

FAITH, LOVE, HOPE

"Remembering before our God and Father your work of faith, and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 1:3, ESV)

REFLECTION

Virtues are those qualities that form part of our character, usually acquired over time. Unlike values which are more transient and dependent on trends, virtues are often deeply rooted not just in a person but also in the community to which that person belongs. They have lasting impact on our lives. Though they may be neglected, but they will never run out of fashion. Virtues would include wisdom, courage, compassion, altruism, hard-work, trustworthiness, integrity, honesty, generosity, hospitality, humility, and the like. In Paul's great poem on love, he underscores for us three virtues which will never die. They are faith, hope and love. "And the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor. 13:13). Interestingly in the text for this Prayer Bulletin, Paul commended the Christians in Thessalonica for their faith, love and hope. If Paul were to commend us, after visiting our church, what might he say about us? I pray we will be known as people of virtuous character who are known for our "work of faith, and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

PRAYER

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, we want to be Christians who seek after and cultivate the virtues which you expect us to acquire as faithful followers of Christ. Forgive us when we succumb to pressure to follow worldly trends, chasing after values and lifestyles which have no eternal significance. Grant us wisdom and discernment to choose the way of your Kingdom. Mould us. Transform us. Make us virtuous people of faith, hope and love. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Thank God for the church which is made up of the community of believers who name Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Through the local church, we can join our brothers- and sisters-in-Christ for

worship even when we cannot gather for open public services. Through the church we can receive teachings and Christian care, and be involved in witness, mission and social outreach. Whether in challenging times or in good times, we pray that God will find us faithful and make us a church where our members love God, love one another and love our neighbours.

- Apart from health crisis and economic uncertainty, the world is also threatened by squabbles between USA and China, as well as localized conflicts in Yemen, Syria, Belarus, different parts of Africa, and the border region of India and China. Pray for de-escalation of threats and tensions and the restoration of peace with justice.
- Pray for the Trinity Annual Conference. In November, TRAC will have a new President. Pray that God will guide the delegates to elect a person after his heart; someone with a servant spirit, yet competent, courageous and of sound character.
- Pray for ourselves. Take some time to do a personal audit of your faith journey and development. In areas where we need to grow, pray that we will be open to the work of the Holy Spirit, guiding us, enabling us, and freeing us from the snares of the world. In areas where we have done well as Christians, give thanks to the Lord and pray that we will continue to grow towards Christian maturity. In areas where we are in need of help, pray that our Lord will attend to our needs.

*"Teach me Thy way,
O Lord, teach me Thy way;
Thy gracious aid afford,
Teach me Thy way.
Help me to walk aright,
More by faith less by sight;
Lead me with heavenly light,
Teach me Thy way."
(Benjamin Mansell Ramsey)*

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,
kindly contact the pastoral care team via:***

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