

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

GOD IS SPIRIT, AND
THOSE WHO WORSHIP
HIM MUST WORSHIP IN
SPIRIT AND TRUTH.

JOHN 4:24

17 & 18 April 2021

Easter Three

God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant: make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

First Reading: Nehemiah 7:1-6

Gospel Reading: John 4:7-14, 21-24

Sermon Topic

**Priority of Building a
Community of Worshippers**

Preacher For

Contemporary Service: Ps Jason

Sunday Service: Ps Leon



JOIN THE BATTLE—
AND SING

© Unlocking the Bible by Dan Wells.
Used with permission.

unlockingthebible.org/2020/06/join-battle-sing/

Everyone is eager to point out the current difficulties of life in a broken world. Railing against oppressive circumstances is natural. But certainly, these are not just difficult times. They are also very important times. How many of us will look back on this season and say, “I fought the good fight and was faithful to God’s calling on my life”? Isn’t that the goal?

For the Christian, life is a battlefield. Why? Two reasons: we live in a world full of the deadly effects of sin, and we ourselves still sin. So, the battlefield is a spiritual battlefield, and we are waging a spiritual war against sin. No one will emerge from this battle victoriously in his own strength. So, what help do we have in battle? We have the witness of the saints, the victorious power of Jesus, and we have singing.

The Witness of the Saints

The author of Hebrews says that the Christian who pitches an all-out battle against sin looks to others who have done it, who have fought the fight, finished the race, and entered their rest. “Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1). The success of the saints should inspire our battle with sin.

Singing hymns is one of the ways we can join the battle. We remember those who finished the race victoriously and join with earnestness the battle they fought. We sing:

*“We bear the torch that, flaming
Fell from the hands of those
Who gave their lives proclaiming
That Jesus died and rose
Ours is the same commission
The same glad message ours
Fired by the same ambition
To Thee we yield our powers [1]”*

The Victorious Power of Jesus

By God’s grace, we have more than the memory of triumphant saints to strengthen our resolve. Hebrews 12:1-2 exhorts us to “run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and

perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

We battle sin with the knowledge of past victories that were achieved against all odds, and we fight in the strength of Jesus, the true Champion of all those victories. He was victorious in His battle against sin and death, and He promises to share that victory with us, who fight our battle against sin after His example and in His power. Again, singing hymns can help us remember these truths.

*“We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul’s reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We’ll walk by faith and not by sight [2]”*

The Role of Singing in Battle

Singing plays a bigger part in our battlefield life than any of us realizes.

Just look to the Old Testament for stories about the role of music in worship (2 Chron. 5:12-14, 29:25-29), in comfort (1 Sam. 18:10), in ceremony (Josh. 6:4; 1 Chron. 13:8), in consecration (2 Kings 3:15), in battle (Num. 10:9; 2 Chron. 20), and in celebration (Exod. 15; 1 Sam. 18:6). God has ordained music for these things!

Indeed, music is an important part of worship in every generation, especially as it stirs hearts and reveals faith. Faithful singing pleases God in many ways.

1. Singing helps us remember who God is and stirs our hearts to desire Him.

*“Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history
You’re the way, the truth, the life
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness
You’re the risen One, heaven’s champion
And you reign, You reign over all [3]”*

2. Singing calls to our minds what God has done.

*“There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ [4]”*

3. Singing reminds us of what God is doing now.

*“Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me [5]”*

4. The Holy Spirit often uses a song to rescue the tempted sinner.

*“Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished [6]”*

5. Singing gives courage to the faithful for battle, where fear is an enemy.

*“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand [7]”*

6. Music eases the suffering of this life, which is the context of our fellowship.

*“Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul [8]”*

Good songs point us to Christ and sing of His death and resurrection. Further, they apply those essential truths to life and theology. Good songs declare God’s faithfulness, in order that the singer might commit himself to God’s commands. Good songs celebrate the truth and authority of God’s Word and ask that the Holy Spirit would apply it to our hearts. Good songs describe God on His throne, creating in us a hunger for future glory under the righteous reign of Christ.

What better than a Word-filled song to help us remember the love, grace, power, and faithfulness of God?

