



Covenant

DNA of Christ's Disciple



December 2021

Monthly Bulletin

“Come Lord Jesus Come”

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come." ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The season of advent runs this year from 28 Nov to 24 Dec, and is traditionally the first season of the church calendar. It has most often been assumed that it is meant to mark the coming of Christ (“Advent”, or in Latin “*adventus*” means “coming”) onto earth as a human child. That is certainly part of the advent story, but in the ancient church in the 6th century, the advent that was expected was actually not the **first** coming of Christ, but the **second**. In other words, since the 6th century, the church has been watching and waiting expectantly for the return of Christ! Traditionally, Advent was meant as a time of fasting, praying and watching, in preparation for the triumphant return of Christ as King. Unfortunately, in this day and age, the season of Advent has been overshadowed by the expectations of Christmas, with all its lights, festivities and presents. What might we do to recover the original practices of Advent, and why is this important for our Christian walk?

As I reflected on this, I was led back to the scriptural account of the very first advent. Luke 1 sets out a fulsome account of the days before the coming of Christ, and particularly in the NIV points out to us what was going through Mary’s mind, as she had to deal with the whirlwind of an unexpected pregnancy. I was particularly drawn to Luke 1:39, where we are told “At that time Mary got ready...” We do not know what she did to get ready, but it seems important for us to know that she made preparations, because her life was about to undergo a drastic change!

Welcome!

During this unusual time when we cannot all come together for worship, we can still be part of a worshipping community. We invite you to join us at our live worship service onsite by pre-registration at the church’s website <https://www.cplink.org.sg/>. You may join our

Worship Time

English Services	11.15am
Chinese Service	9.30am
Sri Lankan Service	2.00pm

live-streaming services online via our website. We hope you can also connect with our Life Groups. Please contact one of our Pastoral Staff if you like to join a Life Group. We are still meeting and connecting through various digital platforms.

We want to grow in Christlikeness through devotion and delight in God, nurturing devotion and delight in God, nurturing relationships and intentionally multiplying disciplemakers.

May I pose the same question to us, as a people of God? What are we doing to get ready, in this season of Advent, to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord? Particularly in this season of COVID over the last two years, how much of our rhythms, Christian or otherwise, have been disrupted? Not being able to fellowship together as BAG groups, or even to as a church? Not having church camp to attend, or even physical services? Have we gotten so used to the comfort of worshipping from our homes, that we struggle to bring ourselves back to church physically?

I would like to suggest a simple exercise to recover some of the basic rhythms in our daily walk with God. This was developed in this current form by my friend Alvin Ung, a teacher, mentor/coach and author who has designed leadership development programmes for senior civil servants in Malaysia, and also for the civil service in Bhutan. You can read more about him at :

<https://www.leaderonomics.org> and search for Alvin Ung

Alvin is a committed disciple of Christ, and enjoys the exercises of the spiritual disciplines. He calls this exercise the “5 minute Trinitarian prayer in daily life”, and it is really very simple to do.

Spend the first two minutes reviewing your day, taking care to be fully present to God, and to whatever he is showing you.

Spend the next one minute giving thanks to God the Father for what has been revealed throughout the day.

Pay attention to whatever areas of sin and struggle that you have encountered in your day, and take a minute to ask Jesus the Son for forgiveness.

Finally, take the last minute to prepare for tomorrow, asking the Holy Spirit for guidance through the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Here it is in pictorial form:



This Advent, and even into the New Year, as we seek to reclaim back the rhythms of our lives that have been so drastically disrupted by COVID, may this simple daily practice help us to find our centre in the loving arms of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit once again.

A blessed Advent to all, as we watch and wait in expectation.

In Christ,

Ps Michael Low

The mission collection for **December 2021** we are collecting for year-end love gift for our CPC Missionaries. Closing date is 12 December 2021. Please refer to the bank details below for Mission giving.

MISSION COLLECTION Dec 2021 for Year-end love gift for our CPC Missionaries

Cheque payable to : **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-MC**
UEN No for mission : **T125S0164DMIC**
Mission Bank Account: **025-905374-0**



Please indicate the Mission Collection Code as shown: **CPC MIS**



Gladiolus Place Christmas Fundraising Bake Sale

This year's Christmas bakes will feature 2 selectively curated creations by a Le Cordon Bleu graduate – **Red Velvet Marshmallow Cookies** and **Peppermint Dark Chocolate Brookies!**

Each box contains:

- 4 cookies of each flavour, individually wrapped
- a specially designed Christmas card by our staff!
- lovingly hand-baked by our Girls and Staff

These cookies were inspired by our Girls' bittersweet experience with life, and the rewardingly delightful takeaways as they nurture and grow with us at Gladiolus Place – crisp on the outside, soft on the inside, with a unique texture and little flavour surprise. From our Home to yours!



