



**14/15 December 2019**  
Vol. 41, No. 50

## A Song of Purified Faith: Zechariah

*Luke 1:5-25; 68-79*

### **English Services**

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent

Candle of PEACE

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Community Prayer

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

*Pastor Larry Pabiona*

Worship through Giving

Response Song

Benediction

### **Filipino Service**

*(3 n.h.)*

Paghahanda

Pagsisindi ng Ilaw

ng KAPAYAPAAN

Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan

Pagkilala sa mga Bisita

Panalangin ng Komunidad

Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos

Pakikingin sa Salita ng Diyos

*Pastor Sam Rendal*

Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay

Tugon na Awit

Bendisyon

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



# A Song of Purified Faith: Zechariah

Today's Message (14/15 December 2019) /  
Luke 1:5-25; 68-79

“BLESSED BE  
THE LORD GOD  
OF ISRAEL, FOR  
HE HAS VISITED  
AND REDEEMED  
HIS PEOPLE AND  
HAS RAISED  
UP A HORN OF  
SALVATION FOR  
US!”

## Traditional Service

*December 14 (Sat.), 6 p.m.*

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent

Candle of PEACE

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Worship through Giving

Community Prayer

Preparatory Hymn

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

*Pastor Larry Pabiona*

Response Hymn

Benediction

The days of Herod, king of Judea (v. 5) were not the best of days for the Jews, but Zechariah and his wife faithfully served God in spite of the discouragements. God has His faithful remnant even in the darkest days. In His plan of love to prepare people's hearts for the Messiah, and in fulfilment of prophecy, God would birth the greatest of all prophets through the unlikeliest of sources: two aging people.

THE SINGER: ZECHARIAH

- **He was d\_\_\_\_\_ to God. Righteous but unfulfilled due to the absence of children.**

The ways of God are mysterious. In the Bible, whenever he planned to bless a person and his family supernaturally, far beyond ordinary blessings, He always withheld for a time what seemed most desirable to that person and family. God takes His time when greatness is in His plan.

- **He was d\_\_\_\_\_ for doubting God. He looked at his limitations instead of his miracles.**

Sometimes we do the same. The miracle is right in front of us and we still ask—“Do you expect me to believe that?” For doubting the word that came from God, he lost the ability to speak.

“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it,” says Hebrews 12:11. There's no greater or more successful trainer than God.

- **He was d\_\_\_\_\_ by God from an unfulfilled life.**

While in the midst of God's discipline to purify his faith, Zechariah was always loved by God, and God



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never forgot His promise of a son. Despite Zechariah's failure of faith, God fulfilled His promise in His perfect way and time.

## THE SONG: THE BENEDICTUS

See how redemptive the Lord's hand can be: from 'poor performer' to "powerful prophet"! Faith opens our lips in praise to God, while unbelief silences us (2 *Corinthians* 4:13).

- **His prophecy about the S** \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 67-75).
  1. The birth of Jesus assures the fulfillment of the promises to David (vv. 67-72). God is worthy of praise because He fulfilled His promises to deliver His people through a descendant of David. Zechariah thus reveals the impending birth of the Messiah.
  2. The birth of Jesus assures the fulfillment of the promises to Abraham (vv. 73-75). The faithfulness of God is never limited by time. After thousands of years the promise to bless all nations through Abraham was soon to be fulfilled with the birth of Christ (*Genesis* 22:16-18; 26:3).
- **His prophecy about his s** \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 76-79).
  1. He will prepare the way of the Lord (v. 76). The presence of the forerunner indicates that the Messiah is coming soon.
  2. He will proclaim the word of the Lord (vv. 77-79). John will have a prophetic ministry to prepare the way for the Lord (*Isaiah* 40:3, *Malachi* 3:1) by assuring the people of forgiveness of sins (v. 77).

In this beautiful song, Zechariah gave several pictures symbolizing the salvation we have in Jesus Christ:

1. Purchase from slavery (v. 68)
2. Deliverance from danger (v. 74)
3. Forgiveness of a debt (v. 77)
4. The dawning of a new day (vv. 78-79; *Isaiah* 9:2).

## FINAL THOUGHTS

A chastened and wiser Zechariah in confident faith fulfills the Lord's will by naming the child John. No more the skeptic, he blesses God with his freshly restored faculties with a prophecy honoring the coming Messiah.

What an honor for this elderly couple to be the parents of the last and greatest of the prophets (*Luke* 7:25-28; *Matthew* 11:7-13), the man who would introduce the Messiah to the nation! ■

**“BEHOLD THE ONE WHO CONQUERS THE DARKNESS AND RISES UP IN VICTORY!”**

We praise God for our recent Christmas musicale called ‘Behold the Lamb of God,’ for reminding us that our Lord and Savior Jesus truly came down as man in order to give us the gift of life and to also rescue us from the darkness of sin by bringing us into His marvelous and glorious light. We also rejoice because through the musicale, God is blessing and giving us the special privilege of walking alongside and following up these people who faithfully responded to God’s prompting:

- 43 prayed to receive Christ as Lord and Savior
- 119 wants to be a member of GCF
- 19 wants to be part of a GG
- Four wants to serve in ministry

It is my prayer now that God finds us faithful in welcoming, discipling, and shepherding these people to know Christ all the more, and that they, too, would also make Him known.

**SO NOW THAT I KNOW THE ONE WHO CONQUERED DARKNESS, WHAT DO I DO?**

So where do we go from here? Now that we are told and reminded of Jesus being the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29-34), what do we do?

