice for Easter Sunday.

## SPECIAL SENIORS PROGRAM

There will be **no** SSP this week.

## YOUTH CAMP 2025

Dates: 13 – 17 April 2025

Theme: Progress and Joy of faith

1. We have a total of 36 sign-ups for Youth Camp!
2. We commenced Youth Camp this afternoon!
  - a. Opening Session                      5:00 pm
  - b. Dinner                                      6:30 pm
  - c. Evening devotion                      7:45 pm

3. Let us uphold Youth Camp this week in prayer!
  - a. May the Word of God speak to all campers!
  - b. May the Spirit of God work in the hearts of the campers!
  - c. May the grace of God be given to all serving!
4. Support given
  - a. Thank God for all who have given towards Youth Camp!
  - b. Your support goes a long way!

## BETHEL IPC FAMILY CAMP 2025

Dates: 7 – 11 July 2025

Theme: "Children of God" 1 John 3:2

1. We currently have 72 signed-up for Family Camp in July!
2. Let us continue to encourage each other to come and be blessed by the Family Camp ministry!
3. Plan to register as soon as possible so we can secure the accommodations

Please sign up for camp using this QR code:



## CELEBRATING EASTER

Let us look forward to celebrating Easter meaningfully this week!

### 1. Maundy Thursday Service (Holy Communion)

Date: 17 April 2025

Time: 8:00pm

Children are welcome! There will be a children's program running concurrently.

### 2. Easter Sunday Service

Date: 20 April 2025

Time: 10:30am (Pre-worship 10:15am)

Please sign-up for Easter Service and Lunch by this afternoon. The Kitchen team will need the final numbers to cater for Easter Lunch.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHIE AND TAMARA

Our heartfelt congratulations to Richie and Tamara in getting married on Saturday! May the Lord bless their marriage together!

## FELLOWSHIP MEAL

1. Breakfast and lunch are given by Moses and Daphne.

*"<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*

Ephesians 4:4-6



# *Such Great Faith*

**MARCH - APRIL THEME**



# Order Of Worship

13<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - 10:30AM

PRE-WORSHIP

SONG OF FAITH

Return To God

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP      Mrs. Trevin Choo &  
Ms. Banksiae Choo

INVOCATION

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Song 1      My Heart is Filled With  
Thankfulness

Song 2      'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus  
(HWC 350)

Song 3      He Keeps Me Singing  
(HWC 488)

## MEMORY VERSE

### **“ADD TO YOUR FAITH”**

*“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence,  
add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge”*

2 Peter 1:5

## MESSAGE

Speaker: Rev. Christopher Lai

Text: Matthew 14:22-33

Title: “O you of little faith, why did you  
doubt?”

## CLOSING HYMN

Open My Eyes, That I May See (HWC 381)

## BENEDICTION

## OFFERING

## POSTLUDE

# Thoughts From God's Word

13<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Text: Matthew 14:22-33

Title: "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

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# BETHEL MINISTRIES

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## WEEKEND

Ministry	Day	Time	Venue
Sunday School	Sunday	8:30am - 9:30am	Sanctuary
Junior Sunday School (6-12yrs)	Sunday	8:30am - 9:30am	Upstairs
Worship Service	Sunday	10:30am - 11:30am	Sanctuary
Beginner Worship	Sunday	10:30am - 11:30am	Upstairs
Junior Worship	Sunday	10:30am - 11:30am	Music Room
Bible Reading Club	In Recess	1:00pm - 1:30pm	Sanctuary
Catechism Class	In Recess	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Upstairs
Youth Worship	In Recess	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Music Room

## WEEKDAYS

Ministry	Day	Time	Venue
Special Seniors Program	In Recess	9:30am - 11:30am	Fellowship Hall



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**Theme: “Such Great Faith” Matthew 8:10**

**13 April 2025**

Text: Matthew 14:22-33

Title: “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The development of faith in the Lord Jesus
  - a. Knowledge
  - b. Understanding
  - c. Application
2. The exercising of faith
  - a. In all circumstances
  - b. In every challenge

**THE PROBLEM OF LITTLE FAITH**

*<sup>28</sup> “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; <sup>29</sup> and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”*

Matthew 6:28 – 30

*But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”*

*Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.*

Matthew 8:26

*And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”*

Matthew 14:31

1. An old problem
2. A prevalent problem
3. The problem of little faith is manifested in the following:
  - a. Worries
  - b. Fearfulness
  - c. Doubts

## THE PROBLEM OF LITTLE FAITH RESURFACING AGAIN!

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. <sup>23</sup> And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. <sup>24</sup> But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

<sup>25</sup> Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup> And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

<sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

### 1. Context

- a. This was just after the feeding of 5000 (Matthew 14:15 – 21)
- b. The Lord Jesus sent His disciples on a boat to the other side
- c. He withdrew to the mountains to pray

### 2. Caught in a storm

- a. The boat was in the middle of the sea
- b. They were caught in a storm
- c. There were strong winds and the boat was tossed by the waves

### 3. The Lord Jesus walking towards them on the sea!

- a. This was late into the night
- b. It was the fourth watch (3 am to 6 am)
- c. They saw the Lord Jesus and were troubled

### 4. The problem of fear

- a. The disciples thought the Lord Jesus was a ghost!
- b. They were afraid of ghosts!
- c. The problem of fear overwhelmed their heart and minds!

## THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE LORD JESUS

*But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."*  
Matthew 14:27

1. To be of good cheer (To have courage)
2. To know that it is the Lord Jesus “It is I”

His Person and Presence must dispel their fear!

3. To not be afraid

#### THE RESPONSE OF PETER

<sup>28</sup> *And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”*

<sup>29</sup> *So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*

Matthew 14:28 – 29

1. He said to the Lord “If it is You, command me to come to You on the water”
2. The Lord Jesus replied “Come”
3. Peter got out of the boat and walked on water towards the Lord Jesus!

#### ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF LITTLE FAITH

<sup>30</sup> *But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”*

<sup>31</sup> *And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”*

Matthew 14:30 – 31

1. Peter saw the boisterous winds and was afraid!
2. When fear took over he began to sink!
3. He cried out to the Lord to save him
4. The Lord reached out and caught him
5. Addressing Peter’s faith directly

*“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”*

- a. While he believed in the Lord’s word he experienced the power of God to enable him to walk on water!
- b. But his “little faith” dissipated when fear took over!
- c. He allowed doubt to get the better of him and stumbled!

## THE MIGHTY PRESENCE OF THE LORD JESUS

<sup>32</sup> *And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*

<sup>33</sup> *Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”*

Matthew 14:32 – 33

1. The wind ceased when the Lord Jesus got into the boat
2. The disciples saw this and worshipped Him
3. They declared that the Lord Jesus is truly the Son of God!

## AN INSIGHT OF WHY THE DISCIPLES’ FAITH HAVE NOT DEVELOPED

*For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.*

Mark 6:52

<sup>17</sup> *But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?”* <sup>18</sup> *Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?”* <sup>19</sup> *When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?”*

*They said to Him, “Twelve.”*

<sup>20</sup> *“Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?”*

*And they said, “Seven.”*

<sup>21</sup> *So He said to them, “How is it you do not understand?”*

Mark 8:20 – 21

1. A lack of understanding
2. A hardened heart

## GREAT CHALLENGES

1. To seek understanding
2. To not allow our hearts to be hardened
3. To be receptive and responsive to the word of the Lord taught
4. To apply God’s word with faith in our hearts!