

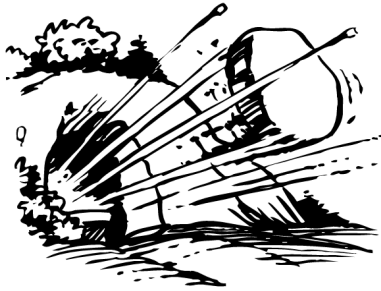
GETHSEMANE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Not my will, but Thine, be done" – Luke 22:42

WORD ON WORSHIP

We worship on the first day of the week after the tradition of early Christians (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2). The first day of the week was also known as "the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10). "The Lord's day" means the day pertaining to the Lord. It was the day of Christ's resurrection (Matthew 28:1-6; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1), and it was also the day the risen Christ appeared to His disciples as they gathered together (John 20:19). Obviously, those reasons have led Christians to meet for worship on the first day of the week. The writings of the early church fathers also bear witness to those facts. So, let us also according to this biblical tradition, rejoice and worship the Lord.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

*Hymn 213: Welcome, Happy Morning!

*Invocation & Gloria Patri

*Scripture Reading in Unison

Psalm 46

Hymn 206: Christ Arose

*Pastoral Prayer

Hymn 211: Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Sermon

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

"Benefits of Christ's Resurrection"

Selected Scripture Verses

*Hymn 205: Thine Is the Glory

*Benediction & Threefold Amen

**Congregation Standing*



12 April 2020

Christ's Resurrection and Ours

Prabhudas Koshy

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 declares, “²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. ²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.”

Among the many wonderful benefits of Christ's resurrection, one timely benefit for us to remember in these days of disease and death is that His resurrection is a sure pledge and guarantee concerning our own resurrection. This passage above reveals to us various truths about this assurance that the risen Christ provides to all His people.

Firstly, it is said concerning Christ who is risen from the dead, that He is “the firstfruits of them that slept” (v. 20, cf. v. 23). Paul's usage of this agricultural metaphor in the said text was meant to affirm the believers of

their own bodily resurrection. Now, before the ancient Israelites began the full harvest of their crops, they were to bring the first crops that farmers had gathered – called the firstfruits – to the priests as an offering to the LORD (Lev. 23:10). The significance of the firstfruits was that they not only preceded the harvest, but were also a pledge of the harvest. Thus, the firstfruits served as a foretaste and an assurance of the full harvest to come. When Christ rose from the dead, He became “the firstfruits” of all who die in the Lord concerning their bodily resurrection. By pointing to Jesus' resurrection as “the firstfruits”, Paul was affirming that like Him, all believers who die will also rise from their graves. The believers' resurrection will be of the same kind as our Lord's. That is to say, the fact of the bodily resurrection of Christ, the “firstfruits”, also guarantees the believers' bodily resurrections in the final harvest of their resurrection. Like Jesus, believers will rise

with a glorified body. Like Jesus, they will live in their resurrected bodies eternally.

While affirming that believers have the assurance of their own resurrection in Christ's resurrection, Paul also said that "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (v. 22). Though Adam, the first man, brought death upon this earth through his disobedience, through Jesus who became a man and died, we have the blessed hope of resurrection. Jesus' humanity was inextricably linked to His resurrection as well as ours. It was because Jesus died, was buried, and was raised as a man, that He could become the firstfruits of all His people who would be raised to glory.

John Calvin wrote, "As ... Adam did not die for himself alone, but for us all, it follows, that Christ in like manner, who is the antitype, did not rise for himself alone; for he came, that he might restore everything that had been ruined in Adam." Redemption involves the rescue and renewal of our souls, as well as our bodies. Our hope for eternity is anchored on our Redeemer's resurrection. Our hope of a blessed, celestial life begins with His resurrection and consummates, at His coming, with the resurrection of all who died in Christ.

Because Christ's resurrection is firmly connected to His people's resurrection, we must not think of Christ's resurrection in isolation from ours. As we remember that our Lord has arisen from His grave, let us rejoice that His resurrection also promises our own bodily resurrection and our eternal dwelling in heaven with our great Redeemer-King.

Upon our death, our bodies dissolve in the grave and return to dust, but our souls shall be with Christ in heaven. The apostle Paul speaks of this in 2 Corinthians 5:8 – "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." When Jesus returns and calls our bodies out of the graves, our souls will be united with our glorified physical bodies, and we shall be with the Lord forever! 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 affirms this glorious truth: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (cf. Dan. 12:1-2; Rev. 21:1-4).

COLLECTIONS

LORD'S DAY on 5th April 2020

Tithes: 5,958.00

Offerings: 11,517.00

Designated Gifts: General
Missions 20.00; GBPC-Bohol 120.00

Non-Sunday Collections

(30th March–4th April 2020)

General Fund: 470.00; 460.00;
385.00; 300.00; 250.00; 100.00;
80.00; 30.00; 30.00; 10.00

FOR TITHES & OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Send in your gifts to Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church via bank transfer (DBS Current Account 025-011173-7), or you may scan the QR code below to transfer via Paylah! or PayNow.



OUR ONLINE RESOURCES

In this period where our regular church meetings are curtailed, we hope that our online resources will continue to be a source of encouragement and edification for you.

- For Christian literature, please visit biblewitness.com/magazine to find past issues of our BW Magazine.
- For 24/7 fundamental Christian music, please visit our Bible Witness Web Radio at biblewitness.com/webradio/radio-player/
- For our sermons, you may visit our church's YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/gethsemane or gbi-online.com
- Finally, you may also follow our church's Facebook page at facebook.com/Gethsemane_BPChurch/ to stay updated with any urgent announcements from our church leaders.

Please pray for our BWMM staff as they labour to maintain all these services and resources.

Prayer Hotline:
8138 8139
*SMS or WhatsApp
your prayer item*

Our Office:
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Our Session:
Pastor Prabhudas Koshy
Elder Mah Chin Kwang
Elder Alan Choy
Elder Ng Poh Kok
Elder Francis Lee
Deacon Daniel Lim
Deacon Lok Kwok Wah
Deacon Kelvin Lim
Deacon Low Boon Siang

FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

Due to the current Covid-19 situation and all the measures implemented by the government, our face-to-face fellowship meetings have to be suspended. Nonetheless, the Board of Elders has decided to hold virtual meetings via different apps and software. The information for each meeting will be provided via the respective fellowship groups' Whatsapp chats.