

PREPARING A WAY FOR THE LORD

*"This is he who was spoken of
through the prophet Isaiah:*

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

*'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him'"*

(Matthew 3:3)

REFLECTION

We are into the season of Advent. This is the time in the Church calendar when Christians are reminded to prepare a way for the Lord. This is a good exercise which should help us to be ready for the Lord's visit. We do not want to be caught in an awkward situation when we are ill-prepared for the arrival of the Christ-child. If Christ were to visit us today, be it as a stranger or friend in need of help, I wonder if we would be prepared to receive him. Then again we remember that Christ came into our world as a baby, let us also be mindful that He will return as the Sovereign King. Would we be prepared for His ultimate return? The best way to prepare ourselves to receive Christ is to live a life that honours him.

PRAYER

"Teach us to be prepared at any time for your visit, dear Lord. Help us to live a life that will not be ashamed to welcome you into our homes and introduce you to our friends. Keep our hearts pure, and our homes sanctified. Help us also to live in such a way that would prepare your ultimate return. In the Name of Jesus, our Blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen."

SUPPLICATION

- In this season of Advent, we thank you Lord Jesus for coming to earth some two thousand years ago, to proclaim your message of salvation and to invite sinners to repent and return to you. Thank you, Lord, for forgiving us our sins and receiving us into your family. Renew us by your grace and strengthen us to be your witnesses.
- Empower each person in your Church, we pray, to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people in our community. Help us to announce "Joy to the

World" through our visible witness - in the way we live, the kind words we speak, the material care we offer, and the consistent love we share. Wherever we are and whatever we do, we pray that we will be the light that will point people to Jesus Christ.

- 2020 has been a difficult year. For those who have lost a loved one to COVID-19 and/or other illnesses, dear Lord, comfort them. For those who have lost their job, dear Lord, help them find suitable employment. For those who are stressed out by worries and uncertainties, dear Lord, help them find relief and peace from you.
- Thank you for the pastoral leadership of Rev. Dr. Chiu Ming Li the current Pastor-in-charge at BRMC. Thank you for the care he has extended to members and friends of the church. Thank you for his heart of compassion for people who are struggling at the margin of society. Thank you for the word which he has faithfully proclaimed as your preacher. Now that he is preparing for the new appointment in January 2021, as Pastor-in-charge at Agape Methodist Church, continue to cover him with your protection, and provide him with the resources he needs in that church. We lift Pastor Ming Li and his family to you, Father God, asking that you will watch over them, and grant them your bountiful blessings.

*"Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every Nation
Joy of every longing heart."
(Charles Wesley)*

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

Email: wecare@brmc.org.sg

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