

19 - 20 December 2020
Christmas Carolling Service

Bishop

Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung

**Assistant Bishop and
Archdeacon**

Rt Revd Low Jee King

Vicar

Revd John Lin

Clergy

Revd King Chiew Kwang

Deaconess

Ds Lena Lim

Pastoral

Pas Loon Fu-Man

Pas Florence Hou

Pas Yeo Yun Jing

Pas Shirleen Yap

Administration

Susan Ling

Doris Lee

Patrick Lee

**Worship Service on
Saturday**

English Service

4.30 pm at Sanctuary

**Worship Services on
Sunday**

English Service

9.00 am at Sanctuary

Mandarin Service

11.15 am at Sanctuary

Cantonese Service

(temporary suspension)

Hokkien Service

(temporary suspension)

A Warm Welcome to our Church Service.
We look forward to having you worship God
with us again.

Speaker : Revd George Tay

Sermon Title : **Joy To The World**

Text : Luke 2:8-14

And the angel said to them (the shepherds),
“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news
of great joy that will be for all the people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

COLLECT

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of
grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: fill
us with your grace, that in all things we may accept
your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mission and Purpose: As we see the gracious salvation plan in the missional heart of
God, may we be a missional church of Spirit-filled committed disciples of Jesus Christ,
always ready to take the gospel to the nations.

Vicar Writes

Dear friends, guests and visitors

A **very warm special welcome** to you to our Christmas Caroling service this weekend, and also to visitors at our Mandarin worship service. We are so glad that you are with us today for our special Christmas program. We hope that as you hear the delightful Christmas carols presented by our church choir, you will have an enjoyable and meaningful experience that will bring deep peace and great joy in your heart this Christmas.

We love to hear **good news**. When PM Lee announced that phase 3 will start on 28 December and vaccines will soon be available (*free of charge!*), thousands of Singaporeans rejoiced to hear this happy news. 2000 years ago, an angel brought good news to a group of shepherds, "*Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.*" (Luke 2:10-11). This good news brought joy and hope to the world.

Hope is so important in every area of life. This has been a very challenging year for many people because of Covid-19. When we experience painful struggles such as job loss, financial debt, family quarrels, ill health, travel restrictions, etc, we hope to hear good news and for a happy turnaround in our circumstances. There is a popular Mandarin song that expressed the hope in every heart that "*Tomorrow will be better*" (明天会更好).

Christians all over the world celebrate the joy of Christmas because of the **blessed hope we have in Jesus Christ**. When we believe and trust In Jesus Christ, we experience the love, joy and peace of God. We receive the grace and mercy of God in the forgiveness of our sins. We have purpose and meaning in life. We have the joyous hope of eternal life.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Blessings
Pastor John

Christmas Service - There will be a Christmas Service on **Friday, 25 December 2020** at **9.00am**. Please invite your family and friends for the Service. There will be no refreshment after Service due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Please note that there will be **no '1 John' Service on Saturday, 26 December 2020**. The **Sunday Service on 27 December** will remain the same at 9.00am.

Understanding the Graeco-Roman World of the New Testament

Vicar will be teaching this course (via Zoom) on Wednesdays, 6, 13, 20 January 2021 from 8.00pm to 9.30pm. **Please see attached flyer for the course synopsis**. Please register for the course at <http://gg.gg/CESept> (*For those who have registered previously, you need not register again*). We will send you the Zoom details via your registered mobile number nearer the commencement of the course. For enquiries, please email admin@patmos.org.sg

Giving to Mission Fund

Our church practises the two-envelope giving system. The first is the **Tithing** envelope. All tithes returned obediently to the Lord go to the General Fund, which is used to pay staff salaries, ministry programs, office expenses, diocese quota, etc. The second is the **Freewill giving** envelope. This goes to the Mission Fund, which is used to support our overseas missionaries (Gerry & Yahui Gan, Ian & Alison Gosling, Deborah Loh), and several regular and ad-hoc giving to missions. As the Lord enables and provides for us, may we give joyfully, generously and sacrificially for the work of God's eternal kingdom.

2020 Tithe and Freewill Offering

Members are requested to make their Tithe and Freewill Offering for year 2020 before end of December 2020.

