

2024 EVERY GARDENER A MISSIONARY

WELCOME HOME!

We are glad that you can join us today to worship the Lord as one family in Christ. May we continue to trust Him, and glorify Him in all that we do!

SERVING THIS WEEK

Fld Reuben Ang Christina Ding Dns April Ding Ng Wen Hooi Joo Neo Jaswantlal Zach Lim Sally Teh KL Teh Irene Koh Dns Joella Tan Ps Wendell Chua Jonathan Ng Sheri Goh Manfred Ong Esther Tay Chris Wu

Eld Chua Hung Choo Cecilia Arokiam Angela Tan Dns Clarissa Leong Dns Yim-Kow Meng Choo

Bong Ru Hui

NEXT WEEK

Encountering Jesus on the road to disappointment Luke 24:13-31 Ps Yap Kim Sin

Lead Ps Wendell Chua 9027 7465 Ps Lawrence Ong 9146 8277 **ATP Joseph Tee** 9088 0077 Ps Yap Kim Sin (Advisory) 9862 4390

Read (pg 8-11) Book Review from Book Circle by Lau Wah Ming

3 & 5 Tavistock Avenue 555108 6284 1987 | 8463 2186

ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Theme *Jesus:* The Promised King

Prepare for Worship

Prelude

Exalt His Name

Call to Worship Invocation Doxology **Opening Hymn Responsive Scripture Reading**

Zechariah 9:9-17

Worship in Song

Listen to His Word

Who is Jesus, Really? John 12:12-19

ATP Joseph Tee

Response Song

Give to His Work

Offering **Offertory Response**

Pray to Him

Corporate Prayer Pastoral Prayer

Closing Hymn Benediction Announcements Postlude

office@zionserangoon.org.sg www.zionserangoon.org.sg



SERMON NOTES

Who is Jesus, Really? John 12:12-19



- I. What Did the Jews Expect from Jesus? (vv. 12-18)
- II. What Did the Pharisees Expect of Jesus? (v. 19)
- III. What Do You Expect from Jesus? (vv. 23-26)



Reflections...

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The World: OMF Cambodia (Follow-Up)

Our God Answers Prayers! Last Friday (15 Mar 2024), OMF Cambodia field director shared that the memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been granted for 3 years.

"Every Gardner a Missionary" - Being "Tavistock Ready!"

- » Pray for wisdom and guidance for the leadership to choose the right contractor for the physical developments in the church building.
- » Pray especially for the hearts of our worshippers to be fired up for Jesus and the mission He has entrusted us with.

Zion Serangoon Evening Service (ZES) 41st Anniversary

- » Come before the LORD to adore His faithfulness for sustaining the ZES for the past 41 years.
- » May the Holy Spirit continue spark joy and awe in the hearts of all worshippers for the LORD.
- Continue to remember the committee in prayer as they continue to organise the ZES (Ps Lawrence Ong, Dn Amos Chia, Dnness Sylvia Ong, Dnnes Clarissa Leong, ATP Joseph Tee, Ng Peiyi, Xavier Arokiam)

Season of Lent 2024

Gracious Father,

whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the True Bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that He may live in us, and we in Him; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



We thank God for His faithfulness through the past 41 years!

67th Annual Congregation Meeting (ACM) 21 April (Sun), 11.00am @ Sanc 2

Combined Sunday Service @ 8.45am. Lunch provided.

For those who prefer a soft copy of the ACM papers or are overseas on the day of ACM, please inform the **Church Office**.

Whatsapp/SMS 84632186 Call 62841987

Bible Reading Plan 2024

Mar Week 4 Schedule 25 Mar: Proverbs 13 26 Mar: Philippians 1 27 Mar: Philippians 2 28 Mar: Philippians 3 29 Mar: Proverbs 17 30 Mar: Proverbs 18 31 Mar: Proverbs 19 **Prayer Fellowship** *PF takes place <u>every</u> <u>Wednesday</u> except on public holidays or as announced!

27 March Wednesday @ 8.00pm

Join in prayer together for our church: http://tiny.cc/zionPF2024

Meeting ID: **881 8621 6365** Passcode: **017821**

For queries, please contact **Ps Lawrence Ong @ 9146 8277**



IF Online Bible Study

26 March (Tues), 8pm @ Zoom

To join, log in @ http://tiny.cc/zionIFBS2024

Meeting ID: **891 3463 3914** Passcode: **010194**

ALL FOREIGN FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!!! We encourage the employers to let their helpers join this Zoom BS.

For queries, please contact Elder Hung Choo @ 9010 2893 or Olga @ 8158 1885

Lent Devotionals



Let's prepare our hearts as we remember Christ and His suffering. Scan the QR Code to join the WhatsApp Group!

