

# CHRISTMAS EVANGELISTIC SERVICE

Saturday 19 December 2015 / BRMC Sanctuary 5pm

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"THERE IS HOPE FOR US!"

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Re-discover the significance  
of Christmas with the Cantata

*Carol of Christmas*

— by John W Peterson —

Message: "The Gift"  
Rev Wendy Watson



Organised by:  
Barker Road Methodist Church  
48 Barker Road, Singapore 309917  
+65 6256 4298



# *“There is hope for us!”*

A Christmas Evangelistic Service  
Saturday, 19 December 2015, 5pm, BRMC Sanctuary

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### PROLOGUE

#### **Opening Prayer [adapted from Henry Van Dyke]\*\***

Merciful God, we gather this day  
to celebrate the gift of Your dear Son Jesus Christ.

[Together] We bless You for the peace He brings to human homes,  
for the good will He teaches to everyone,  
for the glory of Your goodness shining in His face,  
for His lowly birth and His rest in the manger,  
for the pure tenderness of His mother Mary,  
for the fatherly care that protected Him,  
for the divine grace that sent the Holy Child  
to be the Savior of the world,

in praying and praising, in giving and receiving,  
in eating and drinking, in singing and making merry,  
in parents' gladness and in children's mirth,  
in dear memories of those who have departed,  
in precious friendships with those who are here,  
in kind wishes for those who are far away,  
by welcoming strangers,  
by keeping the music of angel's song here in this place,

God help everyone, to share the blessing of Jesus;  
in Whose name we keep Christmas,  
and with Whose words we pray together:

*Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread,  
forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;  
for Thine is the Kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever, AMEN.*

## **The Herald**

**Psalite, unigenito** (Latin and German text)

[Sing your psalms to Christ]

Words & Music: Michael Praetorius

**CAPPELLA MARTIALIS**

Psalite, unigenito, Christo Dei Filio, Christo Dei Filio  
Redemptori Domino, puerulo, iacenti in praesepio

Ein kleines Kindelein liegt in dern Kripperlein;  
Alle liebe Engelein dienen dem Kindelein, und singen ihm fein,

Psalite, unigenito, Christo Dei Filio, Christo Dei Filio  
Redemptori Domino, puerulo, iacenti in praesepio

**[Translation in English]** Sing your psalms to Christ,  
the only begotten Son of God,  
Sing your psalms to the Redeemer.

A small child lies in the manger.  
All the blessed angels serve Him and sing to Him.

Sing your psalms to Christ, the only begotten Son of God,  
Sing your psalms to the Redeemer.

## **Opening Carol**

**O come, all ye faithful**

Words: Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century, translated by Frederick Oakeley

Music: from John F Wade's "Cantus Diversi" **CHOIR & CONGREGATION**

\*\*Congregation standing

## Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7 and 9 [Responsively]

Narrator: The LORD himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel.

**Congregation:** *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Narrator: Of the increase of his government and peace, there will be no end.

**Congregation:** *He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.*

**Together:** The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

## Choral Response

### Carol of Christmas

Words & Music: John W Peterson

**CHOIR**

### **ACT I: This is how it began**

## Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-33 [Responsively]

Narrator: And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

**Congregation:** *And the angel came in unto her, and said:*

Narrator: "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the LORD is with Thee: blessed art thou among women."

**Congregation:** *And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.*

\*\*Congregation standing

Narrator: “Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest...”

Together: “...and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

## Declaration

### Joy to the world!

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: Lowell Mason

**CHOIR**

## Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-5

Narrator: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David), to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

## Carol

### O little town of Bethlehem

Words: Phillips Brooks; Music: Lewis H Redner

**CHOIR & CONGREGATION**

## Choral Response

### Carol of Christmas

Words & Music: John W Peterson

**CHOIR**

## Scripture Reading: Luke 2:6-7

Narrator: And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

## Carols

### Away in a Manger

Words: Unknown; Music: James R Murray

**CONGREGATION**

### Silent night, Holy night (verse 1 only)

Words: Joseph Mohr; Music: Franz Gruber

**CONGREGATION**

## ACT 2: where is the HOPE for us?

## The Herald

### Quem pastores laudavere (Latin text)

[The one praised by the shepherds]

Words: Traditional; Music: Traditional, arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams

**CAPPELLA MARTIALIS**

Quem pastores laudavere, quibus angeli dixere, absit vobis jam timere, natus est rex gloriae. Ad quem reges ambulabant, aurum, thus, myrrham portabant, immolabant haec sincere Leoni victoriae.

Exultemus cum Maria in coelesti heirarchia Natum promat voce pia Laus honor et Gloria. Christo regi, Deo nato, per Mariam nobis dato, merito resonet vere Dulci cum melodia.

**[Translation in English]** The one praised by the shepherds, to whom the angels said, "Now lay aside your fears," has been born the king of glory. To whom the wise men made their way, bringing gold, frankincense, and myrrh, which they offered with open hearts to the victorious lion. Let us rejoice with Mary amid the host of heaven, and let them announce the birth with devoted voice and with sweet melody.

## Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8

Narrator: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

## Carol

### While shepherds watched their flocks

Words: Nahum Tate; Music: George Frederick Handel

**CHOIR & CONGREGATION**

## Scripture Reading: Luke 2:13

Narrator: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying....