It is right to pray for an end to our present crisis. But it is good to remember that there will be another crisis after this one, and then another. Let’s train our hearts to rejoice in our sufferings (Rom. 5:3-5), and to be faithful to God in our current battlefield and in those to come. Our ongoing trials can lead us to think ahead to all that is waiting for the believer in eternity, when all suffering will cease.

This is a good time for singing!

—

[1] Frank Houghton, “Facing a Task Unfinished” (OMF International (UK), 1930).

[2] Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, “By Faith” (Thankyou Music, Getty Music Publishing, 2009).

[3] Stuart Townend, “Beautiful Saviour” (Thankyou Music, 1988).

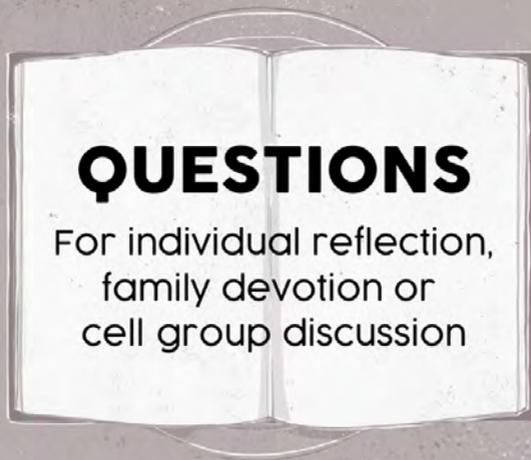
[4] Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, “In Christ Alone” (Thankyou Music, 2001).

[5] Charitee Bancroft, “Before the Throne of God Above” (Public Domain).

[6] Stuart Townend, “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” (Thankyou Music, 1995).

[7] George Keith (attributed), “How Firm a Foundation” (Public Domain).

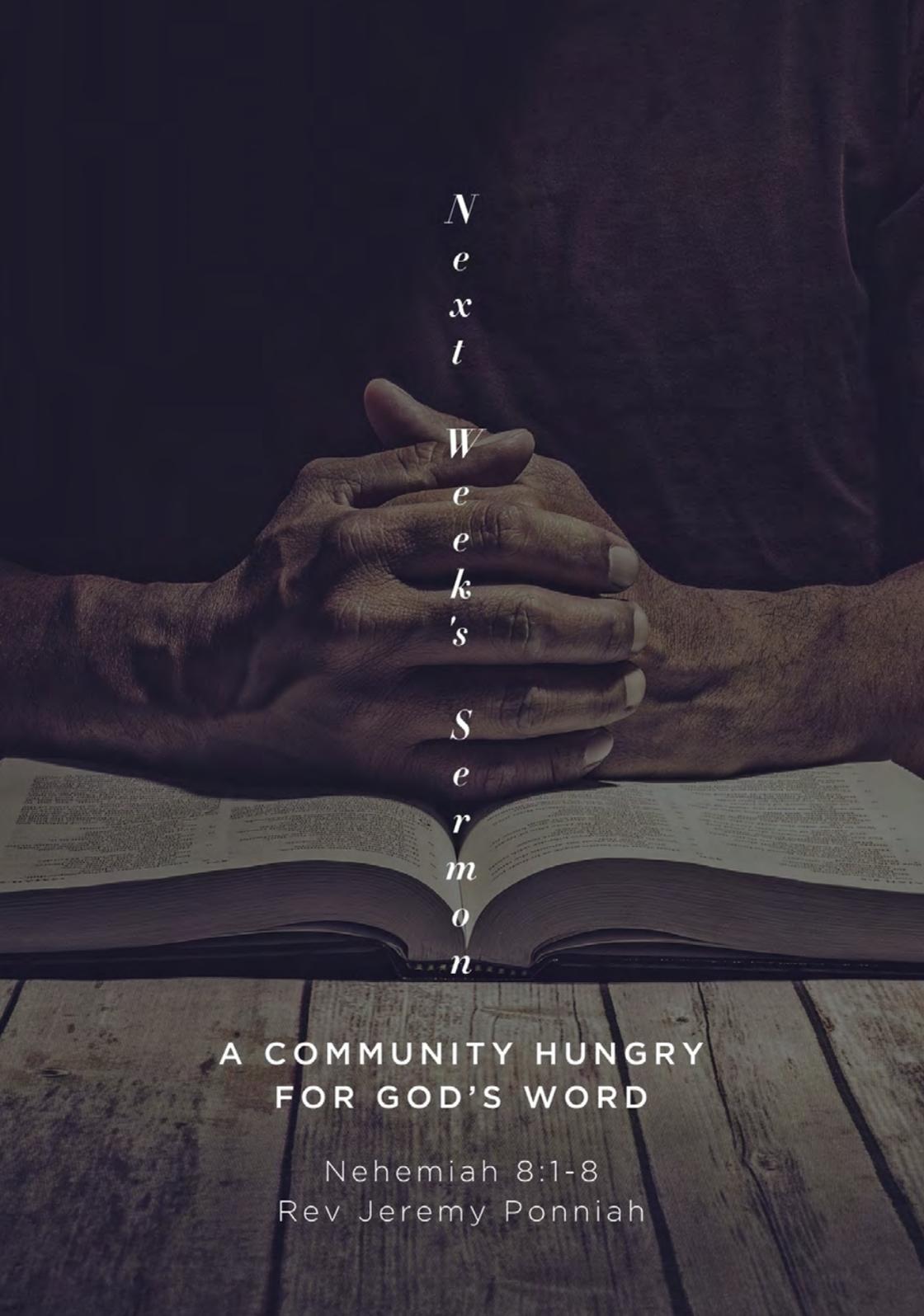
[8] Horatio Spafford, “It Is Well with My Soul” (Public Domain).