For further queries, contact ATP Joseph Tee.

Lent Devotionals

Let's prepare our hearts as we remember Christ and His Suffering. Join the WhatsApp Group for daily Lent Devotionals <u>HERE</u>!

For queries, please contact **ATP Joseph Tee** @ **9088 0077**



NEW! CBS Course: Making Biblical Decisions

7 Thursday night sessions facilitated by Ps Joseph Tee **4 April to 16 May 2024, 7.30pm-9.30pm Free of charge - sign up** <u>HERE</u>!

Disability Inclusion Workshop: Relationships in the Church



Disability Inclusion Workshop by KIN 6 April (Sat), 2-5pm @ Sanc 2

Sign up <u>HERE</u>.

For more info, please contact **Dns April (9694 3276)**



BPCIS Combined Good Friday Service 29 March (Fri) 5pm @ ACS(I) Dover Road

Transportation from church is available. Please kindly sign up to book your seat. Sign up *HERE*!

For queries, please contact **ATP Joseph Tee** @ **9088 0077**





EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE RESURRECTION LIGHT

Speaker: Pastor Wendell Chua 31 Mar 2024, 6.30am MacRitchie Reservoir (near Lim Bo Seng Memorial) English with Mandarin headset interpretation

Organised by the Singapore Council of Christian Churches (SCCC) and Bible Presbyterian Church In Singapore (BPCIS)



ONLINE REGISTRATION https://forms.gle/Q2Ay4KDRCCMfRDNC6

REGISTER IN-PERSON

Registration Booth will be open after all services (3, 24, 31 March; 14, 21 April)

REGISTRATION CLOSES 21 APRIL 2024

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT DNS APRIL

BOOK REVIEW FROM BOOK CIRCLE

READ BOOK CIRCLE Med The Go

'Pneumatologia, or a Discourse Concerning the Holy Spirit' Teaching of John Owen

by Lau Wah Ming

'Be ye holy, for I am holy", 1 Pet 1: 15,16

In 1674, John Owen published his massive work "Pneumatologia, or a Discourse Concerning the Holy Spirit". Owen's discourse is both doctrinal and pastoral in character. It covers the name, nature, personality and operations of the Holy Spirit. It explains the necessity of gospel holiness as distinct from mere human morality. In the abridged English version, Owen states:



"The work of the Holy Spirit towards the church presupposes these things:

(i) The love, grace, counsel and eternal purpose of the Father to have a church, chosen out of this sinful human race;

(ii) The whole work of Christ in redeeming sinners out of this human race to be his church;

(iii) The work of the Holy Spirit in calling sinners to repentance and faith in Christ and his work of uniting them to Christ as the head of the body, his church."

Before his death Christ promised the Holy Spirit to his disciples (John 14:15-17). After his ascension Christ received the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured him forth on his disciples (Isa 44:3; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:33). The apostles' witness to Christ was the result of the power of the Holy Spirit on them and of his work in them.

In his Discourse, Owen expounded in depth on the Reformed Doctrine, based on scripture, dealing with the work of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration, conversion, justification and sanctification of believers. In this write-up, I will highlight only what Owen teaches concerning holiness in believers. The aim is to encourage us to strive to be holy by first understanding how we can become holy.

The Holy Spirit is the chief worker of holiness in us, based on the blood shed by Christ on the cross. This holiness, or sanctification, is produced in us, inter alia, by two means: faith and troubles or afflictions. We are purged from sin by the Spirit of God. It is from our depraved natures that sin comes with all its pollution. So it is by the renewal of our natures back into the image of God that we are made holy (Eph 4:23, 24; Titus 3:5). The Holy Spirit cleanses us by strengthening our souls by his grace to fulfil our duties and to resist actual sins. But if we sin, it is the blood of Christ that cleanses us (1 John 1:7). How do we become partakers of that blood? It is the Holy Spirit that shows us and spiritually convinces us of the defilement caused by sin (John 16:8). The Holy Spirit proposes, declares and presents to us the only true remedy for our cleansing. It is the Holy Spirit who shows us the things of Christ (John 16:14).

The Holy Spirit also works faith in us by which we are made partakers of the purifying virtue of the blood of Christ. By faith we receive Christ and by faith we receive all that Christ has to give us (Ps 51:7; Lev 14:2-7; Num 10:4-6; Acts 13:39; Heb 9:13,14;10:1-3). Faith takes hold of the motives presented to us to stir us to holiness. The first motive comes from the wonderful promises of God given to us now (2 Cor:1-7). The second comes from the thought of becoming like Christ when we see him as he is in eternal glory (1 John 3:2.3). (Recall the solas: By faith alone, and by Christ alone.)



