



Barker Road  
Methodist Church

Watchnight  
Service

Thursday 31st  
December 2015



Come with me  
by yourselves  
to a quiet place  
and get some rest

Mark 6:31

# Order of Worship

*for those who would  
enter into or renew their covenant with God*

## **Wesleyan watchnight service**

*celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion*

**10.30pm; Thursday, 31 December 2015**    **ACS (Barker Road) Auditorium**

*Please silence your phone and other digital devices*

*On 25 Dec 1747, John Wesley strongly urged the Methodists to renew their Covenant with God. Wesley's first Covenant Service was held in Spitalfields on 11 August 1755 in what was the first real celebration of the Covenant Service within the Methodist movement. In London, the services were usually held on New Year's Eve or Day and was eventually called a Watchnight Service. Around the country the Covenant Service was also conducted whenever John Wesley visited the Methodist Societies. To quote Wesley: "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences...*

*I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to give thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His grace, healing all their backslidings" (John Wesley; Jan 1, 1775)*

### **Introit**

*O Come Let Us Adore Him*

### **Call to Worship** [PLEASE STAND]

Leader    He who sat upon the throne said, "Behold I make all things new."

**People    Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth.**

Leader    Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom.

**People    The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations.**

Leader    This evening, we are gathered together to celebrate our New Life in Jesus Christ in the midst of challenging and promising times.

**People    We are grateful that He never gives up on us inspite of what may have happened. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **Hymn of Praise**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

### **Invitation to the Covenant**

Dearly beloved, the Christian life, to which we are called, is a life in Christ, redeemed from sin by Him, and through Him consecrated to God. Upon this life we have entered, having been received into that New Covenant of which our Lord Jesus Christ is mediator, and which He sealed with His own blood, that it might stand forever.

On one side of the Covenant is God's promise that He will fulfil in and through us all that which He declared in Jesus Christ, Who is the author and perfecter of our faith. That His promise still stands we are sure, for we have known His goodness and seen His grace in our lives every day.

On the other side we stand pledged to live no more unto ourselves, but to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us and called us to serve Him that the purposes of His coming be fulfilled.

From time to time we renew our vows of consecration, especially when we gather at the table of the Lord; but on this day we meet expressly, as earlier generations have met, that we may joyfully and solemnly renew the Covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then, remembering the mercies of God and the hope of His calling, examine ourselves by the light of His Spirit, that we may see wherein we have failed or fallen short in faith and practice and, considering all that this Covenant means, may give ourselves anew to God.

## **Hymn of Adoration**

*The God of Abraham Praise*

### **A D O R A T I O N**

**Leader** Let us adore the Father, the God of love who created us; who every moment preserves and sustains us; who has loved us with an everlasting love, and given us the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

**People** **We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.**

**Leader** Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; who went about doing good and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; who was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin; who became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross; who was dead, and liveth for evermore; who opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; who sitteth at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.

**People** **Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.**

**Leader** Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, by Whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; Whose witness confirms us; Whose wisdom teaches us; Whose power enables us; Who waits to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

**People** **All praise to Thee, O Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING** [PLEASE STAND]

Leader Let us rise and give thanks to God for His manifold mercies.

O God our Father, the fountain of all goodness, Who hast been gracious to us through all the years of our life: We give Thee thanks for Thy loving-kindness which hath filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

**People We praise Thy holy name, O Lord.**

Leader Thou hast given us life and reason, and set us in a world which is full of Thy glory. Thou hast comforted us with loved ones and friends, and ministered to us through the hands and minds of our fellows.

**People We praise Thy holy name, O Lord.**

Leader Thou hast set in our hearts a hunger for Thee, and given us Thy peace. Thou hast redeemed us and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. Thou hast given us a place in the fellowship of Thy Spirit and the witness of Thy Church.

**People We praise Thy holy name, O Lord.**

Leader In darkness Thou hast been our light, in adversity and temptation a rock of strength, in our joys the very spirit of joy, in our labours the all-sufficient reward.

**People We praise Thy holy name, O Lord.**

Leader Thou hast remembered us when we have forgotten Thee, followed us even when we fled from Thee, met us with forgiveness when we turned back to Thee. For Thy long-suffering and the abundance of Thy grace,

**People We praise Thy holy name, O Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn of Thanksgiving**

*Thanks to God for My Redeemer*

## **C O N F E S S I O N**

Leader Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and watching our hearts, lest by self-deceit we shut ourselves out from His presence.

Let us pray.

O God our Father, who hast set forth the way of life for us in Thy beloved Son: We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our reluctance to follow Him. Thou hast spoken and called, and we have not given heed; Thy beauty hath shone forth, and we have been blind; Thou hast stretched out Thy hands to us through people we know, and we have passed by. We have taken great benefits with little thanks; we have been unworthy of Thy changeless love.

**People Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Leader Let each of us make confession to God...(pause for personal confession)

**People Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Amen.**

Leader This is the message we have heard from Him, and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen.

