



*Journey With One*

**5/6 January 2019**

Vol. 41, No. 1

## Hope of the Holy

*1 Peter 1:1-25*

### **English Services**

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

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Anthem  
Worship through Fellowship  
Scripture Reading  
Worship in the Word  
*Elder Ed Trono*  
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  
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.*



# Hope of the Holy

Today's Message (5/6 January 2019) /  
*1 Peter 1:1-25*

WE HAVE  
THIS  
UNSHAKABLE  
HOPE  
BECAUSE OF  
THE TRUTH  
OF GOD'S  
WORD.

Believers are God's holy people. Holy does not mean perfect. Holy means set apart for God's purposes. As God's holy people, do we have the same hope as those who are not His children? As born-again Christians, what should we truly be hoping for that gives us optimism, not just for this coming year, but also for the rest of our lives? How should we live our challenging lives this New Year if we are truly confident in what we hope for? On what do we base these hopes? Do we have a solid foundation for that which we hope for?

Let Peter, the disciple of hope, teach us. In chapter 1 of his first epistle, Peter teaches us that believers rejoice in the hope of their salvation, can hope to live holy lives, and base their hopes in God's trustworthy Word.

## 1. VERSES 1-12: HOPE FROM OUR SOVEREIGN GOD WHO ELECTED US FOR SALVATION.

God is sovereign. God is in full control of His universe. He determines the outcome of all things according to His own wise plans and purposes. He governs history by His decrees including choosing those who will be saved by Him. Because God is sovereign, we can be secure in the hope He has promised.

- a. God is sovereign in election. He chose those whom He will save. By God's sovereign grace and mercy, He chose the elect to a new birth into a living hope and an eternal inheritance.
- b. God is sovereign in our protection. He shields those whom He is saving. As exiles and aliens in the world waiting for ultimate salvation, believers are shielded by God.
- c. God is sovereign in our salvation. He planned and purposed our salvation.

**Principle: The believer's hope of salvation is sure and secure forever.**

God is sovereignly accomplishing His plans and purposes. Nothing, no one, will thwart God. He will finish with flourish His wonderful work. Guaranteed. For sure we can be secure!! Forever!

### Traditional Service

*(Saturday, 6 p.m.)*

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

*Elder Ed Trono*

The Lord's Supper

Worship through Giving

Response Hymn

Benediction



# Hope of the Holy

Today's Message (5/6 January 2019) /  
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## 2. VERSES 13-17: HOPE FROM OUR HOLY GOD WHO EXPECTS US TO BE HOLY.

The world is not the believer's home. It is often difficult to live as Christians in this world. Despite this, believers can hope to live holy lives. We can hope to be holy because

- a. God is gracious. Since we are already saved, with alert and sober minds, we can set our hope on the grace to be revealed when Christ returns.
- b. We are already holy. As we wait for Christ's return, we ought to live as obedient children of God. Believers are already holy and we need to work out that identity.
- c. God is holy. The holy "caller" is the holy enabler.

**Principle: Believers can hope to be holy because God is holy.**

Holy living on earth sometimes seem impossible. Even Peter failed. Having experienced the grace of our holy God, our brother who stood firm in the end, encourages us to be holy since God who called us is holy. He who calls is our example and He enables.

## 3. VERSES 18-24: HOPE FROM THE ETERNAL GOD WHO ENLIGHTENS US WITH HIS WORD.

Our hope is informed and enlightened by God's word. We know and believe because it is written in the Bible.

- a. The Bible gives us the knowledge we need. We know that we have been redeemed by Christ. We have faith and hope in God who we know raised Jesus from the dead.
- b. The Bible is true. God does not lie. Our faith is based on truth.
- c. The Bible is the living and enduring word of God. The knowledge and truth that save us, by which we are born again, are based on the what our living and eternal God said.
- d. The Bible needs to be preached. The gospel must be heard.

Our faith is based on the solid foundation of Scriptures. Everything we believe about God, our faith in the gospel, our unshakeable hope of our salvation and inheritance, our redemption in Christ, our being born again, of being holy—these we know and believe because we are informed by and trust in God's word.