As we know, since August 2020, we have not been able to have live singing during our worship services. How have you adapted in your devotion and prayer life?

Looking at the many restrictions that were imposed on us with regards to onsite worship services, what have you learnt to appreciate despite these restrictions?

Do you think your worship and prayer life has been hampered by all the restrictions imposed on us for our onsite worship services?

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, with fingers interlaced, resting on an open Bible. The Bible is lying flat on a dark wooden surface. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the pages of the book. The overall mood is solemn and focused.

*N
e
x
t*

*W
e
e
k
's
S
e
r
m
o
n*

**A COMMUNITY HUNGRY
FOR GOD'S WORD**

Nehemiah 8:1-8
Rev Jeremy Ponniah

We thank God for guiding us through the AGM and we are grateful to all of you for your support and participation.

We thank the Lord for the PCC leaders who have been nominated and we greatly appreciate the fruitful service and contribution of Jimmy Tan, Dinesh Matthew and Ken Lim who have stepped down.

Vicar's Warden: Georgie Ong

People's Warden: Benjamin William

Synod Representative:

Arulnathan John
Kan Mun Wai, Benny
Prasanah Kasiramu

Parish Councillor:

Adrian Jay Lim
Daniel Tan
Christina Liu
Eric Tan Wee Teck
Xavier Kiruba Karan

Please uphold the new PCC leadership in your prayers as we work together to strengthen and grow the church in spite of challenges with the ongoing pandemic.



