



Covenant

DNA of Christ's Disciple



9 Aug 2020

Times

A CHRISTIAN PATRIOT?

Today is national day. All around this small island nation, and around the world, Singaporeans are celebrating their nation's 55th birthday. To many of us, this is not just another public holiday where we can relax – it is a day imbued with special meaning. Our hearts swell with fondness when we sing the lyrics: "This is home, truly ...". We are concerned when we hear about the challenges surrounding our nation's future. We are proud when we hear the stories of Singaporeans rallying together to combat the fallout of COVID – cheering them on as fellow Singaporeans.

Is there a place for Christian patriotism? How should we think of our allegiance to Singapore, in relation to our relation to the Kingdom of Heaven? Let me give you 2 things Christian Patriotism is not, and 3 things it should be.

Christian Patriotism is not nationalism. To a rabid nationalist, one's country can do no wrong - it is infallible and above criticism. However, the prophets in the Bible, such as Jeremiah, were ready to denounce the rulers and nation of Israel when they have strayed from God's ways. Furthermore, to a nationalist, one's love must be exclusive - and any regard for other nations is "unpatriotic". But as Christians, we must also love other nations with a missional heart, and the foreigner in our midst. What if Apostle Paul, who went out to the gentiles, was a nationalist instead? What if the first missionaries to Singapore only cared out the faith and lives of their countrymen? We would have all perished without the gospel.

Christian Patriotism has its ultimate allegiance set on the Kingdom of Heaven, and not on its nation. As Paul says in Philippians 3: *"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ"*. Much as we *"seek the peace and prosperity of [our earthly] city"* (Jer 29:7), we know that we are ultimately sojourners on this earth.

During this unusual time when we cannot come together for worship, we can still be part of a worshipping community. We invite you to join us at our pre-recorded worship service at this website <https://www.cplink.org.sg/>. We hope you can also connect with our Life Groups. Please contact one of our Pastoral Staff if you like to join a Life Group. We are still meeting and connecting through various digital platforms.

Welcome!

We want to grow in Christlikeness through devotion and delight in God, nurturing devotion and delight in God, nurturing relationships and intentionally multiplying disciplemakers.

No nation on earth will last forever, even the greatest civilisations will fall, but of the Kingdom of God there will be no end.

Christian patriotism serves the nation. In Romans 13, Apostle Paul calls his fellow Christians to submit to earthly authorities. There is no escape route for us by saying ‘I serve only God’, because according to Paul, God has delegated His authority to earthly rulers. Of course, Paul did not mean that Christians should obey authority blindly – for Paul himself preached the gospel even when commanded not to. Nevertheless, submission is a tough word these days, because the idea of submitting means laying aside our rights and desires. A posture of Christian service actively contributes to social and national good, and does not see their nation as owing them a living. Instead, Paul says: “*Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.*”

Christian Patriotism shows gratitude for where God has placed us. There is a lot of things that are out of our control. Even the simple and basic matter of our family/country and the times we are born into are not chosen by us. We either see these identities as a straitjacket, or as a gift given to us by God, who plans our lives from beginning to end.

One of the hallmarks of Christian maturity is gratitude. Patriotism at its best is a showcase of generous gratitude, for the circumstances and settings where God has placed us. We can proudly celebrate our own family and our own nation as a home like no other, without having the insecure need to put down all other families or nations.

Christians Patriotism demonstrates love in the particular. There’s a quote that goes, ‘*I love mankind, it’s people I can’t stand*’. Perhaps that’s why Jesus said ‘Love one another’, rather than ‘love the world’ – it’s easy to love a distant thing, because it neither costs us nor tests us. We live in Singapore, and are many ways, bound to Singapore, and our fellow Singaporeans. So let us love Singapore, in ways that are concrete and particular, serving the community at large, and seeking the peace and prosperity of this nation where God has placed us.

~Pr Lionel Neo ~

The Book of Numbers



*Wishing
Singapore a
blessed
55th
National Day!*



Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting 2020

Important Dates & Deadlines to Remember



Notice of ACM

CPC communicant member who have not received ACM Notice email by 24 July, please contact ACM 2020 Admin acm2020-hope@cplink.org.sg or 62934394



Request ACM Report

If you wish to obtain a printed copy of the ACM Annual Report, please request by Thursday, 6 August using the link in the ACM Notification email



Questions for ACM

Submit queries relating to ACM Annual Report and matters to be voted by email to acm2020-hope@cplink.org.sg or by post to 110 Race Course Road, Singapore 218578



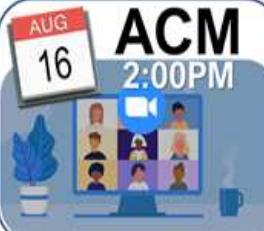
Proxy Submission

Proxy Form is to be duly filled up, signed and sent latest by Thursday, 13 August by email to acm2020-hope@cplink.org.sg or by post to 110 Race Course Road, Singapore 218578



ACM Registration

To join the "live" Zoom meeting, communicant members must pre-register by 2 pm on Thursday, 13 August 2020.



**ACM
2:00PM**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✚ **Notice of ACM 2020:**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting this year has now been confirmed to be held next **Sunday, 16 August 2020, at 2 pm.** Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the ACM will be conducted virtually by electronic means. Details and reminders have been sent to Communicant Members via email.

✚ Our heartiest congratulations to **Rev Dr Henry Wong** on completing his doctorate study.

✚ **CPC Prayer Meeting** (Fresh Fire) next Fri, 14 Aug @ 8pm.
Meeting ID : 298 108 8560
Password: 2768768

TITHING



Please key in your tithing number at the reference section. If you are unsure of or do not a tithing number, you may drop us an email at the church website, under "Request" tab and we will get back to you.

INTERNET TRANSFER

DBS Current Account: 025-905375-8

Account name: Covenant Presbyterian Church - Tith

UEN no. **T12SS0164DTTH**

OFFERING



Please key in only the alphabet at the reference section as follows :

"E" *for English Service*
"C" *for Chinese Service*
"SL" *for Sri Lankan Service*

INTERNET TRANSFER

DBS Current Account: 033-016873-0

Account name: Covenant Presbyterian Church

UEN no. **T12SS0164D**



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Admin/Accts.Ex: Salinas J. Hope

Pastoral Staff

Rev Keith Lai
Rev Abel Lee
Rev Dr Henry Wong
Rev Christina Ong
Ps Lai Mui Fong
Pr Chin Yoke Fen
Pr Lionel Neo
Ps Susantha

Sri Lankan Service

Rev Christina Ong / Ps Susantha

Chinese Service

Rev Abel Lee / Pr Chin Yoke Fen

CareWorks Community Services

Rev Dr Henry Wong

Gladiolus Place

Michelle Tan

Ministry Team Leaders

Creche

Kong Soh Lian

Children

Pr Lionel Neo

Youth and Young Adult (YaYA)

Rev Abel Lee (ad interim)

James Wong (ad interim)

Audrey Wong

Young Working Adult & Young Married

Rev Dr Henry Wong

Adults & Seniors

Rev Keith Lai/ Ps Lai Mui Fong

Hospitality

Jenny Ho

Worship

Ryan Kong

Missions

Ho Chung Tat

Prayer

Rev Dr Henry Wong

Freedom & Wholeness

Alfred & Jenny Koay

GB / BB

Pr Lionel Neo

Chinese Seniors Alpha Course

Pr Chin Yoke Fen

Day Alone with the Lord

Ps Lai Mui Fong