



**North
Point
Alliance
Church**

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EM Youth Ministry website: www.npacemyouth.com

EM Facebook & Instagram page: “NPAC English Ministry”

Chinese New Year Sunday - Worship Order

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 146:1-2, 5-6

Leader: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul.

Congregation: I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Leader: Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.

Congregation: He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them - he remains faithful forever.

Songs of Praise

Corporate Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Scripture Reading – Psalm 84:1-12

Sermon – Blessings in the Lunar New Year

Response Song

Offertory Prayer

Welcome & Family News

Monthly Bible Verse – Proverbs 2:3-5

*Indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,
and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,
then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.*

Doxology & Benediction

Speaker:	Rev. Sylvia Kwok	Chairperson :	Christina Bruce
Praise Leader :	Christina Bruce & Team	Scripture Reader :	Claudia Chan
Pianists:	Fenny Wong, Marianna Yu	PowerPoint:	Shayne Descartin
Welcome Team:	Beatrice Wong, Claire Liao, Jasmin Delos Reyes		
Offering Counters:	Kent Ang, Dawn Yiu, Imelda Choi, Roland Bruce		
Sound System:	Amanda Chan, Bono Lee, Clarence Fok		

For Live broadcast, please [click here](#) or search “NPAC English Service” on YouTube (recording available until Tue).

For onsite meeting guidelines and prevention measures, [click here](#).

For worship service arrangements in extreme weather, [click here](#) for details.

Blessed are Those Whose Help is the God of Jacob

By Rev Arnold Chow

Psalm 146

1 Hallelujah.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

2 I will praise the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

3 Do not put your trust in princes,

in human beings, who cannot save.

4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD their God.

6 He is the Maker of heaven and earth,

the sea, and everything in them—

he remains faithful forever.

7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed

and gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free,

8 the LORD gives sight to the blind,

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,

the LORD loves the righteous.

9 The LORD watches over the foreigner

and sustains the fatherless and the widow,

but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

10 The LORD reigns forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Hallelujah.

In the Chinese bulletin, you will see that this year, I attempted a translation of the whole psalm into Chinese. In the English translation, I have used the familiar “Hallelujah” (哈利路亞 in Chinese) in place of the line “Praise the LORD” at the beginning and the end of the psalm. “Hallelujah” means “Praise the LORD.” The word “Hallelujah” first appears in the Old Testament in Psalm 104. The psalmists of both psalms call their own souls to praise God.

Why do they call their own souls to “praise”? To “praise” means to recognize, commend, honor and exalt. However, it can also be superficial lip service. One Bible commentator has rightly said that whoever people “praise,” those are often the ones they want to rely on. There are those who often “praise” the people in power in the hope of winning their approval. Other than the LORD, no powers on earth can really “save” or “help” people because man is, after all, finite (v.4). But the psalmist’s trust is in “the God of Jacob” (v.5). Before man “praises” God, He is determined to save and help. That is why the psalmist responds by “praising” the LORD with his soul and life (v.2).

This being the Year of the Rabbit, I was trying to find four-word proverbs in Chinese with the word “rabbit” to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Nevertheless, what I found were stories of rabbits having bad endings. Yet, when we think of Jacob, he is unlike a good student who receives rabbit stamps from the teacher. His life was more like “a cunning rabbit with three burrows” (狡兔三窟) who “flees like a rabbit set free” (動若脫兔). Nevertheless, earthly cleverness and shrewdness could not really “help” him.

When Jacob thought maybe fleeing to Laban could “help” him, he was deceived to work. And when he did cleverly get back his wages and was planning to go home, he was met by Esau, coming with his large group of men. When Jacob thought he could rely on his wives, they vied with the concubines. When he thought about counting on his sons when old, they struggled among themselves. When Jacob thought he could rely on his possession of herds and flocks, there came a great drought. In the end, what he thought he could rely on all his life were no match for the LORD who appeared to him at Bethel back in the early days.

Before Jacob was aware, the LORD had saved his beloved son who was sold to Egypt, accomplishing the redemption plan to “help” his entire family to survive the famine. The God of Jacob is not One who wants human “praises” in exchange for “help.”

“Those whose help is the God of Jacob” are “blessed,” aren’t they? Now, “the God of Jacob” also treat you and me in the same way. “Hallelujah”!

Read the article online: <https://npacem.org/ps20230122/>

Family News

1. Regular meetings

- **Gatekeepers** (secondary school): Fri, 7:30-9:30pm, Rm 219

<u>Jan 27</u> Treasure Room: Leaders	<u>Feb 3</u> Bible Study: Jesus Christ's Death
<u>10</u> Special: Escape Game	<u>17</u> Topical: Lent
- **Peacemakers** (uni students & above): Fri, 8-9:45pm, Rms 217-8

<u>Jan 27</u> Prayer Meeting	<u>Feb 3</u> Topical: Discipleship
<u>10</u> Bible Study: Jeremiah	<u>17</u> Group Dinner
- **Tentmakers** (young working adults): Praying and seeking God's direction for the fellowship. Jan 28, Feb 11 & 25, 5-7pm, Truth Centre's Retreat Room.
- **Couples Fellowship**: SAT-7 Inauguration Ceremony; Sun Jan 29, 2:30-4:15pm, 1/F, Hall, Truth Centre.
- **Women's Fellowship**: Thanksgiving & New Year Resolution; Introduction of the study of "Gospel of John" using WordGo App; Sun Jan 29, 1-3pm, Rm 215
- **Joint Adult Fellowship**: Game Day; Sun Feb 12, 1:30-3pm, Rms 217-218; Children's Room: Rm 219
- **EM Prayer Meeting**: Sun morning, 8:30-9am, Rm 204 (TODAY changed to 9:45-10:20am)
- **Sunday School** (Children, youth and adults): Sun from 9:15-10:20am (No class TODAY)
- **Children's Program**: For children aged 3-10 during English worship service; CP2: Rm 219; CP3: Rm 211 (No class TODAY)

2. Other meetings

- **Sunday School Teachers Monthly Prayer Meetings**: Sun Feb 5, after worship service
- **Men's Group Meeting**: Sat Feb 18, 12:30-2:30pm

3. **Chinese New Year Sunday (TODAY)**: There is NO Sunday School and Children's Program. Children and families are welcome to join the worship service together today.

