

Weekly Prayer Letter

Week of 27 December 2020

Jesus Is The Reason For The Celebration Of Christmas

Christmas is one of the religious adherences of the Christian calendar but the world has capitalised it for their commercial revenues and non-Christians, who do not understand the significance of Christmas, are jumping into the festivity; thus diluting the meaning of Christmas. Though the Bible does not give an indicative period of the birth of Jesus, His birthday is honoured by the early Christian community as an evidence of the historical fact that God becomes man through the virgin birth as recorded in the Gospel account. From the archives of Christian history, the first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on 25th December was in 336 AD, during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine. A few years later, Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on 25th December and it have been ever since. The early Church recognises the birth of Jesus as a fulfilment of God's prophecy (Isaiah 7:14) and it cherishes the birth of Jesus as the Saviour for redemption of sin for all mankind (Luke 2:10-11).

Christmas is a reminder to those who have tasted the goodness of God to diligently seek the lost, to lovingly heal the broken hearted and to sacrificially share the Good News to all peoples just as God has given us His only Son as recorded in John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Yes, Jesus is the reason for the celebration!

Peh Oon Thian

Senior Pastoral Team Member

(Parish Leader, Mandarin Ministry, Prayer, Hospitality)

Prayer Pointers

1. Praise God for blessing our Faith family over the past six years through Pastor Raymond! We thank God for his life and ministry and leadership in leading Faith to where we are today. Truly, it is with much sadness that we see him leaving us to take up appointment as Pastor-in-charge of Wesley Methodist Church from 1 January 2021.
 - Pray for our Father's rich and deep blessing upon him as he takes on his new appointment—that God will continue to empower, anoint and grant him divine favour, grace, wisdom and guidance.
 - Pray that God will richly bless his family (his wife, Grace and son, Timothy), and his ministry at and through Wesley.
2. Praise God for the fulfilment of His prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 where God the Son becomes Man through the virgin birth which is remembered in this Christmas season and through Him, the salvation plan of God is made available to all who come to believe in Jesus Christ.
3. Pray that during this Christmas season, our Faith family will be filled with gratitude for the historical birth of Jesus, be zealous in the sharing of the Good News and be filled with joy of our salvation that God has saved us from the penalty of sin through the saving grace of Jesus Christ.
4. Pray that this Christmas season will be a crucial moment for our Faith family to accomplish the purpose of God in our life; to reorganise our lifestyle to fit into the plan of God, and to conform into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ as we see the Day of Lord draw nearer.
5. Pray that the Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Watchnight Service, the final service of the year, will be a time of God-encountering for all who attend as we stand at the threshold of the new year—to reflect on 2020 and to look forward to 2021.

We Are Here For You!

- Perhaps you are going through a challenging time, and you need someone to pray with you, our pastoral team is here and ready to journey with you.
- Even though we may not be able to be with you in person, we can still reach you via telephone and other means.
- You may submit any Prayer Requests online via our church website at <https://www.faithmc.sg/care-help/prayer-requests/>.