



BULLETIN

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December 20 and 21, 2025



Order of Worship

- Call to Worship
- Worship Through Praise
- Community Prayer
- Missions Testimony
- Worship Through Fellowship
- Worship Through Giving
- Scripture Reading
- Worship in the Word
- Benediction

God With Us, Hope for Us

Matthew 1:20–23

Pastor Larry Pabiona
English Sermon

Pastor BJ Sebastian
Filipino Sermon

God With Us, Hope for Us

Matthew 1:20–23

Our story starts with an embattled carpenter who must deal with the fact that his fiancée is pregnant with a child that's not his. Joseph would be told that his son was *Immanuel*, a name for Joseph not just to know and tell, but to believe in and experience. If anyone in the world needed to feel "God with us", it was Joseph. He is told about three promises that form the bedrock of hope for all genuine Christ followers today:

(v. 21) THE PROMISE OF A SAVIOR FOR SINNERS.

- In the Bible, a name was often not just a label but a destiny. The angel commands Joseph to name the child *Jesus*. This is the Greek form of the Hebrew *Yeshua*, "The Lord Saves!"
- A Savior is what we need (1 Peter 2:24). We prefer relief from consequences; God offers redemption from a curse. We want a change in circumstances; God wants a change in nature.

(v. 22) THE PROMISES THAT GOD KEEPS.

- Matthew points out the fulfillment of a past promise: Christ's coming was never "Plan B." Before the creation of this world, the Cross was the plan.
- For seven centuries, this promise seemed like a "promissory note" that would never be honored. But God is never late (Galatians 4:4).
- If God kept His promise regarding the coming of Christ, we can have absolute confidence that He will keep every other promise He has made to us (Hebrews 13:5, Romans 8:28).

(v. 23) THE PROMISE OF AN EVER-PRESENT GOD.

- The Method: The Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14).**
 - The Virgin Birth is God's intentional interruption of the laws of nature. The Holy Spirit produced a life that is fully God, yet fully man (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26).
- The Meaning: Immanuel (God with Us).**
 - All religions in the world can be summarized as man's attempt to reach God. Biblical Christianity is the only system of faith in which God reaches down to us, becoming "*God with us*" (Psalm 46:1).
 - Because of the Incarnation, God is not a detached observer of our pain. He entered our world of sin and suffering so He could lift us out of it.

Final Thoughts

Look away from your emptiness, your striving, your sin. Look to the cradle, to the Cross, to the empty tomb. See the God who is with us. Receive the Jesus who saves us. And let the hope that fills heaven fill your heart today. ■



Ang Tagapagligtas na Kapiling Natin

Matthew 1:21–23

Tuwing Pasko karaniwan na sa atin ang maging abalang-abala sa paghahanda para sa mga party, pamimili o pagbabakasyon sa mga sikat na destinasyon, dito sa Pilipinas o sa ibang bansa. Sa gitna ng lahat ng ito, mainam na balikan natin ang mga pangyayari noong unang-unang Pasko (Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–38; 2:1–7). Dito sa salaysay ni Matthew matatagpuan ang pangungusap ng isang anghel ng Panginoon kay Joseph, ang asawa ni Mary. Kailangan marinig ni Joseph ang magandang balita na dala ng anghel. Kailangan niyang marinig ang tunay na diwa ng Pasko; ang pagdating ng ating Diyos na Tagapagligtas upang Siya ay makapiling natin.

1. SI HESUS, ANG ATING TAGAPAGLIGTAS

(Matthew 1:21)

- Ito ang dahilan kung bakit hindi maaaring hiwalayan ni Joseph si Mary (Matthew 1:18-20)—“She will bear a son.”
- Ito ang layunin ng kapanganakan ni Hesus—“Yahweh is salvation”—ang iligtas ang mga makasalanan mula sa kapahamakan (Mark 10:45; Luke 19:10; Ephesians 1:7).
- Ito ay kinakailangan dahil ang lahat ay makasalanan at hinaharap ang poot ng Diyos (Romans 2:6–11; 3:9–12; 5:12; 6:23).
- Ito ang mensahe ng Pasko—mayroon tayong Tagapagligtas at Siya ay si Hesus; ang Tagapagligtas ng buong sangkatauhan (Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5).

