

# TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH PENANG

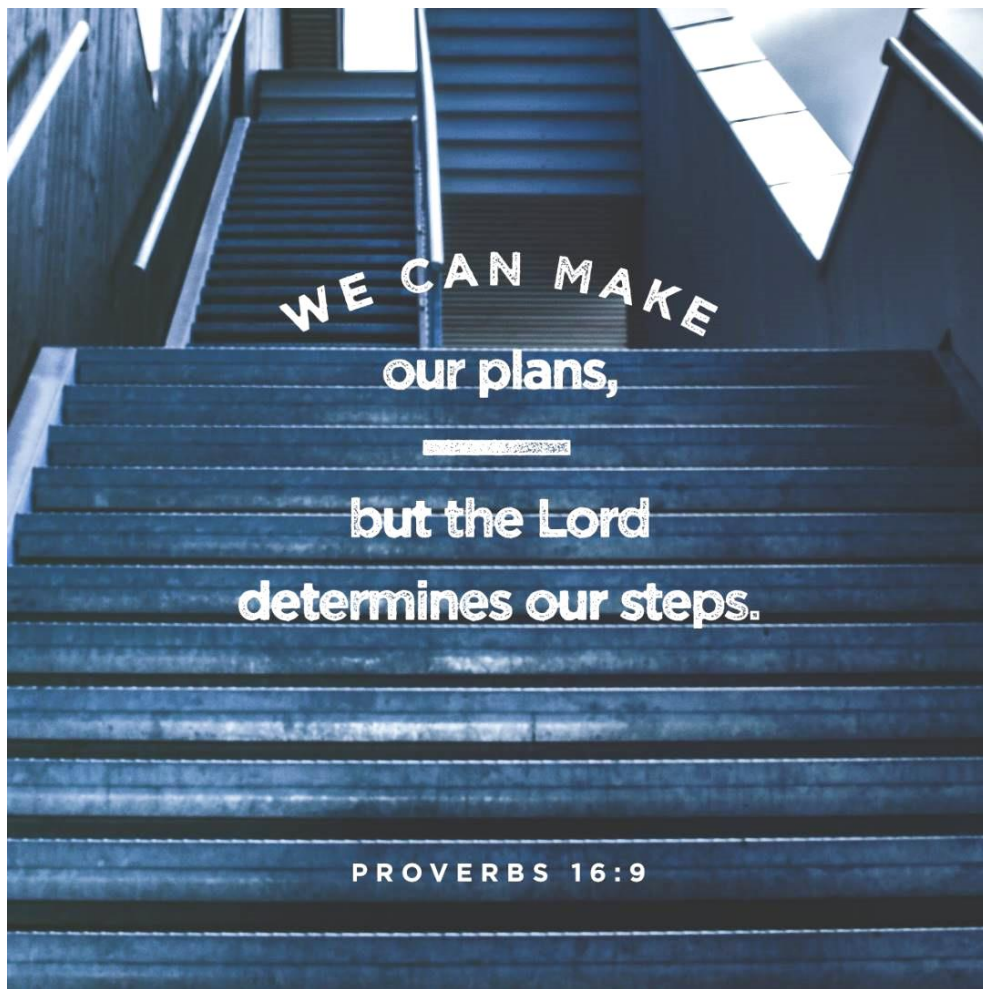


16 Jalan Masjid Negeri, 11600 Penang, MALAYSIA · Website [penangtrinity.org](http://penangtrinity.org) · Email [office@penangtrinity.org](mailto:office@penangtrinity.org)  
Office Ph: +60 4 8287445 +60 4 8280234 · Trinity Kindergarten +60 4 8260724

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

***"Be reverent, for this is the house of the Lord.  
Before the service, speak to God.  
During the service, let God speak to you.  
"After the service, speak to one another at the fellowship area."***



*Photo credits: Life.Church*

## Our Vision

***Nurturing Disciples to be a Spirit-filled, Impactful Church***

## The 4 Essentials

***Personal Growth, Building Community,  
A Voice to Our Nation, A Vision for the World***

**SCRIPTURE SENTENCE**

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart,  
but it is the LORD’S purpose that prevails.”

*Proverbs 19:21, NIV*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Responsively*)

L: Shout to God with songs of great joy!

**P: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!**

L: God has made us whole.

**P: God has called us to a ministry of hope and love.**

L: We await God’s instructions for our lives.