2021 Tithe/Freewill envelopes

Tithe/Freewill envelopes for 2021 are ready for collection. As many members are now returning their tithes and giving freewill offering via electronic banking, new 2021 envelopes will be issued only to those who have been using them to return tithe in 2020. However, if you have been e-giving and would like to go back to using envelopes, please inform Nellie, our pledge secretary, at admin@patmos.org.sg

The exercise of filling up pledge forms for 2021 will be on pause this year. Nevertheless, **please do read the information on "Our Givings to God" as in the attached e-flyer**. If you are starting to tithe and require a tithe number, please inform Nellie, our pledge secretary, at admin@patmos.org.sg

Covenant Renewal Service - There will be a Covenant Service on **Saturday 2 January, 4.30pm & Sunday 3 January 2021, 9.00am** in our sanctuary. It will be a time of thanksgiving and renewal of our covenant with God. There will be no refreshment after Service due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Intercession

Christmas Carolling Service - Saturday 19 Dec, 4.30pm and Sunday 20 Dec, 9.00am

1. Pray that in this season of Christmas, the delight of God and the hope of Jesus will shine brightly and that St. John's Chapel will be a beacon of hope to draw people to Jesus.
2. Pray that as the choir shares the good news of Jesus through songs and carols that God will open the hearts and minds of the people attending the service to be receptive to His calling.
3. Pray that God will reveal specific ways that the church can be used to live out Christ caring concern and be His hands and feet for people during the Christmas season.

DUTY ROSTER	Saturday, 19 December and Sunday, 20 December	Next Friday 25 December	Next Sunday 27 December
Worship Officiant	Revd John Lin	Ps Yun Jing	Ps Yun Jing
Preacher	Revd George Tay	Revd John Lin	Ps Loon Fu-Man
Psalm Reading	-	-	Psalm 21
Scripture Text	Luke 2:8-14	Romans 15:8-13; Matthew 1:18-25	Exodus 33:12-23
Sermon Title	Joy To The World	Jesus, the Hope of Glory	Seeing The Glory of God

St John's Chapel has resumed physical congregational worship services since 18 July 2020. With effect from 5 December 2020, the services will be conducted for up to 100 worshippers.

You can book a "ticket" online at

<https://www.eventbrite.sg/e/st-johns-chapel-church-services-tickets-112626528980>

Livestreaming (and recording) of church services will continue to be available online. We will livestream the Saturday 4.30 pm Service. Thereafter, the Service recording will be accessible online.

Please access the online Service using this weblink

<http://www.sjcp.org.sg/service-live-streaming/>

It will be good to prepare our hearts, Bible and media, so as to be ready to commune and worship the Lord together in spirit and in truth.

You may return your tithes to the Lord and give freewill offering through the following ways:

(A) By cash or cheque using the envelopes

(B) Internet Bank Transfer

Account Name:
St John's Chapel

DBS Account Number:
008 002 5860

Remarks:

- (1) TitheXXX, Month or
- (2) MissionXXX, Month or
- (3) NeedyXXX, Month or
- (4) BuildingXXX, Month

(where XXX is your Tithe number)

(C) PayNow using UEN

St John's Chapel's UEN:
T08CC4079E

Remarks: (same as above)

Upcoming Events

Christmas Service on Friday, 25 December 2020

Covenant Renewal Service on Saturday, 2 January and Sunday 3 January 2021

Church Ministries : Home Cell, Kids-for-Christ, Tweens, Tekna Youth, Young Adults, Choir, Marriage & Family Life, Pastoral Care and Visitation, Men's Fellowship, Sisters' Fellowship
Outreach: SMSS Chaplaincy, The Boys' Brigade & The Girls' Brigade, Befrienders Club

*If you wish to know more about the ministries and outreach,
please email to admin@patmos.org.sg*

Address : St John's Chapel
111 Farrer Road, Singapore 259240

Email (General Enquiries) : admin@patmos.org.sg

Tel : 6468 8425

Website : www.sjcp.org.sg

UNDERSTANDING THE GRAECO-ROMAN WORLD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Join us to understand the political, economic, cultural, social and religious characteristics of the Graeco-Roman world of the first century. This course will enable us to appreciate the background to the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, Paul's letters to the newly-planted churches in the various cities and also the other New Testament Epistles.



Course Dates: 6, 13 & 20 January 2021
Time: 8.00pm to 9.30pm (via Zoom)
Instructor: Rev John Lin

Register for the course at <http://gg.gg/CESept>
We will send you the Zoom details via your registered mobile number nearer the commencement of the course.

For enquiries, please email admin@patmos.org.sg



COURSE SYNOPSIS



Christianity was not born in a vacuum. It was birthed into the Graeco-Roman world of political stability, cultural diversity and religious paganism. Despite being in an environment where politics, economics, society and culture were all organised around the pagan deities, the church grew. There were favourable factors that were advantageous to the growth and spread of Christianity in the first century. However, the developing Christian church also faced hindrances that were disadvantageous to the acceptance of early Christianity. Despite the obstacles and struggles, the Early Church persevered and grew tremendously in a pagan environment. By God's grace, some of the hindrances were used to promote the Christian faith. This course will look at the political, economic, cultural, social and religious characteristics of the Graeco-Roman world of the first century. This will enable us to appreciate the background to the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, Paul's letters to the newly-planted churches in the various cities and also the other NT Epistles.



