

## **YEAR OF THE TIGER**

*"Your lovingkindness, O LORD,  
extends to the heavens.  
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies."  
Psalms 35:5*

### **REFLECTION**

We are into the Year of the Tiger. The superstitious ones among the Chinese and those who follow the Lunar Calendar (e.g. the Koreans, and Vietnamese) may be wary of having children born this year.

In my younger days, I heard tales of girls born in the Year of the Tiger bringing bad luck to the family. Some parents of "Tiger" girls, who were born at night and with tooth, were known to have given their daughters away for adoption in order to ward off misfortune.

Of course, Christians should not be superstitious people. Every child born in any year is a precious child, including "Tiger" daughter born in the wee hours of the night. I know of lovely girls and women, born in the Year of the Tiger, who have grown up to be fine persons of charm and good character. They have been blessings to their families and friends.

Whichever year we may be born into, we are all priceless in the eyes of our LORD who loves us and who cares deeply for our well-being.

For this Lunar New Year, celebrate with the Psalmist and all the people around the world, by proclaiming *"Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the skies."*

May more babies be born in this Year of the Tiger. May they bring joy and blessings to their families. And may their future be bright! For it is the Lord who gives and blesses families with children. All good gifts comes from the heavenly Father.

I must declare that I am a "Tiger", or born in the Year of the Tiger if you would prefer, and I am forever thankful to God for His bountiful blessings upon my life.

### **PRAYER**

*God of Creation, we give you thanks for the beginning of another Lunar New Year. For our journey ahead, grant us a heart filled with joy; a mouth always ready to speak words of praise; a mind occupied with thoughts that will glorify your Holy Name. Amen.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- As the Lunar New Year ushers in the dawn of Spring, we thank God for fresh beginnings in our life. We pray that we will repent of our sins, put behind past mistakes, and look forward to live a life that is Father-pleasing, Christ-centred and Spirit-filled.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has caught the world ill-prepared and showed up our wasteful living. While it has been disruptive and it has brought distress and even death to countless number of people around the world. Pray that we will reflect on what is happening and draw lessons which we can learn about accessible health care; about caring for God's environment; about living a simpler and more sustainable life; about food hygiene; about the need to be fair in the distribution of vaccines.
- Meanwhile we continue to plead to God for the protection of the vulnerable; for vaccines to reach the poorest people around the world, and for the cessation of Covid-19 pandemic.
- In a post-enlightenment world of fluid belief and competing claims, pray that God will raise up brilliant Christians who will be able to help the Church to take on the formidable challenges we find in a world which is increasingly hostile to the core belief of the Christian faith enshrined in the historic creeds. The Church needs a regular supply of the best and brightest Christians – those with integrity, good heart, humble spirit; Christians who fear and love God – to provide trustworthy teachings, clear direction, and responsible and inspiring leadership.

*"May this day be blest;  
Trusting Jesus' love.  
My heart's freed from ill;  
Fair blue sky's above.  
Glad for cotton coat,  
Plain food satisfies;  
All my countless needs,  
Thy kind hand supplies."*

(From, "Rise to Greet the Sun,"  
Chao Tzu-chen)

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly  
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