**P: We open our hearts to receive God’s Word for us today. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER****OPENING SONG**

Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

*This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Saviour all the day long  
(repeat)*

Perfect submission, perfect delight  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love

Perfect submission, all is at rest  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest  
Watching and waiting, looking above  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love

CCLI Song #22324

“Blessed Assurance” words & music by Fanny Jane Crosby | Phoebe Palmer Knapp

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CCLI Licence #620790

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart  
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies  
No sudden rending of the veil of clay  
No angel visitant, no opening skies  
But take the dimness of my soul away

Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?  
All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind  
I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling  
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer

CCLI #2083

*"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"* words & music by Frederick Cook Atkinson | George Croly

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## **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

1. Pray for Italy after heavy storms in the northern region caused major floods and landslides, causing loss of life, damage to property, and displacing thousands.
2. Pray for Malaysians to have wisdom and discernment to process and respond well to all sorts of racial and religious issues that have arisen lately. Pray for God's truth to prevail over the noise.
3. Pray for the Methodist Heritage Weekend being held at Penang Trinity in the coming weekend. Pray for more Methodists in our northern district to come and discover our Methodist identity that is filled with love and enthusiasm for God.
4. Pray for ourselves, that we would find true wisdom in constantly seeking God's will and direction above our own.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## **E-OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Give to: MBB 5072 4612 6505 (Trinity Methodist Church Penang)  
Please indicate for "Offering/Pledge" or "Poor & Needy" in Recipient Reference  
for online transfers.*

## **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son & Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL**

*(...Those leaving for their Sunday School Classes will stand...)*

Pastor: Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord.

Children: For He is good, and His love endures forever.

People: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

## **SONG OF PREPARATION**

Lord, Speak to Me  
*(stanzas 1, 3, 4)*

UMH 463

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
In living echoes of Thy tone  
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek  
Thine erring children lost and lone

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
The precious things Thou dost impart  
And wing my words, that they may reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart

O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord  
Until my very heart overflow  
In kindling thought and glowing word  
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show

CCLI #103391

"Lord, Speak To Me" words & music by Frances Ridley Havergal | Robert Alexander Schumann

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**SCRIPTURE READING**

2 Samuel 17:1-23

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.****SERMON**

Human wisdom &amp; God's sovereignty

Mr Tan Chong Jin

**REFLECTION / DISCUSSION**

1. What is your reaction to God's sovereignty and control over human affairs? In what ways does God's sovereignty affect your choices in life?
2. What is your reaction to ungodly human plans and scheming? How does God's sovereignty affect the way you respond and pray when confronted with evil schemes?
3. How have you been helped with the assurance and hope of God's deliverance in every difficult situation? What are some testimonies you can share about God's deliverance in your life that would encourage others?

**CLOSING SONG**

This is My Father's World

UMH 144

This is my Father's world  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres  
This is my Father's world  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas  
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my Father's world  
The birds their carols raise  
The morning light, the lily white  
Declare their Maker's praise

This is my Father's world  
He shines in all that's fair  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass  
He speaks to me everywhere

This is my Father's world  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong  
God is the Ruler yet  
This is my Father's world  
Why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring!  
God reigns, let the earth be glad!

*CCLI Song # 7139684**"This is My Father's World" words & music by Franklin Lawrence Sheppard | Maltbie Davenport Babcock | Wen Reagan  
© Words: Public Domain Music: 2017 Sursum Corda Music (Admin. by Wen Reagan)***BENEDICTION****THREE-FOLD AMEN**

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Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

*This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Saviour all the day long  
(repeat)*

Perfect submission, perfect delight  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love

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Watching and waiting, looking above  
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And wing my words, that they may reach  
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UMH 144

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The music of the spheres  
This is my Father's world  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas  
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my Father's world  
The birds their carols raise  
The morning light, the lily white  
Declare their Maker's praise

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He shines in all that's fair  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass  
He speaks to me everywhere

This is my Father's world  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong  
God is the Ruler yet  
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The Lord is King, let the heavens ring!  
God reigns, let the earth be glad!

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© Words: Public Domain Music: 2017 Sursum Corda Music (Admin. by Wen Reagan)***BENEDICTION****THREE-FOLD AMEN**

## SERMON OUTLINE

Title: Human Wisdom & God's Sovereignty

Scripture Passage: 2 Samuel 17:1-23

**BIG IDEA: God is Sovereign in any situation.**

**Key Verse: 2 Samuel 17:14b (NIV)**

*For the Lord had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on Absalom.*

### **Introduction**

- Absalom used his considerable charm and political acumen to build a network of support from across Israel (2 Samuel 15:1-6)
- At the opportune time he launched a rebellion against King David, his father (2 Samuel 15:7-12)
- David fled from Jerusalem (2 Samuel 15:13-14)
- Things were seemingly building up in Absalom's favour but the LORD had determined that he would fail and that David would be delivered (2 Samuel 17:14)

God works sovereignly in human affairs in the following ways:

### **1. God's sovereignty and human responsibility**

*God's sovereignty does not remove human responsibility*

- The witness of the Bible is that God is sovereign over all things (e.g. Isaiah 46:9-10, Isaiah 55:8-9, Job 38-41)
- At the same time, God has given humanity a freewill to choose responsibly (e.g. Deuteronomy 30:19)
- Everyone will be held accountable before God for the choices made in life (e.g. Romans 2:6-16)

### **2. God's judgement over human wisdom**

*There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD. (Proverbs 21:30)*

- When the path of sin and rebellion is taken, all human plans and wisdom would be brought into judgment (2 Samuel 17:14)
- Human plans and wisdom for evil would either fail or be used by God to turnaround for good (Genesis 50:15-20)
- Absalom's rebellion served a greater purpose in the LORD's judgement over David's sin with Bathsheba but Absalom would be judged for his rebellion.

### **3. God's deliverance and human faith**

*From the Lord comes deliverance. (Psalm 3:8a)*

- Though he was faced with a devastating crisis, David put his faith and hope in the LORD
- (2 Samuel 15:30-32, 16:11-12, Psalm 3 [attributed to David when he was fleeing from Absalom])
- Although Absalom's rebellion was part of the LORD's pronounced judgement on David's sin (2 Samuel 12:10-12), the LORD would not allow David to be overwhelmed and destroyed
- Instead, God would deliver David from Absalom (2 Samuel 17:14) as events would later prove

## Today's WORSHIP ENABLERS

	<u>10.00 am Service</u>	<u>5.00 pm Service</u>
<b>Sermon Title/Text</b>	Human wisdom & God's sovereignty (2 Samuel 17:1-23)	Human wisdom & God's sovereignty (2 Samuel 17:1-23)
<b>Preacher</b>	Mr Tan Chong Jin	Mr Tan Chong Jin
<b>Liturgist</b>	Mr Daniel Teh	Dr Cheah Ui Hock
<b>Reader</b>	Mrs Rosalind Khoo	Mrs Esther Wong
<b>Musician</b>	Mr Bernard Lee	Mrs Audrey Tan
<b>Sound</b>	Mr Bernard Lim	Mr Andrew Lee
<b>Visual</b>	Mr Calvin Fong	Mr Calvin Fong
<b>Streaming</b>	Mr Chuah Chang En	n/a
<b>Ushers</b>	Mr Mak Ngai Leong Mrs Maggie Mak Mr Vincent Lee Ms Sharon Wong	Dr Mah Chiou-Fen Dr Goh Yoke Seng
<b>Finance Stewards</b>	Mr Khoo Boo Thye Mr Lim Pang Kuan Mdm Nellie Goh Beng Hong	n/a

## Next Sunday's WORSHIP ENABLERS

	<u>10.00 am Service</u>	<u>5.00 pm Service</u>
<b>Sermon Title/Text</b>	TBA	TBA
<b>Preacher</b>	Pr Dato' Daniel Ho	Pr Dato' Daniel Ho
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	Mrs Jane Khoo, Ms Cheah Yan Li	n/a
<b>Liturgist</b>	n/a	Mrs Esther Wong
<b>Reader</b>	Mr Ch'ng Geam Liang	Dr Mallise Tong
<b>Musicians</b>	Ms Amelia Loo, Mr Tairven Lee	
<b>Sound</b>	Ms Roshni George	Mr William Ng
<b>Visual</b>	Mr Seah Por Shen, Mr Hugo Cheah	Mr William Ng
<b>Streaming</b>	Mr David Law	n/a
<b>Ushers</b>	Ms Teo Lay Tinn Mr Khoo Boo Thye Mr Oon Chee Soon Dr Ho Seng Hooi	Dr Serena Nga Dr Tan Boon Chong
<b>Finance Stewards</b>	Mr Yeo Hwang Seng Ms Helen Aw	n/a

## ONLINE MINISTRIES & ACTIVITIES

### **SUNDAY**

- 9.15am Church School  
10.00am Worship Service in English  
12.30pm Methodist Youth Fellowship  
1.30pm Young Families 1 Small Group –  
Tairven Lee  
3.00pm Post Alpha Small Group  
Sungai Ara II Small Group –  
Jason Chieng  
3.00pm Boys' Brigade

### **MONDAY**

- 8.00pm Lighthouse Watchmen Prayer Network  
(LWPN), Bayan Lepas – Teng Leong

### **TUESDAY**

- 7.00pm Young Adults III – Gerviene Sya  
7.30pm Tanjung Bungah Small Group –  
Chan Chen Weng