Our Givings to God, 2021



Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
(Psalms 29:2)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR GIVING

“... God so loved ... that He gave (us) His only Son ...” – John 3:16

“God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing ...” – Ephesians 1:3

“A tithe of everything ... belongs to the LORD” – Leviticus 27:30

WHY DO I NEED TO GIVE?

Our aim in St John’s Chapel is to help *fulfil the Great Commission*, which in turn will bring the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 24:14). *Our givings will help to bring this pass*. Tithing and free-will offerings will finance the world-wide proclamation of the gospel. All of us are given the privilege to invest in this great enterprise.

Giving is an act of obedience (when we obey God’s Word regarding the tithe). It is also *an expression of our love* for God (when we offer to him our free-will offerings).

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

EXPENDITURE ITEMS (As in October)	2019 (%)	2020 (%)
(a) Salaries of church workers and administrative staff	50	48
(b) Support of Christian work outside St John’s Chapel	3	4
(c) Diocesan expenses	26	28
(d) Ministry/Mission expenses	15.5	16
(e) Maintenance and running costs of church buildings, etc	0.5	1
(f) Misc – printing, admin expenses, church camp, Sunday School material, etc	5	3
TOTAL	100	100

HOW SHOULD I GIVE?

The Bible encourages cheerful giving - - “The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he made up his mind, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver ...” – 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The Bible also encourages systematic and proportional giving. – “Now concerning the contribution for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of each week, each of you is to put aside and store it up, as he may prosper ...” – 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I GIVE?

Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you back.” - Luke 6:38

WHAT SHOULD I GIVE?

Yourself – to God “ ... but first they gave themselves to the Lord ...”

– 2 Corinthians 8:5

“ ... present your bodies as a living sacrifice ...”

– Romans 12:1

This includes a proportion of *your income*. – 1 Corinthians 16:2

What proportion do people of faith give?

- The widow who gave two copper coins gave 100%
- Zacchaeus gave 50%
- For Christians, the “tithe” principle is only a starting point. Many give more.

MY RESPONSE

- **If you are already tithing/giving, Praise Be To God.**
- **If you are not yet tithing, please consider carefully and contact the Pledge Secretary soonest.**

😊 -- 😊

Explanatory Notes on the Terms for Givings in St John’s Chapel

1. Pledges

Pledges are commitments made to give regularly to God over a period, usually on a monthly basis for a year, and renewed each year. The pledge includes the Tithes (see note 6) and other Designated Givings (see note 3).

In addition, the pledges are also used by the Church to support other Christian mission works both locally and in other countries, as well as to support needy students undergoing theological studies.

2. Thanksgiving Offerings

There are givings that we present to God over and above the tithe, as expressions of our thankfulness for some special blessings that God has showered on us.

3. Designated Givings

Many Christians give over and above the tithe, and may wish to designate these extra givings to some specific areas. Examples of designated givings are the *Church Building Fund* and *Mission Givings*. (When designated givings are pledged, these should be over and above the tithes and not simply subtractions from the latter.)

4. Cash Offerings

This is the cash contributions which we put into the offertory bag, over and above our pledges. The Cash offerings also include contributions from visitors to our Sunday worship services.

5. Donations-in-kind

The Church office may make known its needs when some equipment or furniture has to be purchased. Members can give the needed asset if they have a used one in a good condition which they do not need, or more commonly, they might buy a new one for the Church office. Such form of giving is called Donation-in-kind.

6. Tithe

Tithe is the returning of the first 10% of our income to God. The tithe belongs to God. (Leviticus 27:30). The chief purpose of the tithe is to financially support “full-time” workers in their role of spearheading the thrust of world evangelization, which is the responsibility of every believer. *We should give the tithe to which ever local church that we are members of.*

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(In the Bible, the tithe is used primarily for the support of full-time workers. Whenever other financial needs do arise, such as for the building of the Jerusalem Temple, these are funded by free-will offerings.)

To elaborate, in tithing, **one tenth of all of one’s income** is pledged. Since we are usually paid on a monthly basis, it is best that we also pledge on a monthly basis. We should give the tithe as soon as we receive our pay. The longer

we wait the more difficult it becomes for us to keep up to date, and who knows - - it might even slip our mind and we may end up spending what rightfully belongs to the Lord!

Some have asked, “What constitutes one’s income? Can we minus off the income tax when we calculate the tithe?” Simply answered, income is all we declare in our income tax returns (and more??). With regard to the problem of tithing before or after tax, perhaps we should answer the question, “Does God gives His blessings before or after tax?” In short, let’s be as generous as God!!

Another question which is often asked about tithing is, “If my givings to the Church, the Community Chest, Anglican Welfare, World Vision plus some old folks home or other, etc., etc., make up 10%, am I not tithing?” The answer is a very emphatic **NO!**

If we feel that we are better to decide whom our money should be given to and we do not wish to practice giving both the tithes and free-will to the Church, then 10% should be given to the Church first before we can say that we are indeed tithing. Over and above the 10%, we are free to decide.