Afflictions and Holiness

God sends troubles to purge us from sin (Isa 31:9; 48:10; 1Cor 3:12.13). Troubles and distresses are God's means to make us more and more like his Son (Rom 8:29). They help us to have a deeper sense of the vileness of sin as God sees it. Troubles are used by God to discipline and correct us. Troubles are God's way of drawing out from us all the graces of the Spirit in order that they may be constantly and diligently exercised. The first duty of believers is to continually be in self-abasement. The second duty is to be continually thankful for the deliverance from the original pollution from sin which Christ has given us. Christ's purpose in uniting himself to us is to purge us from all our sins (Eph 5:25-27).We are united to Christ in order to be completely sanctified (John 15:1-5).

There are many sins by which believers are defiled. But there is a way of cleansing still open to them. If they continually use that way of cleansing no defilement of sin can hinder their communion with Christ. We ought to pray as David did (Ps 19:12,13). His prayer was a constant humble acknowledgement of sins. He sought a daily cleansing from those defilements which the least and most secret sins bring with them. "Cleanse me from secret faults." He prayed to be kept from "presumptuous sins," or wilful sins committed deliberately against known light. So long as believers are kept within the bounds set in David's prayer, even though they are defiled by sin, yet there is in them nothing inconsistent with their union with Christ. Our precious Head is not only pure and holy, He is also gracious and merciful. He will not cut off a member of his body because it is sick or has a sore in it. There is, then, a great difference between true holiness wrought in us by the Holy Spirit and a morally decent life produced by self-effort. Moreover the life of holiness wrought in us by the Holy Spirit needs to be kept pure and undefiled by the Spirit of God and the blood of Christ, whereas the morally decent life, produced by selfeffort, endeavours to keep itself pure by "good resolutions."

> The more faith we exercise the more we grow in holiness. We will then be changed into the image of Christ from glory to glory

Lessons for us

When the Lord chose his twelve disciples, it was "that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach" (Mark 3:14). This same principle applies to us: without the experience of his presence with us, our witnessing and preaching has no power. The Holy Spirit in us enables Christ to fulfil his promise: "I am with you always!" But it is the holiness of God as revealed to us in Christ Jesus which is the motive for us to be holy. It is God who works in us to will and to do of his good pleasure not of ours (Phil 2:12-13).

We are to continually exercise faith and love, both of which have a special power to promote the likeness of God in our souls. Faith is part of our holiness. It is a grace imparted to us by the Holy Spirit. It is the ruling principle that purifies the heart. It works and is made effective by love. The more faith we exercise the more we grow in holiness. We will then be changed into the image of Christ from glory to glory (2 Cor 3:18). This is the way appointed and blessed by God This is the secret of growing in holiness and thriving in the image of God. The love of God has the same power to make us holy. He who desires to be like God must be sure to love him, or all attempts to be holy will fail. True love of God will delight to obey and please him. God calls us to obedience at all times and in all circumstances and situations.

While God requires of us a life of perfect holy obedience, this requirement is tempered with grace and mercy. If there is a wholehearted sincere desire to please God after coming to Christ, God pardons many sins for Christ's sake. This is God's covenant of grace and the commands of God. The paramount thing that God requires of us is obedience. Everything necessary to enable us to obey is given us (2 Per 1:3, 1 John 5:3). Power and the ability to obey are found in Christ (Phil 4:13).

God in his grace has spelt out holiness in detail in Scripture. And to encourage us to holiness, God exhorts us, gives us promises, reasons with us and sometimes, to drive us from the devil that will destroy us, threatens us (1 Tim 4:8; Ps 41:1-3; 2 Pet 1:10).

The above is only a summary of the teaching of John Owen, taken from the abridged edition of "*Holy Spirit*" published by Banner of Truth Trust. John Owen is recognised as one of the greatest Reformed theologians of his time (1616-1683).

Books from the Book Circle, a 24/7 "Word Ministry", are available at L1 Glass-Enclosed Lift Lobby. Drop by to browse, pick up a book, read, and pass it on.

Should you be interested in a book or an author or a topic that you want to know more about; do let us know so that we can check on your behalf the book's availability in the library. As this is a pilot initiative, we seek the patience and understanding of the requesters should the response be delayed, or the book is not available. You can contact Bee Hong (HP 91711009) or Pek Hong (HP 98188220) or Meng Choo (96156853) to see if the book is available in the library.

"Nurturing in each gardener a heart with a thirst to seek after Him"

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Services	Worshippers & Volunteers
ZMS	245
2MS	120
ZES	47
Total	412
Sunday School	44

WEEKLY OFFERING

General and Missions Fund

(Received 11 Mar - 17 Mar)

Weekly offering to meet budget for 2024 (including A&A): **\$79,450**





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Bank Transfer

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