



ANNANAGAR METHODIST CHURCH

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Coming up

WSCS Sunday

9th Mar 9am

**Education & Christian
Nurture Sunday**

23rd Mar 9am

INTOUCH

MARCH 2025

Rev. Dr. Andrew B. Natarajan

Senior Pastor

Ph: 9443586008

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Associate Pastor

Ph: 8608952359



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INTOUCH

MARCH 2025

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Looking after
orphans and widows
in their distress



From the Senior
PASTOR'S Desk

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

"YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I, THE LORD YOUR GOD, AM HOLY."

This year's theme, taken from Leviticus 19:2, calls us to holiness. As God is holy, His followers must also be holy. Together, they form a unified community with a distinct identity, which we call the *Holy Race*. True religion is the worship of this Holy God by His Holy Race, expressed through righteous morals, spiritual devotion, and a meaningful social existence (James 1:27).

In his epistle, James defines pure religion in James 1:11-27. He states that **"to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world"** is the kind of religion that God

our Father approves—one that is perfect. The foundation of pure religion is the Bible—not merely hearing and contemplating its message, but actively living according to the Lord's Word.

One essential aspect of true religion is leading a holy life that pleases God. According to Paul, God calls us to sanctification by abstaining from sexual immorality and exercising self-control over our bodies. We are to live honorably and in holiness. There is no such thing as a *holy love affair* or a *divine love affair*. Any believer who mistreats fellow worshippers or fellow believers will face God's judgment. A believer's love has its limits, but God's standard for holiness remains unchanged (1 Thessalonians 4:1–12).

The phrase "**purity in everything**" primarily refers to marital life, companionship, and fellowship. As God declares in **2 Corinthians 6:16**, "*They will be my people, I will be their God, and I will walk among them and live with them.*" Anything contrary to this defiles and diminishes our body, soul, and spirit. Therefore, relying on God's promises, let us strive for complete holiness by cleansing ourselves from all that contaminates both body and spirit (**2 Corinthians 7:1**).

Jesus Christ strongly condemned the **religion of the hypocrites**, opposing their false righteousness with unwavering clarity. He rebuked the **teachers of the law and Pharisees**, declaring, "*Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!*" (**Matthew 23:13, 15, 16, 23, 25, 27, 29**). He described them as **vipers, snakes, blind guides, and blind fools**, accusing them of

shutting the gates of heaven to others while failing to enter themselves. Though they traveled land and sea to make converts, they neglected weightier matters—**justice, mercy, and faithfulness**. They were consumed by greed and self-indulgence, appearing righteous on the outside but filled with hypocrisy and deceit within. Because of this, Jesus repeatedly called them to **repent** and carry out true **holy service** for the people.

Paul also wrote about the Unholy Religions or practices which hurt the living and holy God. He says that the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people. The unholy religious people knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. They claimed to be wise, but became fools. They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Finally he exhorted them to worship God rather than creation (Romans 1:18-25).

The **Way of Holiness** calls believers to uplift and support one another on the path of righteousness. Isaiah urges his readers to **strengthen feeble hands and steady weak knees**, encouraging those with fearful hearts: *“Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution, he will come to save you.”* (Isaiah 35:1-10).

Serving with holiness was the lesson Zechariah taught his son, **John the Baptist**. As the prophet of the Most High, John was called to prepare the way for

Jesus—proclaiming salvation, the forgiveness of sins, and the tender mercies of God. He was to declare peace to God's people and shine as a light in the darkness (**Luke 1:64-79**).

Worshiping in the beauty of holiness is the essence of pure religious experience. It welcomes new songs, new instruments, and fresh declarations of God's wonders and miracles. Believers are called to ascribe **glory and splendor to God among all nations**, worshipping alongside creation in its brilliance. **The Holy Arm and Right Hand of God have brought salvation to all** (**Psalm 96:1-13; Psalm 98:1-9**).

Let us continue to **surrender ourselves** to the pure religion that Jesus Christ calls us to. With unwavering faith and devotion, let us **strive for holiness**, living out His teachings in righteousness and love. Amen!

With blessings

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan.

Senior pastor

March- 2025

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Annual Theme

“You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy”

(Leviticus 19:2)

Let us
WORSHIP
Together

Monthly Theme : HOLY RELIGION

Social Activities and Religious life (James 1:27)

2 Mar 2025

9th Sunday after the Epiphany

7.00 AM

Theme: Pure Religion

Text: James 1:11-27

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Dr. Ratnaraj P. J.

9.00 AM

Reception of new Members

Theme: Pure Religion

Text: James 1:11-27

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mrs. Rachel Pravin

6.00 PM

Theme: Live a Holy Life

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Preacher:

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Bible Reading :

Mr. Ashok Sundar

9 Mar 2025

The 1st Sunday in Lent

7.00 AM

Theme: Purity in Everything

Text: 2Cor-6:14 - 7:1

Preacher:

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Bible Reading :

Mr. K. T. Kuruvilla

9.00 AM

**WSCS
SUNDAY**

6.00 PM

Theme: Religion of the Hypocrites

Text: Matthew 23:23-32

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Ms. Rithika Joanna Stephen

16 Mar 2025

The 2nd Sunday in Lent

7.00 AM

Theme: Unholy Religions

Text: Romans 1:18-25

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mr. Samuel Prabhakaran

9.00 AM

Theme: Unholy Religions

Text: Romans 1:18-25

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mrs. Magdalene Mahiba

6.00 PM



Preacher:

