

Announcements

ALPHA: WHO IS JESUS?

Alpha is a series of informal and relaxed sessions exploring the Christian faith. Many have come to know Christ through Alpha. Invite your pre-believing loved ones or friends!

Date: 11 Apr (Wed)

Time: 7pm - 9.30pm

Venue: YMCA Orchard 1 Orchard Road (238824)

Register at <http://alpha.cefcapps.com>

For enquiries, email alpha@cefc.org.sg

WOMEN 4 WOMEN

More Precious Than Jewels is a discipleship seminar organised by Women-In-Covenant for all the women in Covenant EFC. Embark with us on a growth journey of discovering our significance in God and becoming *A Certain Kind of Woman!*

Date: 28 Apr (Sat)

Time: 9am - 1pm

Speaker: Pastor Ann Chan

Venue: BPJ Centre, Main Sanctuary

Registration is required. **Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/cefcwomen> by 10 Apr**

DISCOVERY WEEKEND

This is a full-day workshop for courting couples to discover how to build a strong foundation in their relationship based on honest interaction, biblical principles and purity.

Date: 14 Apr (Sat)

Time: 8.30am - 5pm

Venue: ACKCentre Performing Arts Studio

Register at the Information Counter.

For enquiries, email fic@cefc.org.sg

HOKKIEN SERVICES MUSICIAN RECRUITMENT

Would you like to serve and worship God through your musical skills?

The Hokkien Congregation is looking for keyboardists, guitarists, bass players and drummers for the Hokkien Services at BPJ and WDL Centres on Saturdays.

The Woodlands Hokkien Service is held at 2.30pm and the Bukit Panjang Hokkien service is held at 5.30pm on Saturdays.

If you are interested to serve, email faith.chen@cefc.org.sg

IDMC 2018 - FAITH & FIRE

Sign up for IDMC 2018 by 31 May 2018 to enjoy the Covenanter special rate at \$60 (leader & spouse) and \$120 (member) on <https://engage.cefc.org.sg>

If you have signed up for IDMC, help serve the body of Christ together. Find out more on <http://volunteer.idmc.org.sg>

For any enquiries, please email info@idmc.org.sg

OLDER ADULTS, HEALTH MATTERS FORUM

Dealing with health issues and growing old can mean taking eldercare leave, being homebound, bed-bound or wheelchair-bound. Supporting ourselves or our loved ones can also mean needing transport help for medical appointments, tracking medical consultations and respite care. What else can we do?

Organised by the Encouragers-in-Covenant (EiC), this forum addresses current concerns that Covenanters have regarding themselves or their loved ones.

Date: 21 April (Sat)

Time: 9am (refreshments will be served at 8am)

Venue: WDL Centre, Chapel Level 4

To sign up, email encouragersadmin@cefc.org.sg
Registration closes on 18 Apr.

CHILD DEDICATION CLASS

The Child Dedication Class will be held on 20 May, Sun, 1-5pm Joy and Love Rooms at WDL Centre. Sign up at the Information Counter.

The Child Dedication Service will be held on Sun, 24 Jun.

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Baptism Class on Sun, 6 May at WDL Centre from 1.00pm to 3.30pm.

Membership Class on Sat, 12 May at ACKCentre from 9am to 4pm.
Register at the Information Counter.

CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking to fill the following position within the church staff team.

• **Ministry Executive (Hokkien)**

Please go to <http://www.cefc.org.sg/about-us/recruitment> for more information.



... for a Vibrant & Healthy Next Generation

... for Godly Families and Generations

... for a Growing IDMC Movement in Singapore

... to Impact Our Society & Culture

... for a Growing Global IDMC Movement

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

ONE CHURCH MULTIPLE CENTRES
BPJ Centre:
Sun 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm

WDL Centre:
Sun 8.30am & 10.30am

East Centre:
Sun 9am & 11am

T (65) 6892 6811

E mail@cefc.org.sg

W www.cefc.org.sg

FB www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

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BUKIT PANJANG, 8 APRIL 2018

SERVICE LEADER: PS VALERIE CHAN • WORSHIP LEADER: PS FABIAN GHUI

A Gateway to Paradise

PS ADRIAN CHAN, INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

Holy Week touched my heart once again—deepening the devotion towards God, and strengthening the mind and will to follow Jesus. For me, this Holy Week also culminated with the joy of baptizing 42 brothers and sisters who formally confessed allegiance to God. Some underwent their baptism solemnly. Some could not contain their emotions, shedding tears of repentance, thankfulness or dependence upon God. One baptizand wept right through her baptism. Each one metaphorically took up the cross to declare himself or herself as a Christ-follower before a watching world.

Carrying one's own cross involves paying the daily price of yielding the whole being, in exchange for the surpassing treasure found in knowing God. It is easy to say "Yes, thank You Jesus for dying on the cross", but this does not translate to "Yes, I too will carry my cross, and die to my self-centered life and follow

You". Yet, Jesus has said that whoever wishes to be His disciple must deny himself, take up the cross daily and follow Him (Lk 9:23, Matt 16:24, Mk 8:34). Surely, **the cross is the main story**, not a sub-plot.

We are to be co-crucified with Christ, and then live a new life. We learn from the seed—it must die to its form before it becomes a thriving tree. **The grave is but a gateway to paradise, and death a pathway to resurrection**, as someone has said. It involves a fresh way of thinking!

Denying oneself, taking up the cross and following Jesus will be a daily experience in our lifelong pilgrimage. For me right now, it is to die to my wish for advanced biblical learning. Rather, I give in, with God's peace and joy, to the Spirit's prompting to serve my family and Covenant EFC in the coming years. What about you? What must you say "no" to today? And what is the cross you must carry? Be co-crucified with Christ, and live the new life in Him!

Sermon Outline

When the Spirit comes ...

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 2:1-13 • SERMON: PAUL SHI

Introduction

Conclusion

Last Week's Sermon Summary

The Power of the Cross

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 23:32-47 • SERMON: REV DR GORDON WONG

The repeated emphasis in Luke 23:35,37,39 highlights the worldly logic of using power to save oneself. Jesus is challenged to prove his power as the Messiah by saving himself from the cross. Jesus, by taking up his Cross, displays a different kind of power. This is God's kind of power.

Jesus, whilst dying on the cross, displayed God's power to forgive when he prayed, "Father, forgive them." Luke 23:34 He displayed power to speak a kind word even when in great pain. "Today, my friend, you shall be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43

He showed the power to entrust his pain and problems into God's hands. "Father, into Thy hands, I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46 And it may be the same for us one day. Sometimes, God will show his power by answering our prayers and delivering us from our problems.

But there may be other times when He chooses to reveal his power, not by removing our problems, but by helping us face them. Not by saving us from the cross, but by helping us endure the cross. This is the power of the Cross of Christ, a power that enables self-sacrifice rather than self-preservation.

The logic of self-sacrifice seems foolish to the world. 1 Corinthians 1:18 "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." And yet, pain and suffering is a universal problem in our world, and we all need God's kind of power to endure our suffering. May God help us find courage and strength from Jesus who endured the cross.

For Individual and Group Reflection

1. Jesus said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23). Think of a "cross" of suffering that you, or someone you know, is being forced to carry right now. Pray for the power of Christ to help us bear the "cross" with courage and grace.
2. "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46) Think of one thing for which you seek God's help. Pray for the power to commit that matter into God's hands and to do what is best.

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

15 APR - REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI (BPJ), PS ANDY LEW (WDL) AND REV TAN KAY KIONG (EAST)