**Hymn of Prayer**

*Another Year is Dawning*

**Silent & Intercessory Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Offertory**

**Anthem**

*The Song of the Morning*

**Doxology**

**Scripture Reading**

*Philippians 3:7-14*

**Covenant Service Sermon**

*A New Year Resolution*

**Rev Dr Chiu Ming Li**

**Declaration of the Covenant** [PLEASE STAND]

And now, beloved, let us bind ourselves with willing bonds to our covenant God, and take the yoke of Christ upon us. This taking of His yoke upon us means that we are heartily content that He appoint us our place and work, and that He alone be our reward. Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations, and temporal interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is assuredly given us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore let us make the Covenant of God our own. Let us engage our heart to the Lord, and resolve in His strength never to go back. Being thus prepared, let us now, in sincere dependence on His grace and trusting in His promises, yield ourselves anew to Him.

O Lord God, Holy Father, who hast called us through Christ to be partakers in this gracious Covenant: We take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience, and engage ourselves, for love of Thee, to seek and do Thy perfect will. We are no longer our own, but Thine.

### **Covenant Prayer**

**I am no longer my own, but Thine. Put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for Thee or laid aside for Thee, exalted for Thee or brought low for Thee; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to Thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the Covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

### **Congregational New Year Greetings**

#### **Communion Hymn**

*I Surrender All*

#### **A Service of Word and Table II**

*Look to the screen (UMH 13 & 14)*

The Great Thanksgiving (responsively)

During the Feast of the LORD's Supper, the following hymns will be sung prayerfully:

626, 144, 245, 140, 242, 473, 230, 407, 396, 364, 249, 218

*Lyrics on the screen*

#### **The Benediction** [PLEASE STAND]

#### **Recessional Hymn**

*God of the Ages*

#### **Choral Response**

*Ring the Bells*

## **Overnight Prayer for the New Year**

*This session, held at Wesley Hall, starts at 12.45am. Breakfast will be provided at 6.45am*

# Welcome to Barker Road Methodist Church

We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Barker Road Methodist Church has a spectrum of church activities and ministries for you to prayerfully consider joining or helping with. Visit our website for our church's ministries and activities. To find out more, contact the Church Office at **6256 4298** or **admin@brmc.org** for a coordinator to connect with you.

We look forward to your being part of church life at Barker Road Methodist Church.

Here are our worship services:

Sunday							Wednesday	Saturday
	Sanctuary	Sophia Blackmore Hall	ACS Concert Hall	Wesley Hall	ACS Movement Gym	Oldham Hall Chapel		
8.30am	Hymnbook Service	Upper Room Service Charismatic						
10.30am	Contemporary Service*		Shine Forth Service	Mandarin Service	Filipino Service	Indonesian Service		
5pm	Contemporary Service							Teaching Service with Holy Communion
7.30pm							Mandarin Service	
	Holy Communion	FIRST Sunday	FIRST Sunday	FIRST Sunday	FIRST Sunday	FIRST Sunday	FOURTH Sunday	EVERY Saturday
		*10.30am Holy Communion Service is held at the ACS Auditorium						

## Services at Bukit Batok

This is our outreach in the Bukit Batok heartlands. There are separate services (in English and in Mandarin) on Sundays at 10.30am, followed by Church School. On the second Sunday of the month, we hold combined services with Holy Communion. We also offer weekly Prayer Meetings, Small Groups, and Outreach programmes as our ministries for the youth and adults. For more information call 6564 3186 during office hours or email [oasis@brmc.org.sg](mailto:oasis@brmc.org.sg)

## Church vision

transformed  
BY THE LOVE OF  
Christ 2 COR 5:14

In our Church Vision to be **Transformed by the Love of Christ**, we see **Barker Road Methodist Church** as a community of God's people where

- Each member is personally ministered to by Christ
- Each person loves others as he or she experiences Christ's love
- Each person gives his or her life to obey, imitate, and serve Christ and others as he or she receives Christ' love



# THE PASTORS AND LEADERS OF BRMC WISH ONE AND ALL A VERY BLESSED, CHRIST-CENTRED NEW YEAR

## THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

**Worship leaders** Rev Dr Chiu Ming Li • Rev Lawrence Chua • Rev Terence Yeo (at the Mandarin Service) • Rev Wendy Watson • Rev Edmund Koh • Pastor David Ho (at BBPP)

**Musicians** GYM Mellow Tones and Mrs Yvonne Tan (choir pianist) • Mrs Joy Balakrishnan (keyboardist)

**Ushers** Mr Ivor Tan • Mr David Wong • Ms Loh Chen-Ai • Mr Gregory Pong • Ms Jessie Yong • Mr Ray Yow • Ms Bernice Lim • Ms Ruth Seah • Ms Loh Chen-An • Mr Lionel Ong • Ms Alicia Huang • Mr Paul Huang • Mr Fong Kai Seck • Mr Leslie Sia • Ms Hui Ai Ping • Ms Amanda Lim • Ms Carissa Ng • Ms Clara Ng • Ms Anna Cheng • Ms Goh Zhiyong • Mr Chang Chong Tian • Mrs Jane Chong • Ms Jennifer Wee, Ms Carol Tan

**Communion assistants** Mr Lui Chong Chee • Mr Loke Beng Fong • Mr Choe Peng Sum • Mr Lim Wee Chiong • Mr Eric Teo YH • Mr Teo Tow Yong • Ms Darrell Lee

**Communion stewards** Living Stones

**Greeter** Mr Loke Beng Fong

**PA technicians** Mr John Lim and Mr Terence Leong

**Floral steward** Ms Teo Peck Tin

Today's flowers have been donated by Ms Teo Peck Tin in loving memory of loved ones lost.

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