

GETHSEMANE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

11.00AM

13 DECEMBER 2020

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 41

WORD ON WORSHIP

Worship is a sacred activity of all those who are truly born-again. It ought to be participated in with reverence to God and with holiness. Scripture exhorts us, “O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth” (Psalm 96:9).

SCRIPTURE MEMORISATION

Emmanuel
Matthew 1:23

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Pr Kelvin Lim

*Hymn 34: Crown Him with Many Crowns

*Invocation & Gloria Patri

*Scripture Reading in Unison

Luke 2:1-18

Hymn 348: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Announcements

Hymn 246: Open My Eyes, That I May See

Scripture Memorisation

*Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

“Bethlehem—I”

Micah 5:2

*Hymn 166: Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn

*Benediction & Threefold Amen

** Congregation Standing*



LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

TODAY, 13 DECEMBER 2020

NEXT LORD'S DAY, 20 DECEMBER 2020

8.30am	Worship Leader: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Preacher: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Ushers/Greeters: Timotheus Liu, Benny Skariah, Chan Tuck Whye, Lee Kim Lei	Worship Leader: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Preacher: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Ushers/Greeters: Lijoy George, Amoz Choy, Ricky Yang, Samuel Yong
9.00am	Chinese Worship Service is held at Gethsemane Media Centre, 33 Ubi Crescent. (Preacher: Pr Daniel Lim)	
11.00am	Worship Leader: Pr Kelvin Lim Preacher: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Ushers/Greeters: Ng Kwan Teng, Randy Laurencio, Sean Lee, Mah Lean Choo	Worship Leader: Elder Mah Chin Kwang Preacher: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Ushers/Greeters: Marcus Chui, Jordy Kay, Edward Wong, Eunice Wong
2.00pm	Worship Leader: Elder Ng Poh Kok Preacher: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Ushers/Greeters: Jordy Kay, David Cho, Dn Low Boon Siang, Theodore Wang	Worship Leader: Elder Francis Lee Preacher: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Ushers/Greeters: Julius Del Rosario, Gerry Lee, Hendrick Foo, Andy Lee
6.00pm (Evening Teaching Service @ GMC)	Worship Leader: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Preacher: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Ushers/Greeters: Juffrey Balicao, Samuel Yong	Worship Leader: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Preacher: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy Ushers/Greeters: Dn Lok Kwok Wah, Cornelius Koshy

Duty Roster

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES/ROSTERS (JANUARY TO JUNE 2021)

Leaders of all fellowship groups are kindly asked to submit your programme/roster for January to June 2021 to Bro. Norefel at norefel.gbwl@gmail.com for consolidation and Sunday's bulletin announcement purposes. Please do so by tomorrow.

To facilitate the collation and announcement of information, please include the following information in your schedule: (i) the preacher, (ii) the topic, and (iii) the name of the chairperson.

2021 BIBLE WITNESS CALENDARS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Bible Witness Media Ministry is giving a set of 2021 Desk and Wall Calendars to each family worshipping in Gethsemane (one set per family). For additional sets of these calendars, the special price is \$10 per set. If you would like to purchase only the desk calendar, limited quantities are available. The prices are as follows:

- 1 to 9 pieces: \$8 each
- 10 pieces and above: \$7 each

You may also place your order via this link: bit.ly/2021-bwcalendar. This link can be shared with your friends who are interested to purchase.

13 December 2020

An Ungodly Pursuit: Full-Time Workers of the Church Engaging in Secular Work/Business

Prabhudas Koshy

Every Christian, who publicly testifies of the calling he has received from the LORD to enter into the full-time service of the church, has a holy obligation to be unwaveringly and wholly committed to the works that the Lord will give to him in the church. His desire to serve the Lord in the church must be all-pervasive; and nothing should be allowed to interfere with his obligations in the work of the church.

The apostle Paul's words to Timothy, who received the Lord's calling, are emphatic concerning the undivided attention he ought to give to do the Lord's work: "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (2 Timothy 2:3-4).

A full-time church worker, whom God has called into His glorious work, has the solemn duty to be loyal, dedicated like a soldier. Firstly, he must endure all kinds of hardships which he would encounter in the service of the Lord, that he may faithfully and efficiently carry out God's

work. He must be prepared to endure long hours of work (even deprivation of sleep), challenging conditions, rough treatment, loneliness, hunger, thirst, etc. If he is single-minded in his employment in the church to accomplish the maximum for the Lord's kingdom, he will be enabled to be an overcomer of all his afflictions. Then he will be able to serve the Lord undeterred by his trials.

