

ANNOUNCEMENTS

39TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Let's celebrate our One Life as a church at Covenant EFC's 39th birthday with a special combined adult's service. **Our celebration programme will start at 9:30am on Sun, 3 Sep at Singapore EXPO Hall 1.** There will be a children's service for 3 to 10-year olds. See you there!

CHRISTMAS PLAY RECRUITMENT

We are starting to prepare for our Christmas play and we are looking for Covenanters to serve with us. If you have the relevant training, we would love to have you! If not, we can train you if you have a willing heart!

We are looking for actors, recruitment officer, casting officer, stage hands, props/costume designer and finance manager.

Email fabian.ghui@cefc.org.sg if you are interested.

NEW LIFE CHARITY GOLF

If you have the passion for golf and for supporting a good cause, join the New Life Charity Golf event on 14 Sep! Flights are still available.

We also need sponsorship for this fundraising event, in cash or in kind.

For more details, contact Debbie Wee at fundraising@newlife.org.sg or 6892 7249.

MEN-IN-COVENANT (MIC)

Calling all men at Covenant East! Men-in-Covenant, the men's ministry of Covenant EFC, invites us to gather for 40 mins **today** after the service, for a time of sharing. Pastor Barney Lau will also share some thoughts and will pray for us during this session. See you there! Email mic@cefc.org.sg to confirm your attendance or to enquire.

JAPANESE MINISTRY

If you have a heart for the Japanese people and can speak their language, we invite you to join Home Missions in praying, reaching out and discipling them. To find out more, come on **one** of these dates:

23 Aug, 7.30pm – 9.30pm at ACKCentre

27 Aug 2.30pm – 4.30pm at BPJ Centre

Register at <http://cefc.ch/japministry2017>

BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Baptism Class

Date: 10 Sep (Sun)

Time: 2.30pm – 5.00pm

Venue: BPJ Centre

Membership Class

Date: 16 Sep (Sat)

Time: 9am – 4pm

Venue: ACKCentre

Register at the Information Counter.

COVENANT EFC

ACKCentre: 2 Kallang Avenue, CT Hub #10-26, Singapore 339407

ONE CHURCH MULTIPLE CENTRES:

BPJ Centre: 8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm ■ WDL Centre: 8.30am & 10.30am ■ East Centre: 10.00am (Pre-service prayer: 9.30am)

Tel: (65) 6892 6811 ■ Email: mail@cefc.org.sg ■ Website: www.cefc.org.sg

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VISIBLE VALUES

- Grace
- Growth
- Godliness



COVENANT EFC

EAST CENTRE, 13 AUG 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS SEBASTIAN QUEK ■ WORSHIP LEADER: CHUA SUE ERN

Strengthening the Nation and Serving God

PS IVAN HO, DISTRICT MENTOR AND INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

Singaporeans have just celebrated the 52nd National Day. On Tuesday night, Covenanters from all three centres came together at our WDL Centre for our National Day Prayer. We worshipped as one church family and interceded for our nation with many insights shared by our guest speaker, Mr Richard Magnus. On Wednesday evening, as my family and I watched the National Day Parade live on TV, a feeling of pride came over me. I am glad to be a Singaporean and thankful to God for our nation. It is a small country, but it is our own — a place we can truly call home. There is something unique about it. Singapore has a special combination of places, people, public institutions, local cuisines, local languages and multi-cultural flavour.

We must never think we built this nation by our own intelligence and strength. We must acknowledge God in all our achievements and recognise that it is by His grace that we have done many good things. Indeed, God has greatly blessed us with able and dedicated leaders, and a cohesive and hardworking people through the past five decades.

As we move into the future, even while we work hard to innovate

and pursue economic growth, we must also work hard to guard against many threats: the breakdown of marriages and families, moral decay and erosion of shared values, self-centred individualism and social apathy, mistrust between different racial and religious groups, and external threats to our sovereignty and security. For all that, we must keep praying and depending on God for His favour and empowering.

Singapore has a destiny. God has blessed our nation despite its smallness and vulnerabilities. Surely He does not want us to keep the blessings to ourselves, but to bless the generations after and our neighbouring nations. The Church in Singapore is to be a continuing witness to the grace, power and faithfulness of God. Our nation is to be a training and sending centre for missions. The Church is to be faithful to proclaim the Gospel to the nations until Christ returns.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. — Matthew 5:14-16, ESV

SERMON OUTLINE

Let's Celebrate!

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 6:19-22 ■ SERMON: PAUL SHI

Introduction

A. Know _____ We Worship God: The _____ for Our Worship (v.19)

“On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover.”

B. Know _____ We Worship God: The _____ of Our Worship (vv.20-22)

“For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves ... to worship the LORD, the God of Israel ...”

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:
20 AUG -PS ANDY LEW (BPJ), PS IVAN HO (WDL) AND PS BARNEY LAU (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

A Life Dedicated

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 6:16-18 ■ SERMON: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

Introduction

It took about 20 years for the Jews to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. They now came to dedicate it to the LORD. The word for dedicate is *hanukkah* (Heb). It means to be set aside for sacred use. What does it mean for our lives to be dedicated to God?

There are at least three marks:

A. A Life Marked by JOY (v. 16)

1. Joy is one of the results of the outworking of God's Spirit in the Christian life. Yet we would say it's not the first quality we associate with a believer. Part of the reason might be we have mistaken pleasure for joy. Joy does involve good feelings but is anchored much deeper.
2. The joy we are meant for is grounded in at least three truths: a. Joy is found in right relationship with God (Psa 16:11); b. It is found when we do the right thing (Matt 25:21); c. It is found when we experience the faithfulness of God. When we witness the fulfilment of God's promises, we experience the joy that He is real and faithful and good (Lk 2:10)!
3. These were present in the lives of the Jews and thus they experienced joy (Ezr 6:13 – 15). That's what it means to live a dedicated life!

B. A Worship Seen in Sacrifice (v.17)

1. The Jews also sacrificed animals unto the Lord as part of the dedication. What they could muster up paled in comparison to Solomon's contribution (1 Kin 8:63.) The point however was not the amount but the heart to give unto God – God had provisions for those who could not afford a lamb (Lev 5:7) and to those who can't even afford the two turtle doves, they could use flour (Lev 5:11)! Everyone could bring something!
2. The thought being that our worship unto God must cost us! King David understood this when he said: I will not offer to the Lord that which cost me nothing! (2 Sam 24:24)
3. A life dedicated to God sacrifices. In sacrificing, we are saying God is worthy of our sacrifice. Are we giving our best unto the Lord?

C. A Way Set in Obedience (v.18)

1. The Jews followed the system set out according to the Book of Moses. This meant they were careful to be obedient to the Lord. While sacrifice is good, obedience always takes precedence!
2. King Saul was given an assignment to destroy the Amalekites. However, he spared the king and all the good sheep and cattle, claiming that he took them “in order to sacrifice them to the LORD...” God sent Samuel the prophet to rebuke him with these words “Obedience is better than sacrifice...” (1 Sam 15:7 – 9; 20 – 22).
3. A life dedicated to the Lord is first and foremost dedicated to obey. God's laws protect us and give us life! In obeying them, we are blessed and find life!

Conclusion

In Feb 2017, a 270-year-old Tembusu tree fell in Botanic Gardens. Subsequent investigations showed that the tree had been rotting from the inside. Arborists however testify that from the outside, there were no signs of such inner decay. That tree can be a parable for our Christian life if we are not careful. We may be doing all the “right things” on the outside, while inside, there is darkness and decay. In dedicating our hearts to God, we are inviting Him to work from the inside out. He invites us to that life of dedication, that will result in true life!