### **WEDNESDAY**

- 10.00am Wednesday Small Group –  
Tan Saw Lee (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed)  
11.00am Church Office Staff Meeting  
3.00pm Galilee Kopitiam (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed)

### **THURSDAY**

- 8.30pm Church Prayer Meeting –  
<http://bit.ly/tmcprayer>  
9.00pm Tree Residency Small Group  
– Jesse Ong

### **FRIDAY**

- Small Groups:  
3.00pm Cheeseman Rd (Bethel) – Sabrina Lee  
8.30pm Young Adults I – Seah Por Shen  
Taman Sri Nibong – Dr Saw Kim Guan  
Bethel – Ch'ng Geam Liang  
Century Garden – Lim Lim Ling  
Permai Village I – Ooi Lay Chen  
Island Glades – Tan Kok Huat (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

### **SATURDAY**

- 10:30am Permai Village Small Group –  
Daniel Teh  
1:30pm Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group  
Small Groups:  
8.00pm Young Adults II – Hendrix Cheong  
8.15pm Young Families 2 – James Hii  
8.30pm Sungai Ara I – Florence Tan (fortnightly)

## WEEKLY PRAYER

### World

- Pray for an end to violence and escalating tensions around the world. Pray for God's intervention over the fighting between Ukraine and Russia, and between Israel and Gaza. Pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Sudan; that humanitarian aid will reach those in need. Pray for the peaceful restoration of order and political stability in Pakistan. Pray also, for God's mercy and peace to prevail over all.

### Nation

- Continue to pray for God's blessings and favour upon our Rulers, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers, for godly wisdom and harmony to guide the nation forward. Pray for the creation of a strong social safety net for the marginalised, the vulnerable and the poor. Pray also, that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will carry out their tasks and responsibilities without fear or favour.

### Church

- Pray for each household represented here in Penang Trinity. Pray that we will learn to emulate the home of Timothy, who grew in the Lord through the influence of his mother and grandmother. Pray that parents will strive to teach their children God's Word so that our young may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray that the Word of God will be a priority in each family.

### Self

- Pray that God will deliver us from the evil one; and that He will protect us and guard us against bad attitudes and choices. Pray that we will not be a stumbling block to those around us. Pray also, that our human minds will be suppressed, and that Christ's mind will reign supreme, and that we will be continually filled with the Spirit for times of service and ministry.

# CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

**WELCOME** to worship at *Trinity*. For any assistance please contact:

Pastor – Rev Shearn Sya: 04-828 7445

Administrator – Ms Angeline Choo: 013-243 1282

- Sermons and past worship services are available online (<http://replay.penangtrinity.org>).
- Visitation ministry for the homebound, please inform Angeline Choo.
- **Floral Gifts:** From Andy Wang & family in Thanksgiving.
- **Online/ATM Transfer:** Maybank Account No. MBB 5072 4612 6505 (Trinity Methodist Church Penang). Please indicate for "Offering/Pledge" or "Poor & Needy" in Recipient Reference for online transfers.

## TODAY – May 21

Communion Offering for May 2023 will go to Asia Community Services.



## Pray for Malaysia

May 21, 8pm – 9pm (TONIGHT)  
To join, go to <https://pray.smced.org/>

## Our Methodist Heritage

Speaker: Pr Dato' Daniel Ho

May 27, 10am – 4pm | Registration fee: RM20  
Closing date: May 19. For more information, contact the Church Office or Mr Saw Kim Guan 017-450 6890

## Faces of Trinity | May 21 & 28

After service till 12:30pm

Please have your portraits taken after service. This year, we invite all small groups to gather as a small group for group photo.

## 2023 Church-wide Bible Reading Plan:

<http://bit.ly/tmcbible2023>

Prayer Request Form – <https://bit.ly/tmcpayforme>. All requests are confidential unless permission is given to circulate to larger prayer group.

## 10AM / 5PM Service

- ✗ Booking of Seats – Not required
- ✗ MySejahtera checks – Not required
- ✓ Record names of attendees – Required
- ✓ Masks, Social Distancing – Strongly encouraged

## The Alpha Course Online

3pm, Sundays

For more information or to register, contact Vivian Lim at 013-401 0551

## 2023 Church Camp

July 7-9 | Marina Island Pangkor Resort & Hotel  
RM350 (Ages 13 and above)  
RM100 (Ages 4-12)

Go to <http://linktr.ee/penangtrinity> to register.  
Closing date: May 31, 2023

## 48<sup>th</sup> TRAC MW Session

October 13-15, 2023 | Novotel Hotel, Taiping  
RM300

(Early Bird – First 18 registrants before Aug 6)  
RM550 (Normal rate)

For more information or to register, contact:  
Mrs Angela Khong 016-470 0680