

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

HERE AM *I*,
SEND *ME*

ISAIAH 6:8



22 & 23 January 2022

Epiphany Three

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving love: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Contemporary Service

*Saturday, 5pm
Second Sanctuary*

Sunday Service

*8.45am
Main Sanctuary*

Scripture Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Second Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Sermon Topic

When you feel it's all

Dark and Downhill

by Pastor Leon Stewart



WHEN YOU FEEL IT'S ALL DARK AND DOWNHILL

BY ARULNATHAN JOHN

Since I joined St Paul's Church in 2015, I have been grateful for the wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ who have helped me make this church my home away from home. I have been so blessed by the ministry of the church and my opportunities to take part in ministry as well.

But there was a long time when I felt anything but blessed. Between 2009 and 2015, I faced intense personal pain where I did not think there were any lights at the end of the tunnel, only what seemed to be passing trains!

Isaiah 6:1 made sense to me. King Uzziah initially walked with the LORD, but he later fell prey to pride and died as a leper because of God's judgment. But he had previously fortified Judah, helped the people and made the country wealthy.

After he died, Judah began to go downhill into idolatry and moral decadence, paving the way for its eventual conquest by Babylon. The beginning of Isaiah 6 seemed to indicate that 'the good old days' had past, and the only way now was down — like how I felt in 2014 and 2015, when I thought there was no way out of my troubles except to end my life.

But thanks to godly friends and family who intervened, God miraculously stepped in and saved me from the pain and suffering. He came into my life to be the Saviour of my soul and body!

I moved to St Paul's Church and experienced restoration and healing from among the clergy and family of believers, including my cell group members who stood by me.

Isaiah 6:5 shows how the prophet realises his unworthiness when he faces God and is then reduced to a state of great desolation, like the depression I felt.

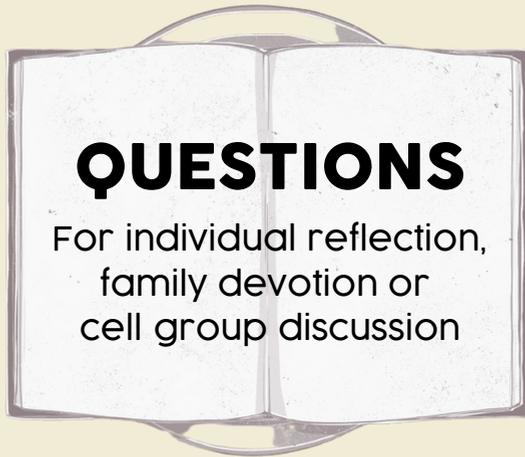
But see how God cleanses and restores him in verses 6 and 7 – just as how God eventually restored Israel from exile in Babylon. And how God saved me and revealed my true worth in Him when I thought there was no way out and brought godly counsel and family and friends into my life to help restore and heal me.

Thanks to their patient journeying with me through my difficulties, I have been able to take part in ministry and serve God — as Isaiah stepped up to offer himself to serve God's call in Isaiah 6:8.

Since that time, I have faced retrenchment and other disruptions that have upended my life, but I am no longer void of hope for God is my Hope and Salvation!

Dear friend, do you feel like all is dark and downhill in your life, and the ground has been pulled from under your feet? Take heart, I was in your shoes not too long ago, but the LORD miraculously came to save me.

And He will do the same for you too! Turn to Him now and let Him save and restore you!



In reference to Isaiah's encounter with the Lord in Isaiah 6:1-2, have you ever experienced a similar encounter and in the midst of that encounter, what was going through your mind? If you have never experienced anything like this, how do you think you would respond if this happened to you?

When Isaiah encountered God and the heavenly hosts, in what state of mind do you think Isaiah was when this encounter took place? Do you think he was at a "mountain high" state or was it a "valley low" type of state? Discuss among your cell group members and family what you all think.

Read Isaiah 6:8. As we know, Isaiah seems to have heard a heavenly discussion taking place and, in his excitement, he answered the call to be used by God. Placing yourself in that position, would you jump at the chance to be used by God even if you had no idea what you were supposed to do?

NEXT WEEKEND SERMONS

Contemporary Service

Mr Arulnathan John

Good Soldier for Christ Jesus

**2 Timothy
2:1-13**



Sunday Service

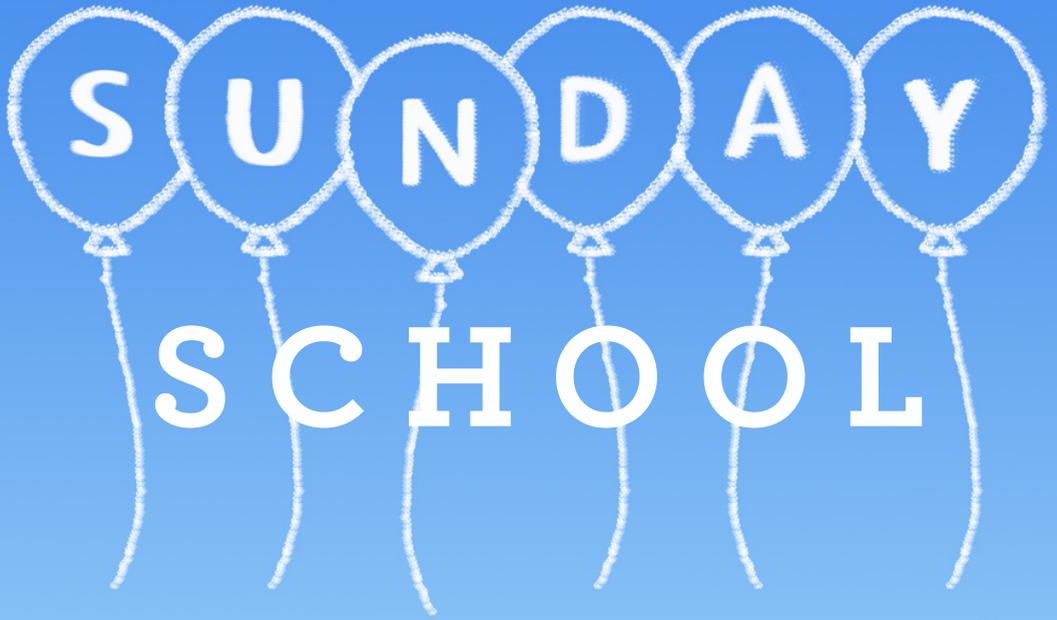
Mr Georgie Ong

The Promise of the

**ANointed
KING**

Isaiah 11:1-10





Ages

3 - 12 years old

Time

8.45am to 10am

2nd Sanctuary

A grayscale photograph of a person with long, wavy hair, seen from behind. Two hands are placed on their shoulders, one on the left and one on the right, suggesting a comforting or supportive gesture. The background is dark and out of focus.

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

Pastor Jason: 8786 0811

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

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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.