2. SI IMMANUEL, ANG DIYOS NA KAPILING NATIN

(Matthew 1:22–23)

- Ang Kanyang pagdating bilang Tagapagligtas ng mga makasalanan ay nasa sentro ng plano ng Diyos, v. 22 (Matthew 21:4; John 19:36; Isaiah 53:10–11).
- Ang propesiya ni Isaiah noong panahon ni King Ahaz ay upang hikayatin siya na magtiwala sa presensya ng Diyos; na ang lahi ni David ay hindi mapuputol hanggang sa pagdating ng Mesias (Isaiah 7:14; Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 11:1).
- Ang pagdating ni Hesus, na ipinanganak ng isang birhen, ang ganap na katuparan nito (v. 23, 25).
 - Sa Lumang Tipan ang pangakong ito ay upang mapawi ang takot ng Israel (Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 43:1–2).
 - Sa Bagong Tipan naging ganap at kumpleto ito sa pagdating ni Hesus bilang Tagapagligtas (Hebrews 1:1–3; Matthew 28:20).
- Ang Diyos na kabanal-banalan ay pumagitna sa piling ng mga makasalananang tao upang iligtas ang Kanyang mga hinirang—“Immanuel” (Ezekiel 36:26-28). Naging ganap ito dahil sa walang-salang buhay ni Hesus at ang Kanyang walang-salang sakripisyo sa krus (2 Corinthians 5:17–21).

Sa kapaskuhan na ito, yakapin natin ang katotohanang ito—na ang ating makapangyarihang Diyos ay lumagay sa ating kalagitnaan upang maging ating Tagapagligtas. Manampalataya na tayo kay Hesus. Kumapit tayo sa Kanya na mahigpit ang kapit sa atin hanggang tayo’y humarap nang banal sa Kanyang kaluwalhatian (Jude 1:24–25)! ■



WORSHIP WITH US AT GCF ORTIGAS

SUNDAYS

8:00 AM English
10:30 AM English
Auditorium B

3:00 PM Filipino
5:30 PM English
Auditorium A

SATURDAYS

5:30 PM Traditional
Auditorium B

WEDNESDAYS

On break, Resumes Jan 14

6:30 PM
Ortigas Community Worship
GCF Chapel, Ground Floor

■ Livestream is available during the 10:30 AM and 3:00 PM Sunday Services. The recording of the Traditional Service will be streamed on Sundays at 5:30 PM.

KIDS on SUNDAYS

On break, Resumes Jan 18

8:00 AM, Kids L.I.F.E. Sunday School
3:00 PM, Ages 2–6 • Toddler's Center
5:30 PM Ages 7–12 • 4th Floor

11:30 AM Ages 2–3 • Toddler's Center
Ages 4–12 • 4th Floor

All ages 13 and above, worship with your parents at the Auditorium

YOUTH on SATURDAYS

On break, Resumes Jan 17

4:00 PM Youth L.I.V.E. Discipleship Gathering
For ages 13 to 20 • Fellowship Hall

YOUNG ADULTS on FRIDAYS

On break, Resumes Jan 9

7:00 PM YA Fridays
For ages 20s to 40s • Fellowship Hall

BIBLE STUDY on SUNDAYS

On break, Resumes Jan 11

9:30 AM Sunday Bible School (SBS)
Open to all • GCF Chapel

On break, Resumes Jan 18

9:30 AM & 4:30 PM "Like Jesus" Youth Bible Study
For all high school students • Room B124

9:30 AM Men's Growth Group Express
Open to all men • Room A107a

PRAYER HOUR on THURSDAYS

On break, Resumes Jan 8

8:00 PM GCF Family's Hour of Prayer
Open to all • Online via Zoom
Zoom link: bit.ly/GCFHourOfPrayer
Meeting ID: 848 3227 7763 • Passcode: 984990

OUTREACH on WEDNESDAYS

On break, Resumes Jan 14

5:30 PM Ortigas Community Outreach
Open to all • Fellowship Hall

TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE & DEATH

Share this with your friends and family who need to know Christ!