The collection details are:

Date: 19th December 2021, Sunday

Venue: Covenant Presbyterian Church

Preorder here! <https://tinyurl.com/GPBakes2021>

Please make payment through PayNow or Bank Transfer, and indicate "BakeSale-Name-CPC" so that we may know which orders are yours and to be sent to your Church for collection. Thank you!

Alternatively, you may place your order details and payment screenshot to gppartnerships@gladiolusplace.org.sg or **9234 4861**.

PayNow or Bank Transfer:

1. Scan the QR Code using your mobile banking app, or key in S75SS002HGP2 under the UEN field.
2. Enter the amount to be paid for the number of boxes ordered.
3. Under Reference Number, please type "BakeSale-YourName-CPC".



Thank you for supporting us!



GIVING

Kindly take note of the separate bank accounts for Tithe and Offering.

TITHE



Please key in your tithing number at the reference section. If you are unsure of or do not a tithing number, you may drop us an email at the church website. under “Request” tab and we will get back to you.

INTERNET TRANSFER

DBS Current Account: **025-905375-8**

Cheque payable to: **Covenant Presbyterian Church - Tith**

UEN no. **T12SS0164DTTH**

OFFERING



Please key in only the alphabet at the reference section as follows :

*“E” for English Service
“C” for Chinese Service
“SL” for Sri Lankan Service*

INTERNET TRANSFER

DBS Current Account: **033-016873-0**

Cheque payable to : **Covenant Presbyterian Church**

UEN no. **T12SS0164D**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



110 Race Course Road,
Covenant House S(218578)
Tel : 6293 4394 Fax : 6293 4981
Email: members@cplink.org.sg
Website: http://cplink.org.sg
Church Manager : Hazel Lau
Admin/Accts.Ex: Salinas J. Hope

Pastoral Staff

Rev Keith Lai
Rev Abel Lee
Rev Dr Henry Wong
Rev Christina Ong
Ps Lai Mui Fong
Pr Lionel Neo
Ps Susantha
Ps Michael Low

Sri Lankan Service

Ps Susantha

Chinese Service

Rev Abel Lee

CareWorks Community Services

Rev Dr Henry Wong

Gladiolus Place

Michelle Tan

Ministry Team Leaders

Creche

Kong Soh Lian

Children

Pr Lionel Neo

Youth and Young Adult (YaYA)

Ps Michael Low
Aruneeporn Ng, Jasmine Tan
Audrey Wong

Young Working Adult & Young Married

Rev Dr Henry Wong

Adults & Seniors

Rev Keith Lai/ Ps Lai Mui Fong

Hospitality

Tony Ng

Worship

Arthur Lim

Missions

Ps Lai Mui Fong

Prayer / Outreach

Rev Dr Henry Wong

Freedom & Wholeness

Alfred & Jenny Koay

GB / BB

Pr Lionel Neo

Chinese Seniors Alpha Course

Rev Abel Lee

Day Alone with the Lord

Ps Lai Mui Fong



Join Prayer Meeting via Zoom :

[https://zoom.us/j/98115221001?](https://zoom.us/j/98115221001?pwd=WG9BNDZxUjBHQzM1VDFSaHBZTXBYUT09)
[pwd=WG9BNDZxUjBHQzM1VDFSaHBZTXBYUT09](https://zoom.us/j/98115221001?pwd=WG9BNDZxUjBHQzM1VDFSaHBZTXBYUT09)

Meeting ID: 981 1522 1001

Passcode: 205629

CPC For unto us a child is born...
Christmas Isalah 9:6
25 Dec 2021

*** service time to be decided ***

If you are *not yet vaxxed*
and would like to be onsite
to attend Christmas service

Help us plan by messaging Ps Michael Low
@ 97901337 *before 12-Dec*. Thank you!

ADULT & INFANT BAPTISM

(including Confirmation & Membership Transfer)

on Sunday 26th Dec 2021