

GOD OUR HOPE

*"May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,
even as we put our hope in you."
Psalms 33:22*

REFLECTION

The news that we read daily about what is happening around the world can be bleak and gloomy, notwithstanding from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The collapse of many small and large businesses, rising unemployment, shortage of essential items and rising prices, lockdowns, closure of worship places and schools and cancellation of mass social events are all putting a dampening effect on every aspect of life. Despite the mass rollout of vaccines, less developed countries still lag behind especially when the disease has spread widely and related costs of vaccines and medical care are simply too much for many to bear. Then there are reports of worsening international relations, trade spats as well as countries with domestic chaos due to coup attempts or anti-government protests. It is easy for us to feel a sense of hopelessness. How can we find hope in such a turbulent world?

Psalms 33 is an invitation to wait in hope, to trust completely in God and to put our hope in His unfailing love (v.22). The opening verses of Psalm 33 carry the invitation to "sing joyfully to the Lord", to "shout for joy" (v.3), and even to "play skillfully" and "make music to Him." (v.1-3) But 'Why?' It is because God created the world and His will is sovereign over all (v.6-9). God's ways are different from the ways of the world (v.10-11). Whatever plans people and nations may make, God can "foil" and "thwart" all of them. Everything in the world come under the plan of the Lord and His sovereign will stands forever throughout all the generations (v.11).

Thus, our ultimate hope comes from our heavenly God who looks down and sees everything in the world and all who live in it with His protective gaze. Nothing escapes God (12-15). When we read the world news each day, we are to remember our source of hope, the Lord who is our help and shield (v.20-22). The world may continue to be in turbulence and though the fallout from the pandemic still continues, there is tangible and real hope in the Lord. Jesus said: "Heaven and earth will pass away; but my words will not pass away" (Mark 13:31, Mat 24:35, Luke 21:33). We have a God who will never abandon us. His plans are for us to prosper and to have a future. Nothing should shake us to the point of losing hope. Who are the people that you know are losing hope? Will you go to them and share with them about the hope that is in Christ Jesus today?

PRAYER

Father in heaven, thank You that our hope is in You. Neither the turbulent world nor the fallout of the pandemic can overwhelm You. You are above all and sovereign over everything. You command the earth and all that is in it. Lead us to pray for Your will in the world. Lead us also to others who have yet to experience You as their eternal hope. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Give thanks for the grace that all who face hopelessness in life can find security by putting their hope in Him. The Bible assures that those who 'put their hope in God' (1 Tim. 6:17) will find 'a firm foundation' and 'take hold of the life that is truly life' (v.19) Pray for those who are struggling financially, emotionally and mentally because of the pandemic. Pray that government, organizations, help agencies and churches can extend real and sustaining help and support to help these people to pull through.
- Thank God for the grace of spiritual growth as we all spend time seeking Him in His Word. Thank God for His word that sustains us in our faithfulness and trust in Him. Pray that believers will be continue delight in God's word, meditate and keep it close to their hearts, so that they be refreshed and liberated from hopelessness (Psalm 119). Pray for greater perseverance in the faith.
- Pray that the message of hope in Jesus will be heard by people in the most unreachable places. Pray that the pandemic may be a means by which many believers grow in resilience and hopefulness as we look to God for help. Pray for the transmission of the message of hope through the digital and video networks in addition to church services add to the feeding of faith for all believers.
- Pray for vibrant corporate worship and personal worship. Pray for believers to be lost in wonder, love and praise. Pray that believers may nurture the heart of worship. Pray that God is the object of our worship and for our hearts to be filled with hope in Him.

*"For the Lord is high above the nations;
his glory is higher than the heavens.
Who can be compared with the Lord our God,
who is enthroned on high?"
(Psalm 113:4-5)*

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,
kindly contact the pastoral care team via:
Email: wecare@brmc.org.sg
Contact: 6592 4011 or 6592 4012**