

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

The Baptism of the Lord

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME: THE WORD BECAME FLESH

## BECOMING DISCIPLES

# of HOPE



In the first reading, we come across a section in the book of Isaiah known as the 'Servant Songs'. In general, it refers to the nation of Israel, which among all the nations in the world was chosen and redeemed by God, and therefore, is at His service. More specifically, however, the 'Servant Songs' refers to an individual whose mission becomes clearer as the scripture passage goes on. The Spirit of the Lord will be upon him and he will bring justice to the nations, but in a non-violent or non-aggressive way. He is sent out to open the eyes of the blind and liberate the oppressed.

### WEEKLY SCRIPTURE VERSE:

Let us keep firm  
in the hope  
we profess,  
because the one  
who made the  
promise is faithful.

(Hebrews 10: 23)

The prophecy of Isaiah as found in the 'Servant Songs' comes to fulfilment in the Person of Jesus. The Gospel passage describes that through his baptism, which marks the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus is acknowledged before the people as the Son of God. This prepares the way for the gospel readers to see the significance of everything that Jesus will do in the course of his life and ministry. His words and actions will reflect who he is - God's own Son. With Jesus, a new period under the power of God has begun and the plans of God will be fulfilled. The passage in Acts in the second reading describes the manifestation of God's power through Peter who professes the name of Jesus, and later baptises Cornelius and his household.

New challenges and obstacles will constantly arise, but the mission received at our Baptism remains the same. That is, to proclaim the Gospel with the power of God by reaching out to people so that Christ is made known. It is essential for us to continue and persevere in this mission even in the face of the realities of the "new normal" and the current political, social and economic situation. Many people may be feeling anxious and uncertain about the future and need to feel hopeful. This year we are especially called by the Church in Peninsular Malaysia to become Disciples of Hope - **to believe, live and give hope**. May we respond to this invitation with love, courage and enthusiasm.

*Lord, may I see your power at work in my life.* ✦