Secondly, the full-time church worker's soldier-like attitude would mean that his devotion to his God-given areas of service would be full and total. A soldier in active service is totally dedicated to his nation's army 24 hours a day, every day of the year. His health, his skills, his time are pledged to the military in which he serves. His life – all that he is – no longer accepts other pursuits of life as he has yielded himself wholly for the service of his nation's army. A soldier can be recalled to duty from leave at any time, without notice and for any reason. His allegiance and his dedication are so complete that he is expected to put his very life on the line without question or hesitation!

Albert Barnes, a commentator, while commenting on Paul's statement that "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life", wrote as follows:

"This is always a condition in becoming a soldier. He gives up his own business during the time for which he is enlisted and devotes himself to the service of his country. The farmer leaves his plough, and the mechanic his shop, and the merchant his store, and the student his books, and the lawyer his files, and the doctor his clinic; and neither of them expect to pursue these things while engaged in the service of their country. It would be wholly impracticable to carry on the plans of a campaign if each one of these classes should undertake to pursue his profession. So with the ministers of the gospel. It is equally improper for them to 'entangle' themselves with the secular business, with plans of speculation and gain, and with any purpose of worldly aggrandizement. The minister of the gospel accomplishes the design of his appointment only when he can say in sincerity, that he is not entangled with the affairs of this life."

Every good soldier of Jesus Christ will abandon all forms of secular commitments that will distract and impede his undivided attention in fulfilling his duties. Hence, a church worker should not take on anything that will distract him from his total devotion to the Lord's calling. He must reject

all matters that are irrelevant to the Christian ministry. Extraneous undertakings would divert his attention and diminish his contribution to the work of the LORD. He who allows himself to be entangled with secular pursuits is unworthy to be a soldier of the Lord's kingdom. He who claims to be called to full-time service should not allow anything to hinder his usefulness and achievements in the work of the Lord. A faithful servant of the Lord will be sincere and fervent in the Lord's work. He will not merely do his minimum duty for his Lord, but rather serves Him with all that he is and with everything that he has.

When Jesus called His apostles, they left their secular professions ultimately to pursue the Lord's calling. In Matthew 4:18–22, we read of their total abandonment of their earthly career: "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him" (cf. Matt 9:9; Mk 1:16–20; 2:14; Lk 5:27–28).

Pursuing secular employment, business or projects, trying to earn more money, will impede the church

worker's focus on the Lord's work. Christ warned His apostles against such conduct. He said, "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Luke 16:13). A church worker who is entangled in the pursuit of material gain is indeed in an unholy alliance. If he does not repent from his material pursuit immediately and turn to serve the Lord wholeheartedly, his departure from the work of the Lord is inevitable!

Church workers who openly or secretly pursue material gain will fail to give their very best to the Lord. Worse still, they will be bad examples of faith and commitment, and be unreliable and unsteady people in the work of the Lord. Their fellow workers cannot count on them when their presence and help are most needed. Neither will they be responsible and reliable co-workers. The apostle Paul wrote about a man named Demas who once co-laboured with him but eventually abandoned him – "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world..." (2 Timothy 4:10). Sad to say, many churches and servants of God have been troubled by pastors, preachers and church workers who became distracted from the purpose of the full-time service when they began to pursue financially profitable business and enterprises!

Why would a man, who claims to have the calling and assurance from the Lord to serve Him full-time, turn again

to the secular world and engage in business with it? No matter how difficult life may be, he who is called to the Lord's work must press on with faith, patience and prayer!

Let everyone who has already entered the full-time service, and anyone who desires to enter the ministry consider the words of the Lord Jesus in Luke 9:62, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Let all the workers of the church take heed not to be misled by "the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches", which will make one unfruitful (cf. Matt 13:22).

Let us all, who have entered the full-time service of the Lord in the church, cultivate the right thinking and attitude necessary to offer our utmost and the best for the high calling that we received from Him. Like Paul, let us say, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24). Let us commit our needs and struggles to our God, who "is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Nothing is more important for His servants than pleasing Him who has chosen us to be a soldier. Every servant of the Lord looks forward eagerly to the rewards that Christ will give to all His faithful and loyal servants.

Junior Worshipper's Page

Emmanuel

*“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
(Matthew 1:23)*

Jesus’ birth was a miraculous event. His mother, Mary, was a young virgin woman when she conceived Jesus and gave birth to Him. She was not yet married to Joseph. However, Mary was told by an angel that she would have a holy Child when “the Holy Ghost shall come upon [her], and the power of the Highest shall overshadow [her]”. The angel also told her that the Child “which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).

Jesus’ birth was a great wonder. He was the Son of God, who came to save us from our sins. He was perfectly God, and hence His name shall be called (in the Hebrew language) “Emmanuel”, which means “God with us”. Jesus was God who became Man, so that He may live with men and then die for men, that He may save all who would believe on Him as their Saviour and Lord.