- To our Christmas musicale attendees and our first-time guests:** If you attended the musicale last weekend and you were not able to give us your faith decision that weekend, would you kindly give us the opportunity to follow you up and welcome you more personally? We also would like to do the same

for those of you who are attending for the first time. Please bless us by informing us how we can minister to you. Please fill up the tear-off portion of this bulletin by writing down your information as well as your faith responses, or other needs. It is our hope to welcome you and walk alongside you in your faith journey.

- To the long-time GCF members and attendees:** Now for the rest of us here in church, would you prayerfully consider being involved in following up by mentoring and discipling others? Give us the privilege of helping you share your faith to others by also filling up the tear-off portion of this bulletin. Please inform us of your burden to be mentored and trained to reach out and to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

May we as a church indeed remember how God at one time ransomed us out from the darkness of our futile ways and now is also calling us to join him in his mission in calling others in beholding the greatness of his Son, Jesus:

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.—1 Peter 1:17-19 (ESV) ■

# Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



## Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

### Sunflowers Growth Group

*Group for women*

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rm. B506

### Burning Hearts Chronicles Growth Group

*Group for couples*

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

Rm. B123

### Jars of Clay Growth Group

*Group for women*

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rm. B512

### Best Together in Christ

*Group for couples*

Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Rm. B508

### Sowers 2

*Mixed group*

Sundays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 nn.

Rm. B514

*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 779 1549.*

## DECEMBER HOLIDAY SERVICES

*Christmas Eve service:*

December 24 (Tuesday), 5:00 p.m.

*New Year's Eve service:*

December 31 (Tuesday), 5:00 p.m.

*Note: There are no Christmas Day and New Year's Day services.*

## JOB OPPORTUNITY AT GCF

We are looking for **one (1) building engineer** to join our full-time staff here at Greenhills Christian Fellowship. For other application information and complete job description, please email [gcfhr@gcf.org.ph](mailto:gcfhr@gcf.org.ph).

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for countless blessings, provisions and healing by Teresita Roseus, the Almirez family, and the Basilad family. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.*

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT / December 2019

NOVEMBER	Projected	Rcvd., Dec. 1-11	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Dec. 11
General Funds	10,459,217	3,212,189	General Funds	95,007,238	90,843,123
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	825,169	Mission Support Fund	15,812,370	14,285,052
Others (Designated, etc.)	661,864	195,759	Others (Designated, etc.)	16,873,885	14,234,625
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,438,779</b>	<b>4,233,118</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127,693,493</b>	<b>119,362,801</b>

# God does not miss a beat

BY TITUS 2 GROWTH GROUP

About a month ago, our GG, Titus 2 Women, embarked on a missions exposure trip to Cambodia and ministered to the Khmer. The Khmer people are predominantly Buddhists and their society currently suffers from extreme poverty, corruption, political unrest, and the proliferation of casinos and illegal drugs. Families also suffer from the impact of disengaged fathers. Many children starve both from affection and physical hunger.

As we ministered, God broke our hearts and birthed in us a deep love and compassion for the Khmer people upon hearing their stories and witnessing their plight. Armed by God's love, the Lord empowered our witness for the cause of the gospel. His love transcends the barriers of culture and language through the various presentations of skits, crafts, songs, dance, and play.

Over the next four days, we facilitated six evangelistic programs. We also ran a Missionary Care program, ministering to 10 Filipino missionaries over lunch fellowship, feeding on the Word, playing games, and enjoying goodies from the Philippines. Our GG was also invited to share God's word during two Sunday worship services, and He also enabled us to materially bless two local churches with what they need.

God's lavish blessings, through the support of the leaders of our church, the Wetfoot Ministry, and other key ministries and people made all this possible. He blessed us abundantly through the generosity of donors, a loving team dynamic, and even the time to take off from work for many of us. We have experienced for ourselves how God takes care of His own, especially those in the mission field. He surely does not miss a beat.

The Khmer people are very ripe for harvest. Their most pressing need is a sustainable livelihood. It is an open door and a huge platform for us to proclaim Jesus and His saving love and grace. There is great need for intentional discipleship among the locals, too, and for more workers to help them. We are planning to return and we hope, Lord willing, many of you can join us.

Indeed, we have all been blessed with so great a salvation to be a blessing, not only to our *oikos*, but to the nations, too. I encourage your GG to answer the Lord's commission. Join the cause? If the Spirit is urging you, please tarry not, and if you are interested, please visit the ministry information booth at the lobby to inquire about the Wetfoot program, which is now receiving inquiries and applications for short-term missions next year ■

## PRAYER at the Chapel

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

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

**Weeknight Prayer Gatherings**  
Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

**ON THE COVER:** A very unlikely depiction (the characters are wearing 15<sup>th</sup> century Florentine clothing) of Luke 1:59-63 where Zechariah and Elizabeth are naming their newborn son John. This fresco painting called *Zechariah Writes Down the Name of His Son* is by Domenico Ghirlandaio (1490) (*public domain content from Wikimedia*).



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

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1354 to 56, (02) 8635 0082 to 83

☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

✉ email@gcf.org.ph 🌐 gcf.org.ph 📱 Greenhills Christian Fellowship

# 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 for the first time 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Landline no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: **14/15 December 2019**

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

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Consent to use your information:

*By affixing your signature below, you give permission to Greenhills Christian Fellowship to store and use the information you provided above for the sole purpose of contacting you and updating you about any inquiry you have made.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your signature

# 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).

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.