## Choral Response

### Glory to God in the highest!

Words & Music: John W Peterson

**CHOIR**

## Carol

### Angels we have heard on high

Words: Unknown; Music: Old French Carol melody

**CHOIR & CONGREGATION**

## Scripture Reading: Luke 2:15-20 [Responsively]

Narrator: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another:

**Congregation:** *“Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the LORD hath made known unto us.”*

Narrator: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they had heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

**Congregation:** *But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

**Together:** **And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.**

## **Choral Response**

### **A child's prayer at Christmas**

Words & Music: Edmund Walters

© 1982 Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd

**Miss Su-ann Cheong**

Baby Jesus Christ was born in a manger bed,  
ox and ass and sheep around Him lay.  
Nowhere else could Mary find to rest her head  
on that first and holy Christmas Day.  
The night outside was full of biting winter cold,  
but a star was shining brightly in the sky.  
The star that had led the shepherds from on high.

All I want in life is someone to hold my hand;  
all I want is a star to guide me along.  
All I want is a taste of that wonderful golden land  
filled with love and joyful angel song.  
So children everywhere follow this star with me –  
the star that was shining brightly in the sky.  
The star that had led the shepherds from on high.

All we want in life is someone to hold our hands;  
all we want is a star.

## **ACT 3: HOPE is here!**

**Message: The Gift**

**Rev Wendy Watson**

The lighting of the Christ candle as a symbol of **HOPE**

\*\*Congregation standing

## Epilogue: are you searching for HOPE? Search no more!

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-2 [responsively]

Narrator: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying...

Together: **“Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”**

### Choral Response

#### Down the trail and onward!

Words: Vida Munden Nixon

Music: John W Peterson, arranged by Harold DeCou

**CHOIR**

### Carol

#### We three kings of orient are

Words & Music: John H Hopkins Jr

**SOLOISTS** on verses  
**CONGREGATION** on Chorus

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:9b-11 [responsively]

Narrator: And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

**Congregation: *When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.***

Together: **And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.**

## Carol of Dedication\*\*

### O holy night

Words & Music: Adolphe Adam, translator unknown

**CONGREGATION**



The lighting of the candles by the congregation  
as a symbol of **HOPE** in our lives

## Closing Carol\*\*

### O come, let us adore him

Words: Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century, translated by Frederick Oakeley

Music: from John F Wade's "Cantus Diversi"

**CHOIR & CONGREGATION**

## Closing Prayer & Benediction [An old Irish Christmas blessing]\*\*

The light of the Christmas star to you,  
The warmth of home and hearth to you,  
The cheer and good will of friends to you,  
The hope of a childlike heart to you,  
The joy of a thousand angels to you,  
The love of the Son, and God's peace to you.  
Go now in the peace and let Christmas begin! **AMEN**

\*\*Congregation standing



Alpha



Try Alpha Today

**REAL LIVES, REAL EXPERIENCES**

## ABOUT ALPHA

Looking for answers to life? The Alpha course is a ten-week opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a laidback environment. It is a practical introduction to the basics of Christianity centred around a meal, a talk and small group discussion.

## COURSE TOPICS (Feb-Apr 2016)

Jan 30 **Introductory Lunch** \*12.30pm

Feb 13 Who is Jesus?

Feb 20 Why did Jesus die?

Feb 27 How can I be sure of my faith?

Mar 5 Why & how do I pray?

Mar 12 Why & how should I read the bible?

Mar 19 How does God guide us?

Apr 2-3 **Weekend Away**

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What does the Holy Spirit do?

How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

Apr 9 How can I resist evil?

Apr 16 How Should I Tell Others?

Apr 23 Does God Heal Today?

Apr 30 What About the Church?

Celebration Dinner

## Time & Location



Every Saturday | 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Barker Road Methodist Church

48 Barker Road Singapore 309917

@ Wesley Hall (Level 3)

**Register**

[www.brmc.org.sg](http://www.brmc.org.sg) | 6256 4298

THE 8.30AM SANCTUARY CHOIR WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO:

OUR TRUINE GOD, FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

OUR PASTOR IN CHARGE REV DR CHIU MING LI  
AND THE PASTORS & STAFF IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

REV WENDY WATSON  
FOR SHARING THE MESSAGE ON HOPE

FRIENDS WHO HAVE JOINED US FOR THIS SERVICE  
CAPPELLA MARTIALIS AND MISS SU-ANN CHEONG

NARRATOR **JONATHAN POH**  
PHOTOGRAPHER **DAVID TAY**  
PA COORDINATORS **HARRY LIEM**  
**SANDRA THNG**  
WORSHIP LEADER **JOSIAH POH**  
CHOIR CONDUCTORS **JOSIAH POH**  
**EASITA ELLISSA SAYAMPANATHAN**  
MUSICIANS **THERESA POH**  
**DENNIS LING**  
**KOH LI-SAN**  
USHERS **KAIROS SMALL GROUP**  
**KON OI LIAN**

AND

THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED US IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER  
BUT WE ARE NOT ABLE TO POST THEIR NAMES HERE

AND CERTAINLY NOT THE LEAST,  
your presence **AND** participation in this service!

### **NOTICE**

The Information Counter is not open for this service