Jesus is with all who sincerely trust in Him. He abides with them. We who trust in Jesus have His presence. He is with all His people even when they face troubles and trials. Even in death, He will be with them and bring them to His heavenly home. Because He is always with His people as their Saviour and Lord, He is their Emmanuel. How blessed it is to know that He will never leave us alone!

Prabhudas Koshy



COLLECTIONS

LORD'S DAY on 6th December 2020

Tithes: 6,325.00

Offerings: 4,795.00

Designated Gifts: Cebu Building Fund 2,000.00; 1,000.00; 1,000.00; 265.00; 210.00; 100.00; 70.00; 50.00; 50.00; Ladies' Fellowship 50.00; Bohol Missions 50.00; Pangasinan Missions 50.00; Bogo & San Antonio Missions 50.00; Abigail George 500.00; Cornelius Koshy 200.00; 50.00; Pr Daniel Lim 120.00

Non-Sunday Collections

(29th Nov–5th Dec 2020)

Tithes: 5,365.00

Offerings: 3,377.00

Designated Gifts: Cebu Building Fund 400.00; 50.00; Matthew Peh 25.00; Sharon dela Cruz 100.00

Total Funds Collection

(as of 6th December 2020)

Cebu Building Fund: 274,167.50

2020 DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (DVBS) VIA ZOOM

Speakers: Pr Kelvin Lim & Bro. Cornelius Koshy

Date: 16th–18th December 2020

Timings: 10am–11.30am (younger children), 2pm–3.30pm (older children)

Please register at doodle.com/poll/fz4gy59eky4nbp9d or using the QR code below.



COMBINED YAF-YF RETREAT

Topic: What should the Church Leadership Be?

Speaker: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

Date: 25th to 26th December 2020
(Note the changes of the dates)

Morning Devotions on the topic, “Offering Spiritual Sacrifices”, will be taught by Bro. Cornelius Koshy. Please sign up at <https://forms.gle/Dp1JrdRfZJn3Pbhx8>.

The YouTube Live streaming link will be sent to all participants nearer the date.

GETHSEMANE DEFENDERS MINISTRY SEMINAR (VIA ZOOM)

Topic: Antibodies, Viruses and Intelligent Design

Speaker: Dr Samuel Gan

Date & Time: Sat, 9 Jan 2021, 2pm–6pm

The Zoom meeting link will be provided via Whatsapp Chat.

BIBLE WITNESS MAGAZINE

The latest issue on

“Beware: Spiritual Pitfalls Lurking!”

(Volume 20, Issue 5)

is available at the reception table.

(Feel free to take as many copies as you need to give to others for their spiritual admonition and edification.)

FEBC'S UPCOMING BTFE COURSES

In the new semester (4 January–30 April 2021), FEBC will be offering 12 courses. Registration will open on 13 December 2020 (DV). Please check FEBC's website for updates (www.febc.edu.sg/v15/).



GETHESEMANE BIBLE- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tithes, offerings and love gifts can be sent to the church account using the QR code above or via bank transfer (DBS Current Account 025-011173-7).

FOR GIFTS TO GETHESEMANE BIBLE WITNESS LIMITED

Love gifts to GBWL can be sent using the QR code below or via bank transfer (DBS Current Account 025-904568-2).



OUR WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sunday English Worship Service I

8.30am @ SingPost L5 Auditorium

Sunday Chinese Worship Service

9.00am @ GMC

Sunday English Worship Service II

11.00am @ SingPost L5 Auditorium (YouTube Live)

Sunday English Worship Service III

2.00pm @ SingPost L5 Auditorium

Sunday Catechism Class

2.00pm via Zoom

Sunday Evening Teaching Service (GBI—Nehemiah)

6.00pm @ GMC (YouTube Live)

Campus Bible Studies (via Zoom)

NAFA-Lasalle: Wednesday @ 3.00pm

SIT: Wednesday @ 4.00pm

SUTD: Friday @ 2.00pm

Staff Prayer Meeting

Tuesday @ 10.15am

Tuesday Night Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

8.00pm @ SingPost L5 Auditorium (YouTube Live)

Seniors' Ministry (via Zoom)

Thursday @ 11.00am (Please contact Pr Jeremiah Sim)

Malayalam Fellowship (via Zoom)

Thursday @ 8.00pm

Children's Ministry Meetings (via Zoom)

Saturday @ 11.00am (younger children)
& 2.00pm (older children)

Place of Worship:

Singapore Post Centre,
Level 5 Auditorium,
10 Eunos Road 8,
Singapore 408600
(next to Paya Lebar MRT Station)

Prayer Hotline:

8138 8139
*SMS or WhatsApp
your prayer item*

Our Office:

33 Ubi Crescent,
Singapore 408584
Tel.: 6741 1910

Our Websites:

gethsemanebpc.com
biblewitness.com
gbi-online.com

Our Pastor:

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy
Mobile: 9001 1119
Email: pastor.gbpc@gmail.com

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