



**1/2 December 2018**  
Vol. 40, No. 47

## The Light of the World (The Golden Lampstand of the Holy Place)

*Exodus 25:31-40*

### English Services

*(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)*

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Fellowship  
Scripture Reading  
Anthem  
Pastoral Prayer  
Worship in the Word  
*Pastor Larry Pabiona*  
The Lord's Supper  
Worship through Giving  
Response Song  
Benediction

### Filipino Service

*(3 n.h.)*

Paghahanda  
Tawag sa Pagsamba  
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan  
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita  
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos  
Panalanging Pastoral  
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos  
*Pastor Emer Manaloto*  
Banal na Hapunan  
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay  
Tugon na Awit  
Bendisyon

*See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.*



# The Light of the World

## (The Golden Lampstand of the Holy Place)

Today's Message (1/2 December 2018) /  
Exodus 25:31-40

THE CHURCH  
IS CALLED  
UPON TO  
SHINE A CLEAR  
SPIRITUAL  
LIGHT THAT  
WILL ENABLE  
PEOPLE TO  
COME OUT  
OF THE  
DARKNESS.

Unlike the Ark of the Covenant, the Table of the Bread, and Altar of Incense, no wood entered into the composition of the Lampstand. It was not cast into a mold, but made entirely out of hammered sheets from one piece of pure gold. The lampstand weighed one talent, which is conservatively 75 pounds. At USD 1,223 an ounce, the lampstand is worth about USD 1.46 million (PhP 77 million) as of today.

### 1. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

The Golden Lampstand stood within the Holy Place opposite the Table of the Bread. It contained seven lamps, with decorations under each lamp of a bowl like an almond fruit, bud, and flower.

The main branch or stem probably rose to a height a little higher than the others. It is likely that the lampstand's branches faced from the east to the west, better lighting the Holy Place. God again specified in verse 40 to Moses that "you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." Moses was not to deviate from what he was not only told, but shown. That's significant.

### 2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

Throughout Scripture, God Himself is associated with light (*Genesis 15:17, Exodus 3 and 13:21-22*). Where there is light, there is the Lord. For us New Testament believers, with the benefit of spiritual hindsight (the Bible), the lampstand has a deeper significance:

#### a. C \_\_\_\_\_ is the light.

- Our Lord Jesus said of Himself: "I am the light of the world" (*John 8:12*). The Apostle John writes of our Savior's coming into the world, "The light shines in the darkness" (*John 1:5*). Later, John described our Lord as ablaze with glorious light in Revelation 1:12-14.
- Where light is described in the New Testament, there is Jesus. The lampstand of gold in the Tab-

#### Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Anthem

Pastoral Prayer

Worship in the Word

*Pastor Larry Pabiona*

The Lord's Supper

Worship through Giving

Benediction



# The Light of the World

## (The Golden Lampstand of the Holy Place)

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ernacle was ultimately intended to teach the priests and the people that one day, there would be no need of a lamp because the Lord Himself would come and be the Light.

- Some people still seek the ancient lampstand from the original Tabernacle. But is it not much better if they were to seek Jesus, for He is the true meaning behind the Lampstand? What is the use of a perishable physical light while refusing the true eternal Light?

b. **C \_\_\_\_\_, you are the light.**

- Jesus compared us to light in Matthew 5:14-16. We are not the original source but we reflect the light, like the moon reflects the light of the sun and gives light in the darkness of night. Let's be examples of holiness. Let's love our God and tell others about Jesus Christ. That is our mission.
- The oil in the lamps represents the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who takes the things of Christ and shows them unto us—just as those lighted lamps reveal the beauty of the lampstand (*John 16.14*). The Holy Spirit reveals Christ as the Son of God.
- The continuous need for oil (*Exodus 27:20*) and the importance of the provision of light symbolically speak of the believer's responsibility and need. It's simple as this: no oil, no light. No Holy Spirit, no power.

c. **C \_\_\_\_\_, we are the light.**

- Revelation 1:20 describes the church as the lampstand. The lampstands were symbolic of spiritual light shining out to a spiritually dark world. The church is called upon to shine a clear spiritual light that will enable people to come out of the darkness.
- We should realize that Christ will not tolerate churches who do not shine forth the light of his glory. Christ had to write a warning to the church at Ephesus (*Revelation 2:4-5*). Christ can and does remove churches, those lampstands that do not shine forth the light of his glory.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

If anyone thinks that the Old Testament has little to say about Jesus, they should know more about the Tabernacle. Both the parts and the whole, are all about the Person and ministry of Jesus Christ.