4. **SAT-7 MENA Satellite TV Sharing & SAT-7 HK Inauguration Ceremony**: SAT-7 has been broadcasting Christian content to support churches and Christians in the Middle East & North Africa (MENA). NPAC has been one of its supporters. *Date & Time*: Sun Jan 29, 2:30-4:15pm; *Speakers*: Rita El-Mounayer, SAT-7 CEO & Kurt Johansen, Executive Director, SAT-7 Europe, Asia and Pacific; *Venue*: Worship Hall, 1/F, Truth Centre. *Sign up*: Click this link: <http://bit.ly/SAT7HKinaug>; *Language*: English (Cantonese interpretation is available).

5. NPAC is now recruiting for short-term mission trips:

- Easter visitation and service team to Cambodia (Wed Apr 5-Mon Apr 10)
- Medical team to Bali, Indonesia (Mon Jun 26-Sat Jul 1)
- Short-term mission team to Kupang, Indonesia (Sat Jul 1-Thu Jul 6)

For detail, sign-up and enquiries, please refer to Chinese Bulletin Page 6.

6. **Membership Transfer**: If you have been regularly worshipping onsite in NPAC for at least one year, you may apply to transfer your church membership. Get the application form from the info rack, complete it and submit it by Sun Jan 29. You must attend two information sessions on Feb 8 & 15 (Wed) from 8-10pm. *Venue*: Main Church. *Enquiries*: Pastor Silvia Ko or Ms. Cindy Gan (2979-3600).

7. **EM Resource Library:** It's a good idea to read a good book this holiday. The library is open every Sun after worship service till 12:15pm. You can [click here](#) to view the titles we have. If there are book donations, please send an email with a photo of the titles to EMResourceLib@gmail.com first. We will then get in touch with you if the titles can be added to the library.
 8. **The Art of Chinese Seal Exhibition "The Seal of Grace" 「〈恩典印記〉閒章展」:** Artist: Mr. Mo Po Chun 毛寶珍, Date: Sat Jan 14-Sun Feb 26; Time: 10am-9pm (Fri & Sat); 2-5pm (Sun); Venue: Gallery, G/F, Truth Centre (next to block 6 reception); Enquiries: Pastor Lo Yuet Mei (2979-3600). (Detail: Chinese Bulletin Page 5)
 9. **Moses Chen and Bonnie Chin's wedding:** Jan 28 (Coming Saturday), 2pm at Main Church. You are all invited to share the joy and be their witnesses. Let's lift them up in our prayers.
 10. **Staff news:** Florence will be on annual leave from Jan 26-27 and back in the office on Sun Jan 29. For roster changes or admin support, please send an email to em@npac.org.hk.
 11. **Public Holiday Office Hours:** Mon-Wed Jan 23-25: All NPAC sites will close.
- ★ **What's at our Info Table?** NPAC newsletter, Barnabasaid, Bible reading plans, devotional materials, gospel tracts, evangelism resources, and much more!

Prayer Corner

We pray for your personal needs, your unbelieving friends, and families. Please find and join our prayer meeting outside the A/V Room after the worship service.

Tithe & Offering

Tithe & offering will be collected in the red offering bags at the end of the worship service at the entrance of the worship hall. Charity offering (every 4th Sun) will be collected in the green bag. Please prayerfully prepare beforehand. For other collection channels, please [click here](#).

Prayer Items

1. **Indonesia:** A country with 275 million of population, it is also the most populous Muslim nation in the world. Only 15% of the population claim to be Christ followers. Churches in Indonesia often experience persecution. However, mission organizations are growing in number. Pray for Christians to boldly proclaim the grace and salvation of Jesus Christ. Pray for peace and protection for believers amid growing Islamic expansion. Pray for entire families to put their faith in Jesus Christ. Learn more from [Prayercast](#).
2. **NPAC Yearly Theme "Discern & Proclaim God's Grace. Pass on Legacy & Spread the Aroma":** Give thanks to God for providing and sustaining us in the past. Pray that we will continue to discover God's grace and goodness in every aspect of our lives. Pray that the sermon series of this quarter will encourage us to walk with God closely. Ask God to use us in spreading His aroma of grace all the time.
3. **CNY:** Pray for protection from infection of COVID and for smooth arrangements during this season of traveling and visiting to different places. Pray for families to be reunited, friendships to be renewed and relationships to be restored. Pray that this is a time for us to share our faith and bring blessings to our relatives.

Next Sun Jan 29 (Worship Education Sunday): Speaker: Rev. Stera Chan ("Worship the LORD and incline our ear", Jeremiah 7:21-28); Chairperson: Joseph Ho; Praise Leader: Marianna Yu & Fri Team; Pianist: Sarah Chow; Scripture Reader: Roland Bruce; Welcome Team: Heidi Kan, Lily Cheung, Ailene Almodiente; Offering Counter: David Wong, Jason Choi; PowerPoint: David Yeung.