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

God is holy, pure, and just. He rightfully and righteously judges and punishes all sin.

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (Isaiah 6:3)

"Who will not fear you, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy." (Revelation 15:4)

THE CRISIS WE FACE

We all have failed God's standard and face God's righteous judgment.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (Romans 3:23)

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth." (Romans 1:18)

THE CALL OF JESUS

The Lord Jesus is God's only way for us to be forgiven and reconciled to God. He took the judgment for our sins on the Cross, and whoever comes to Christ for forgiveness, He gives new life and an eternal relationship with God.

"Jesus said "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

"The Lord Jesus is calling out to us: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28–30)

WHAT MUST WE DO?

Come to the Lord Jesus for forgiveness and salvation:

"Lord Jesus, be merciful to me—a sinner. I believe that You are the Son of God who took the penalty for my sins on the Cross. I humbly ask You to be my Savior and submit to you as my LORD forever. Amen."

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT GCF ORTIGAS

QUESTIONS ABOUT GCF ORTIGAS?

Want to join a Growth Group? Looking to apply for church membership? Curious about the various ministries? Visit the new INFO HUB at the Lobby.

ARE YOU HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME?

We would love to connect with you after every Worship Service. Our pastors and team are excited to meet you! Drop by Room BM07 at the Mezzanine Floor or reach out to us at gcf.link/GCFWelcome

DO YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

If you need Biblical counseling, we are here to help. Call the GCF ERCC Hotline at 0917 532 7794.

Year-End Family Conference

Dec 21 12:00 NN
(Sunday) After the 10:30 AM Service
Auditorium B, GCF Ortigas
Exclusively for official members
of GCF Ortigas

Christmas Eve Service

Dec 24 5:00 PM
(Wednesday) Auditorium B, GCF Ortigas
(No New Year's Eve Service)

Basic Missions Awareness Course 1 (4 Sessions)

**Feb 7, 14,
21, 28** 8:00 AM — 12:00 NN
(Saturdays) Youth Center, 6th Floor, GCF Ortigas
Registration Fee: Php 150
Limited slots only!
Register now via gcf.link/BMA1

Wetfoot Applications Now Open

Local: April 6
Are you being called by God toward the mission field, but still seeking His clarity?

International: May 9
Send your application to join the upcoming Wetfoot trips this year!

Official GCF members can apply, email wetfoot@gcf.org.ph

**Deadline for application:
February 15 (Sun)**

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE



Pastor Dags Miguel
Disciple-Making Ministry
Deputy Director

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

For receipts, email your transaction document to finance@gcf.org.ph

For more information, visit gcf.org.ph



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.” — Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)

Christmas time will always be a marvelous, spectacular, and joyful occasion. We celebrate it all over the world, with lights, food, and various sorts of traditions that point to our Savior — Christ Jesus. Yet while many have countless reasons to celebrate this season, it is also wise to remember that many are also grieving, mourning, and are fighting through silent battles. The prophet Isaiah’s words about the Messiah hopefully inspires comfort to the downcast, and may it also solidify the joy of those with plenty, as it lovingly reminds us that:

1. In Christ, we have communion with a dependable Son, and a loving Father, able to wisely counsel us in our triumphs, trials and our tribulations, and able to mightily and peaceably overcome and prevail for us through all of life’s joys and sorrows (v. 6).
2. In Christ, we have a gracious, just, trustworthy and a reliable servant-leader, our King of kings, who righteously is able to rule over us eternally (v. 7).

So then in times of plenty, or in times of great pain, may this Christmas season enable you to draw near to the reason for the season, the One who has promised that He is with us always (Matthew 1:23; 28:20; John 17:24), the greatest gift of grace (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8, 3:7) given to us by the “zeal of the Lord of hosts”. ■

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Savings Account: 1000-3010-0017-355



Ruby Road corner Garnet Road,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City,
Philippines 1605

(02) 8632 1354 to 56
email@gcf.org.ph
www.gcf.org.ph

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