**Principle: The believer's hope is based on God's trustworthy Word.**

## CONCLUSION

For 2019, may our hopes be set higher than what most people wish for in a new year. Let us rejoice in the hope of our salvation, which our sovereign God chose to graciously give to you and me. Let us be certain with our identity as holy children and not waver in the hope that God will enable us to live holy lives. We have this unshakable hope because of the truth of God's word. This 2019, let us rejoice in the secure hope of our salvation. Let us live holy lives. Let us trust in God's word ■

## GOD'S TIMING IS ALWAYS PERFECT

As I write this on the 3rd day of a very new year (Thursday, January 3, 2019), I have succumbed to a throat infection that has left me with no voice. Well, I do have a semblance of a voice, with pips, squeaks, and guttural sounds that are more disconcerting than edifying. Since this happened so unexpectedly, I am glad that God freed up the schedule of our new elder Chair, Ed Trono, to be available and willing to take up on short notice our GCF pulpit this weekend. All I asked Elder Ed to do is to preach what God laid on his heart for 2019. Therefore, I am just as excited as any of you to hear what the Lord has to say through our dear brother.

Sometimes, God has to permit certain things to force us to rest. I am glad that His way is gentle and sure, and His timing, for all persons concerned, is just perfect. My prayer is that I have recovered enough to sit among you and worship with you all this weekend.

## CLEAR THE AIR SERIES FOR JANUARY

In what has become an expected annual tradition, we now reserve the month of January to answer hot-

button topics that some feel should be tackled urgently. While it is true that as we go through the Bible book-by-book, paragraph-by-paragraph, God will meet all our personal needs through His Word, there is no harm in sometimes taking a break to zero in on these issues. Here's what's ahead:

- **January 13**  
Clear the Air: The Christian and Mental Health, Depression & Suicide
- **January 20**  
Clear the Air: The Christian and His Finances
- **January 27**  
Clear the Air: The Christian Response to Political Issues

## HOW DO YOU START A NEW YEAR RIGHT?

This question arises as many of us make countless resolutions, few of which really get done. Why don't you focus on just starting *one* daily habit that may sound too simple to be earthshaking, but could radically alter your life if really followed? That may even turn out to be the best decision you will ever make.

*Happy New Year, dear friends!* ■



# Ministry Opportunities + Announcements

## Blessed New Year!

*from Greenhills Christian Fellowship*

### 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.*



#### PRAISE FACTORY AUDITIONS

January 12, 2019 (Sat), 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at A201 (Old Choir Room)  
Open to kids ages 6-11, especially boys  
Please prepare one audition song.



#### GGEX EXTREME

*featuring Discovering What the Future Holds by Precept Ministries*  
*All adults without GG are invited.*  
March 31, 2019 (Sun) at the Fellowship Hall  
Free snack and material will be provided.  
Registration is **free** but **limited to first 200**.  
Register at the booth at the lobby.



#### CHANCEL CHOIR RECRUITMENT

*There is joy in serving Jesus!*  
The Chancel Choir invites church members to consider serving the Lord through singing.  
Rehearsal schedules: 3 p.m. (Sat), 2 p.m. (Sun). Please contact Josh Capule at **0915 601 1211** if you are interested.

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness and continuous blessings by Ramona Almiraz, the Santos boys, the Valera family and the Messiah College. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.*

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT / December 2018

	December Budget	Received, Dec. 1 to 31	January to Dec. Budget	Received, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31
General Fund	7,213,495	11,551,678	102,654,224	95,276,717
Missions Fund	927,000	1,213,484	11,124,000	10,461,444

*For we are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared in  
advance for us to do.  
—Ephesians 2:10*

The first pages of Scripture tell us the story of God's creation. Everything that He had made was good. And God decided that He will make humans in His own image. And it was so; both male and female was created in God's image.

But what does it mean to bear God's image? When we read "God's image", we tend to form a mental picture of what we look like and then attribute this picture to God himself. But the Hebrew meaning of the word image concentrates not on appearance but on function. This creation story emerged from a culture where a king was said to rule in the image of a particular god. The king was seen as the manifestation of a particular god on earth. If one wanted to see what a god looks like, you look at a king.

In Scripture we find that there is something different about humans. Although not God, nor demi-gods, in some recognizable and deliberate way, God's image is placed in them. Human beings, from the beginning, reflect who God is.

Each one is called to rule and continue God's creative work. It was God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

But sin marred this image. Man wanted to rule in his own image. But it only brought discord, division, and death. But God, in His great love, for His creation, became flesh. Lived and restored humanity to its

*In Jesus, we see how it is to be fully human. He brings into being a new humanity. We are saved so we could be what we were created to be.*

Creator and created purpose. This is salvation. This is redemption.

In Jesus, we see how it is to be fully human. He brings into being a new humanity. We are saved so we could be what we were created to be—rulers in God's image, sustaining and cultivating His created order ■

**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:** "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain."—Heb.6:19 ESV ([pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)). A rusty, old anchor sitting by the Jurassic Coast of southern England, along the English Channel.



**Greenhills Christian Fellowship**  
Know Christ and Make Him Known

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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 **5/6 January 2019** 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 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.