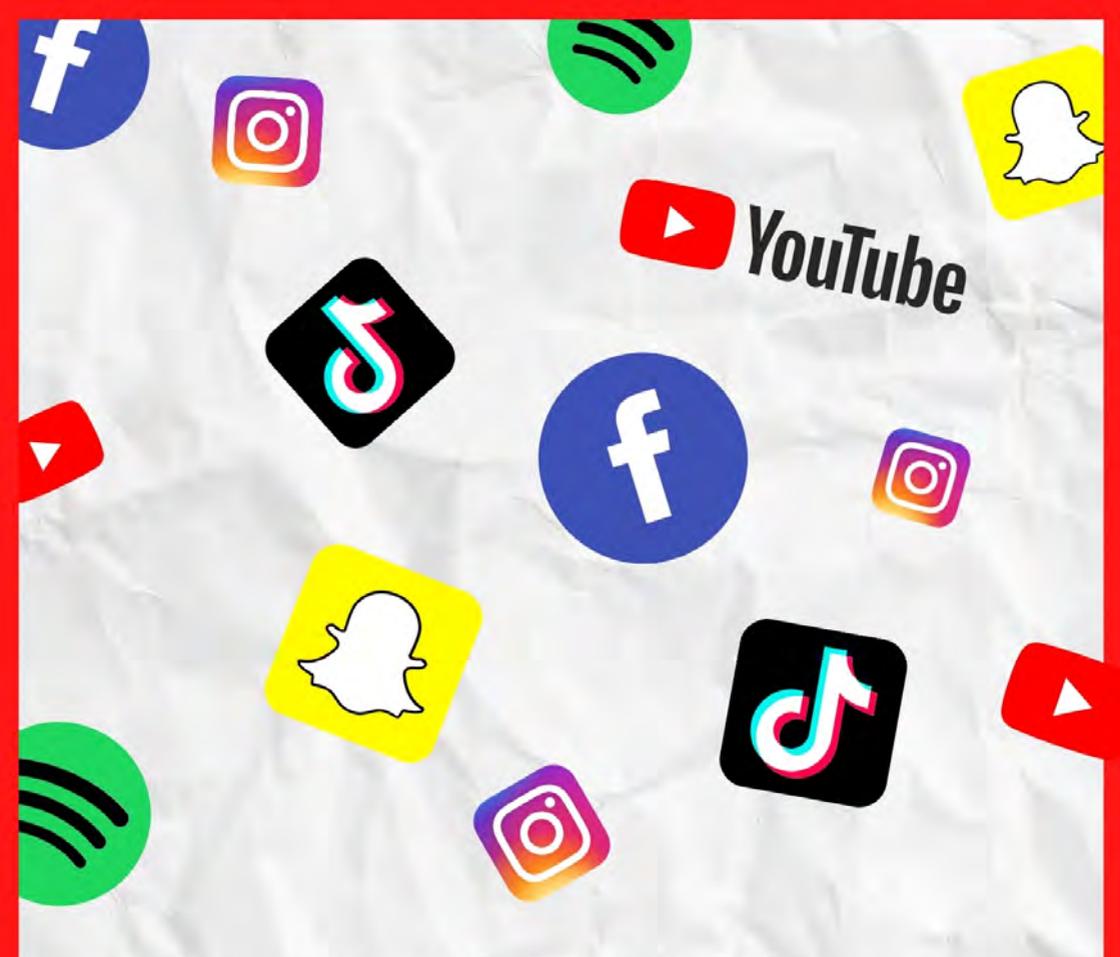
Floral



Arrangement

We are looking for members to both donate and help with floral arrangements. The roster for donations is posted at the entrance of the Main Sanctuary. The cost of flowers is set at \$60 per week.

Please feel free to write your names on the slots available and if you have any inquiries, please contact Ebe William at 9619 9947.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR

**SPC SOCIAL MEDIA
ADVOCATES**

FACEBOOK • INSTAGRAM • YOUTUBE

BE A PART OF OUR TEAM!

Contact Joanna at 81610926 or
joanna@stpaulschurch.org.sg

A monochromatic, teal-tinted photograph of a person with long, wavy hair seen from behind. Two hands are placed on their shoulders, one from the left and one from the right, suggesting a supportive or comforting gesture. The background is softly blurred, showing other people in a group setting.

Pastoral Care

For those who require prayer or pastoral care, do drop us an email at contact@stpaulschurch.org.sg or contact the respective pastoral staff directly.

Rev Jeremy: 9477 5476

Pastor Leon: 9199 3815

Pastor Leroy: 9710 2900

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

ONLINE GIVING



INTERNET BANKING

St Paul's Church

DBS Current Account No. : 023-000684-7



PAYNOW

USING BANK APP

Scan the QR Code or enter

UEN: T08CC4082E

Please indicate "S2 or CS" under Reference No. The code "S2" refers to the Sunday English Service and the code "CS" refers to the Contemporary Service. Other information like specific giving (e.g. mission, building, etc.) as needed. Names are optional.



GIVE BY CHEQUE

Made payable to "St Paul's Church" and mailed to our Church address - 843 Upper Serangoon Road Singapore 534683. Kindly indicate CS or S2 at the back of the cheque.