

God's Treasure in Clay

A man was exploring caves by the Seashore. In one of the caves he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. It was like someone had rolled the clay balls and left them out in the sun to bake. They didn't look like much, but they intrigued the man, so he took the bag out of the cave with him.

As he strolled along the beach, he would throw the balls one at a time out into the ocean as far as he could. He thought little about it, until he dropped and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful, precious stone - treasure in clay! Excited, the man started breaking open the remaining clay balls. Each contained a similar treasure. He found thousands of dollars worth of jewels in the 20 or so balls he had left. Then it struck him. He had been on the beach a long time. He had thrown maybe 50 or 60 of the balls with their hidden treasure in the clay into the ocean waves. Instead of thousands of dollars in treasure, he could have taken home tens of thousands, but he had just thrown it away!

It's like that with people. We look at someone, maybe even ourselves, and we see the external clay vessel. It doesn't look like much from the outside. It isn't always beautiful or sparkling, so we discount it. We see that person as less important than someone more beautiful or stylish or well known or wealthy. But we have not taken the time to find the treasure in clay - hidden inside that person.

There is a treasure in each and every one of us. If we take the time to get to know that person, and if we ask God to show us that person the way He sees them, then the clay begins to peel away and the brilliant gem begins to shine forth.

May we not come to the end of our lives and find out that we have thrown away a fortune in friendships because the gems were hidden in bits of clay. May we see the people in our world as God sees them.

2 Corinthians 4:7 "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

~ Unknown Author



New Year Eve
Watch-Night Service
Sung Eucharist 11:30 PM

Celebrant:
Rev. Dr. V. Paul Birla

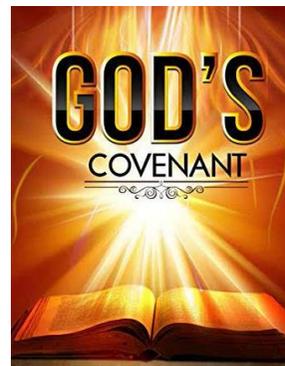
St. Thomas English Church

Church of South India –Diocese of Madras
Santhome, Chennai-600 004

<http://www.santhomeenglishchurch.org>

New Year Morning
Festival Service
Sung Eucharist 8:00AM

Celebrant:
Rev. Dr. V. Paul Birla



NEW YEAR WORSHIP SERVICE

31st December 2019 – 1st January 2020

Let us worship our Lord through...

Introductory song: No better place – Don Francisco

Opening Hymn : 657

Kneeling Hymn : 74

Scripture Readings:

Responsive Reading Psalm 103: 1-6 (Old Year)

Meditation (Old Year)

Old Testament Genesis 9: 8-17 (New Year)

Epistle Galatians 4: 21-31

Responsive Reading Psalm 121

Gospel Luke 22: 14-23

Announcement

Preparatory song: Father I place into Your Hands – Jenny Hewer

Meditation: "God's continuing covenant with all"

Offertory Hymn: 379

Offertory thanksgiving song: Thank Thee Lord – Phoebe Spencer

Communion Hymns: 315, 316, 321 (A&M)

Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn : 165

Collect for the Old Year: Gracious God, our light and our salvation, we thank You for Your goodness and mercies that endure forever. We beseech You to illuminate our lives to Your goodness in our lives and the creation around us so that we may ultimately be transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Altar Flowers , Bible

Readings, & Offertory :

Mrs. & Mr. Benjamin

Hastings & family

<p>Responsive Reading: Psalm 103: 1-6</p>	<p>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</p>
<p>Responsive Reading: Psalm 121</p>	<p>I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</p>

<p>Introductory song: No better place – Don Francisco</p>	<p>There is no better place than to be here and to look upon Your face In Your church or all alone, no better place than to kneel before Your throne God of comfort, Lord of mercy, love that knows no bounds I adore You, worship and bow down.</p>
<p>Preparatory Song : Father I place into Your Hands – Jenny Hewer</p>	<p>Father, I place into Your hands the things I cannot do, Father, I place into Your hands the things that I've been through. Father, I place into Your hands the way that I should go, For I know I always can trust You.</p> <p>Father, I place into Your hands my friends and family. Father, I place into Your hands the things that trouble me. Father, I place into Your hands the person I would be, For I know I always can trust You.</p> <p>Father, we love to see Your face, we love to hear Your voice. Father, we love to sing Your praise and in Your name rejoice. Father, we love to walk with You and in Your presence rest, For we know we always can trust You.</p> <p>Father, I want to be with You and do the things You do. Father, I want to speak the words that You are speaking too. Father, I want to love the ones that You will draw to you, For I know that I am one with You.</p>
<p>Offertory thanksgiving song: Thank Thee Lord – Phoebe Spencer Havermale</p>	<p>Thank Thee, Lord, for hearing my prayer, Thank Thee, Lord, for fatherly care, Thank Thee, Lord, for promises true Thy loving mercies each day are new.</p> <p>Thankful hearts I know Thou wilt bless, Thank Thee, Lord, for Thy faithfulness Thou my sinful life didst reclaim, Now pleasing Thee Lord, my constant aim.</p>

<p>New Year 2020 - Morning Holy Communion Worship Service will be held at 8.00 AM, today</p>
<p>2020 - New Year Calendars and Monthly Subscription Covers are ready, kept at the entrance. Kindly collect the same without fail, at the end of the service. The theme for this year's calendar is based on the various names associated with our Almighty God also, an appeal to one & all to care for the nature – the trees, animals, birds & the living creatures in the waters.</p>
<p>One Day Income Offertory Covers will be received today soon after the announcements are made.</p>
<p>Those who are not in a position to offer the One Day Income Offertory Cover today, may kindly offer the same, the coming Sunday, during the worship service.</p>
<p>Coming Sunday the 05th January 2020, Morning Worship Service at 07:30AM will be observed as Covenant Sunday Service. Let us all come, as to renew our Covenant with our Lord!</p>

Those that set God always before them and walk before him with all their hearts, shall find him as good as his word and better; he will both keep covenant with them and show mercy to them.

- **Matthew Henry**