

2 - 3 January 2021
Covenant 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 John Lin

Sermon Title : **Only One Life ...**

Text : Acts 20:17-38;
Matthew 6:25-34

But I do not account my life of any value
nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish
my course and the ministry that I received
from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the
gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

COLLECT

Second Sunday of Christmas

Eternal God, who by the shining of a star led the
wise men to the worship of your Son: guide by his
light the nations of the earth, that the whole world
may behold your glory; 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.

Only One Life - by C.T. Studd

Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgement seat;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave, And to God's holy will to cleave;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its clays I must fulfill, living for self or in His will;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

When this bright world would tempt me sore, When Satan would a victory score
When self would seek to have its way, Then help me Lord with joy to say;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Give me Father, a purpose deep, In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife, Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Oh let my love with fervour burn, And from the world now let me turn;
Living for Thee, and Thee alone, Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
And when at last I'll hear the call, I know I'll say "twas worth it all";
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Charles Thomas Studd, often known as **C. T. Studd** (1860-1931), was a British Protestant Christian missionary to China. He was part of the Cambridge Seven and later was responsible for setting up the Heart of Africa Mission, which became the Worldwide Evangelisation Crusade (now WEC International). As a cricketer, he played for England in the 1882 match won by Australia, which was the origins of The Ashes.

Covenant Renewal Service - Today is Covenant Renewal Service. 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.

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

Kids-For-Christ (KFC) 2021

KFC will continue to meet physically in church in 2021 and online KFC lessons will **cease**. The children will meet **weekly** on **Saturdays, at 4.30pm**. Children coming for KFC **need NOT** book tickets. Parents/caregivers of the KFC children will have to book tickets for the main service. For more information, please contact Shirleen at 91010531.

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

Intercession

Looking forward

1. Praise the Lord for seeing us through 2020. Pray for His guidance and directions upon the World, our Nation, our Family, and us in the year ahead.
2. Recommit ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice .
3. Pray for strength and courage in being His messenger to spread the message of Christ with great passion and dedication.

Gentle Reminder

Registration of Eventbrite Online Booking of seat ticket **Cut-off time**

Saturday Service - by Saturday 12 noon

Sunday Service - by Saturday 8 pm

DUTY ROSTER	Saturday 2 January 2021	Sunday 3 January 2021	Next Saturday 9 January 2021	Next Sunday 10 January 2021
Worship Officiant	Ps Yeo Yun Jing	Florence Ho	Hide le	Ps Richard Ting
Preacher	Revd John Lin		Revd John Lin	
Psalm Reading	-		Psalm 61	
Scripture Text	Acts 20:17-38; Matthew 6:25-34		James 1:1-12	
Sermon Title	Only One Life ...		The Purpose of Trials ("Be Mature" series)	

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

Christian Education (via zoom) on "Understanding the Graeco-Roman World of the New Testament" on 6, 13 & 20 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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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.**

(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.