

The Final Reality Is Here

Advent devotional by John Piper

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. . . . They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain." (Hebrews 8:1–2, 5)

We've seen it before. But there's more. Christmas is the replacement of shadows with the real thing.

Hebrews 8:1–2, 5 is a kind of summary statement. The point is that the one priest who goes between us and God, and makes us right with God, and prays for us to God is not an ordinary, weak, sinful, dying priest as in the Old Testament days. He is the Son of God — strong, sinless, with an indestructible life.

Not only that, he is not ministering in an earthly tabernacle with all its limitations of place and size while getting worn out and being moth-eaten and being soaked and burned and torn and stolen. No, Hebrews 8:2 says that Christ is ministering for us in a "true tent that the Lord set up, not man." This is not the shadow. It's the real thing in heaven. This is the reality that cast a shadow on Mount Sinai for Moses to copy.

According to Hebrews 8:1, another great thing about the reality which is greater than the shadow is that our High Priest is seated at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. No Old Testament priest could ever say that.

Jesus deals directly with God the Father. He has a place of honor beside God. He is loved and respected infinitely by God. He is constantly with God. This is not shadow-reality like curtains and bowls and tables and candles and robes and tassels and sheep and goats and pigeons. This is final, ultimate reality: God and his Son interacting in love and holiness for our eternal salvation.

Ultimate reality is the persons of the Godhead in relationship, dealing with each other concerning how their majesty and holiness and love and justice and goodness and truth shall be manifest in a redeemed people.



16 December 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Encounters with Jesus— The Forgiven

Profound love of Christ comes from knowing you are profoundly forgiven. Those who do not profoundly love Christ do not know the grace of forgiveness.

by Pastor Steven Tran

Next Week: Luke 19:1-10



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing O Holy Night
You Alone Can Rescue
Man of Sorrows

Holy Communion

Offering

Community News

Bible Reading Luke 7:36-50

Sermon By Pastor Steven Tran

Song of Response All I have is Christ

Stay Connected

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

PASTOR BEN HO

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$7940.35
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

GIVE THANKS FOR THE GOSPELS! Praise God that in the gospels we encounter Jesus through the eyes of those who encountered him. Praise God that in the gospels we have a true and trustworthy picture of Jesus.

PRAY THAT OUR LIVES would be marked by a profound thankfulness and love for Jesus. That this love would be obvious to all. Pray that this love would be deeply rooted in knowing the depth of our sin, and the deeper forgiveness we have received from Jesus.

PRAY THAT WE WOULD NOT NEGLECT to meet together even over this holiday period. Pray that we would make effort to use this free-er time to encourage other generations we would not normally meet with. Ask God to help you seek out opportunities to open the word and pray together with younger and older Christians.

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD as many begin preparations for Christmas and New Years. Pray that the unmatched good news of Christmas would not be lost among presents and feasting. Pray that God would use this time to renew hearts and draw people to Him.

PRAY FOR PASTOR WANG YI, his wife and other church members in Chengdu, China, who were arrested last weekend and have yet to be heard from. Pray for faithfulness and perseverance for himself and his church members—that they would count suffering for Jesus a joy, and that they would look to Jesus for justice.

PRAY FOR THOSE BAPTISED last weekend, and on Monday at Pastor Ben's home - for Jeffrey, Yiming, Fion and Kimbly. Praise God for his work in their lives, and pray they would persevere in trusting Jesus to the end of their lives.

Community News

IGNITE TRAINING CONFERENCE 2019 | 14-18 JANUARY

Head to <https://ignitetrainingconference.com/> for registration and conference details.

SERVICE TIME CHANGES ETC OVER DECEMBER–JANUARY

Please note that from 16 December to 27 January, the 11:30am service at the South Hall will be changed to 11am service at the North Hall.

Please note that from 9 December to 27 January, for both 9am service and the 11:30/11am service will have the overflow available at the White Door Room.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE INFORMATION

Christmas Day service will happen on 25 December, 9am. Do start thinking about who you may like to invite to the service. Please do bring a plate to share at morning tea.

Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Simeon	Josh
Preach	Ps Steven	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Matthew <i>Dan Lowe</i>	Winston <i>Ps Steven</i>
M.Tea	Corina Ethel	Winnie Tao Matt
Wash Up	SOS Central	SOS Central
Welcome	Ken Steph Dan <i>Marilyn</i> <i>Sarah</i> <i>Jessica</i> <i>Joy</i>	Ken Steph Dan <i>Marilyn</i> <i>Sarah</i> <i>Jessica</i> <i>Joy</i>
Stewards	Richard Jeffrey <i>Helen</i> <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i>	Simeon Richard <i>Helen</i> <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i>
Piano	Joanna	Dan Lowe
Guitar	Joachim	Mark
Bass	Aaron	Chuan Yuan
Drums		Marcus
Vocal	Shaun	Sarah
PA	Li Wei <i>Daniel</i>	William <i>Matt</i>

The Forgiven [Luke 7:36-50]

Intro:

1. The welcome and unwelcomed guest (2:36-39)

a. The welcomed guest

b. The unwelcome guest

c. The inner complaint

2. A short parable and point (2:40-46)

a. A story of debt

b. Question and Answer

3. Love and Forgiveness (2:47-50)

a. Therefore...

b. Who is this?!

So what?