As you take Communion today, may you realize that this very same Jesus, our Light, fulfilled His mission at the cost of His body and blood. May this lead you to grateful worship and service as long as you live ■

*Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see...  
Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, Here I am to say that you're my God!*

—Tim Hughes

## CONGRATULATIONS TO AVE GASPAR AND SHERWIN CHUA FOR FINISHING ELDER TRAINING

Today we formally end the elder apprenticeship of two of our active shepherds in the congregation, brothers Ave Gaspar and Sherwin Chua. I had the great joy of mentoring these two brothers for the past three years. We went through all the New Testament passages referring to eldership and shepherding, and I praise God because the outcome speaks more about their heart for God than anything else.

While busy with their own day jobs, Ave as GM of Getz Pharma, and Sherwin as CEO of Nostalq Foundation, they have become very active in shepherding at GCF, as elders should. Ave is now a Teacher with Carelink and GGEX and is a Certified Trainer for Bible Studies of Precepts Philippines. Sherwin, on the other hand, is a GG Leader with Open Hearts GG and co-facilitator at Emmanuel GG. Both attend my Preaching Mentoring Class which we hold at 6:00 p.m. every Tuesday. That is where the sermons you hear are being forged and discussed to death long before they reach your ears! Praise God for these brothers. Let us pray and commit to God their next phase of ministry.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Here, for your information, is the schedule we are facing for the rest of the holiday season:

- **December 8 and 9:**  
Election Weekend (Message:

The Qualifications of Elders, 1 Timothy 3:1-7)

- **December 15 and 16:**  
Christmas Cantata
- **December 22 and 23:**  
Christmas Message
- **December 24 (5:00 p.m.):**  
Christmas Eve Service
- **December 29 and 30:**  
New Year Message
- **December 31 (5:00 p.m.):**  
New Year's Eve Service

I would just like to reiterate that we are indeed holding Christmas and New Year's Eve Services, both at 5:00 p.m., despite their proximity to our weekend worship services. This is because they are always sought after even by people who are rarely here. We want to keep every avenue open for people to drop in and worship with us.

Note also that this means we will postpone the Genesis series until 2019. For the whole of January, we will again tackle some thorny and sticky issues in our annual "Clear the Air" series. We will keep you in suspense until January 2019 is actually here, about what the topics will be. For February, our Anniversary month, we will highlight Evangelism and Discipleship again, the two solid foundations of our church.

Please do persist in inviting your friends, loved ones, and enemies to our worship services, special events, and Growth Groups. If God has blessed you here, we know He can bless them, too ■

# Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



## GCF FAMILY CONFERENCE

December 2 (Today), after the 10:30 a.m. service, Auditorium B  
All official members in the church roster are invited to attend.



## ALL THE SINGLE LADIES, PUT YOUR HANDS UP!

A little something awaits you on December 16, 2018 (Sun) when you drop by the *SHE* booth at the lobby!



## HOPE BURNING BRIGHT

*A Christmas Worship Musicale*  
December 15 (Sat), 5:00 p.m.  
December 16 (Sun), 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (two services only) | Auditorium B  
Come with your family and friends!



## HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULES

Christmas Eve Service (Dec. 24, Mon), 5 p.m.  
New Year's Eve Service (Dec. 31, Mon), 5 p.m.  
*Please note that we will still have regular worship services on the preceding weekends.*



## 2018 CHURCH LEADERS ELECTION

*For leaders who will serve starting 2019*

- Please continue to pray as we prepare to elect our new leaders on **December 8 and 9** (Sat. and Sun.).
- **Early Voting:** If you are not available on these dates, there is an option to vote early. Advanced voting will be held December 1-7. Ballots will be available at the Ministry Information Booth (after the services), or with Ms. Grace Mosquera at the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Admin Office on weekdays.

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by the Basilad family and the Messiah College. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.*

## Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

### Growth Group Express

*How to Make Decisions You Won't Regret (Lessons on David's Life)*  
Adults without GGs are invited!  
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall

### Best Together in Christ

*Group for Couples*  
Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Rm. B508

### Spark Growth Group

Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Seniors' Room

### Life in Technicolor

*support group for cancer patients and survivors*  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month  
12:00-3:00 p.m., Seniors' Rm.

### Overcomers

*support group for those under any kind of addiction*  
Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 1921.*

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT / November 2018

	November Budget	Received, Nov. 1 to 27	Jan. to Nov. Budget	Received, Jan. 1 to Nov. 27
General Fund	7,618,215	7,657,311	95,440,729	83,725,039
Missions Fund	927,000	1,003,781	10,197,000	9,247,960

# ABLAZE

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*And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.*

— Deuteronomy 8:2 (ESV)

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The people of Israel, a wandering tribe who became slaves in Egypt, were liberated from bondage only to be wanderers again. It seemed illogical for God to lead His people to such a situation. But it seems that the wilderness plays a great role in revealing both the character of God and His people all throughout the biblical story. And Deuteronomy recalls the journey of Israel with God as they wandered in the desert, reminding them how God has prepared them to become a nation before they enter the Promised Land.

Israel saw how God confronted Pharaoh through signs and wonders. God comes to the rescue, responding to the cries of His people being oppressed. After they were freed from Egypt's slavery, they are attended to by God's presence in the form of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Before God ushered them into the Promised

Land, He first took them into His very presence, giving them His commandments to be a people set apart for His purpose. Israel is rescued from slavery to be free to commune with God. They are blessed to be a fulfillment of God's promise of being a blessing to the nations, as He had promised their ancestors.

We, too, as followers of Jesus are led to wander in the wilderness of life. As we journey on, our lives are being transformed according to His bigger purpose of blessing all peoples and nations. We should not mistake our faith as a static condition. To follow Jesus is to step into the wilderness character of our earthly existence. It is accepting the dynamic movement and leading of the Holy Spirit while also learning to respond to His providential care.

As we remember Christ in partaking of the communion, let us also remember the whole way God has led us through life's wilderness. Let us reflect how God has revealed His character and has changed ours. Let us count on His guidance as we walk into life's uncertainties; on His grace when we go astray, and His presence when we feel alone, trusting that all-in-all He is transforming us into His likeness ■

## GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS *at the Chapel*

**The GCF Hour of Prayer**  
*Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.*

**Midweek Prayer Service**  
*Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.*

**ON THE COVER:** Pietro Santi Bartoli's engraving depicting the southern panel of the Arch of Titus, which in turn depicts the temple's Golden Lampstand as part of the loot of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. (*public domain*). Although long lost, the Golden Lampstand—more commonly known today as the Menorah—is still prominently used by Jews in their synagogues.



## Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605  
Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357  
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
E-mail: [email@gcf.org.ph](mailto:email@gcf.org.ph) • Website: [www.gcf.org.ph](http://www.gcf.org.ph)

# How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**  
(Specify age group: \_\_\_\_\_)  
(Specify group composition: \_\_\_\_\_)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_ Landline no.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile no.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year of membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): \_\_\_\_\_

Today is **1/2 December 2018**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

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# God's Way to Heaven

## THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."  
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

**God is holy and righteous:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

**Man is sinful:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).  
**Sin demands a penalty:** "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

## THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

**Christ is the expression of God's love for us:** "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (2 Corinthians 5:18).

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

**Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior:** "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

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PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

## Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.