Mr. Anand Leslie

23 Mar 2025

The 3rd Sunday in Lent

7.00 AM

Theme: Way of Holiness

Text: Isaiah 35:1-10

Preacher:

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Bible Reading :

Mrs. Joanna Swarup Singh

9.00 AM



6.00 PM

Theme: Serve with Holiness

Text: Luke 1:67-69

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

Bible Reading :

Mrs. Malathi Dinakaran

30 Mar 2025

The 4th Sunday in Lent

7.00 AM

Theme: Worship with Beauty

Text: Psalm 96:1-13

Preacher:

Rev. R.J. Christopher

Bible Reading : Mr. Varghese Jacob

9.00 AM

Theme: Worship with Beauty

Text: Psalm 96:1-13

Preacher: **Rev. R.J. Christopher**

Bible Reading : Mr. Vijay Stephen

6.00 PM

Theme: Holy Arm of God

Text: Psalm 98:1-9

Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

SING SONG SERVICE

Bible Reading :

Mr. Suleevandas

Memory Verses for March

Mar 3rd

COMMAND

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. James 1:27

Mar 9th

PROMISE

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8a

Mar 16th

COMMAND

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. James 4:8b

Mar 23rd

PROMISE

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:1

Mar 30th

COMMAND

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another. Romans 12:10

NKJV Version

LENT SCHEDULE

“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15)

Lent Meditations on Wednesdays at 7pm

Date	Theme	Preacher
05.03.2025 Ash Wednesday	Believe in One God James 2:14-26	Rev. Dr. Andrew B. Natarajan
12.03.2025 Lent Devotions	Believe in Jesus Acts 16:24-36	Dr. Philip Anbarasan
19.03.2025 Lent Devotions	Believe in Holy Spirit Acts 1:1-8	Mr. Neil Vimalkumar
26.03.2025 Lent Devotions	Believe and Receive Matthew 21:21,22	Mrs. Pearl Vincent
02.04.2025 Lent Devotions	Believe, see the glory of God John 11:38-44	Mr. Vijaykumar
09.04.2025 Lent Devotions	Believe, and Be Well Luke 8:40-56	Mr. Ravi K. Martin

DEEPER LIFE CONVENTION

Theme: Please God Hebrews 11:6

Mr. Ashok Vedanayagam

Date	Theme
11.04.2025 Friday 7PM	Please God Hebrews 11:6
12.04.2025 Saturday 7pm	Please God Hebrews 11:6
13.04.2025 Sunday 6pm	Please God Hebrews 11:6

HOLY WEEK MEDITATIONS

Date	Theme
14.04.2025 Holy Monday	Theme: Fig Tree Text: Mark 11:20-26 Preacher: Rev. R.J. Christopher
15.04.2025 Holy Tuesday	Theme: Copper Coins Text: Mark 12:41-44 Preacher: Dr. Prince Samuel
16.04.2025 Holy Wednesday	Theme: Tax Exemption Text: Mark 12:13-17 Preacher: Rev. R.J. Christopher
17.04.2025 Maundy Thursday	Preacher: Rev. Dr. Andrew B Natarajan

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATIONS

18.04.2025, Friday 11.30 am

Reflections on the Seven Fold Ministries of the Church

First

I believe in Forgiveness - Luke 23:26-34 Mr. Andrew George

Second

I believe in Redemption - Luke 23:39-43 Mr. Swarup Singh

Third

I believe in Relationship - John 19:25-27 Mrs. Idaline Prince

Fourth

I believe in Eternal Loss - Mark 15:33-36 Mr. Finney Sahayaraj

Fifth

I believe in Humanitarian Service - John 19:28-29 Mrs. Tijitha Anand

Sixth

I believe in Completion - John 19:30 Mr. Benjamin Ebenezer

Seventh

I believe in Rest - Luke 23:44-46 Mrs. Elsie Priya Praveen

Closing Comments Rev. Dr. Andrew B. Natarajan

WELCOME TO WSCS

On 1st March, '25 (Saturday)

Time: 5pm

Message by:



Annanagar
Methodist
Church

Mrs. Rumi Asveen

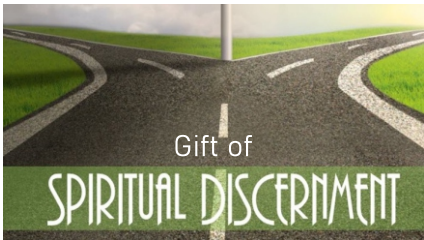
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**The Spiritual Gift of
HEALING**



Special announcement regarding WSCS Sunday

Come and be blessed 🙏



The Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) monthly meeting at AMC on February 1, 2025, was an enlightening session led by Dr. Joan Elango. She spoke on the topic ***"The Spiritual Gift of Prophecy: Hearing and Speaking God's Heart."*** This engaging message provided us with a deeper understanding of prophecy through interactive group activities and scripture-based discussions.

Dr. Joan divided the attendees into groups of four and provided worksheets containing six Bible verses: *1 Corinthians 14:1, 2 Peter 2:1, Mark 6:4, 1 Corinthians 13:8, 1 John 4:1, and Acts 2:17*. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we explored the meaning of each verse, discovering the truths they conveyed about prophecy. We paraphrased these verses in our own words and categorized them based on common themes.

These scriptures emphasized three key aspects of prophecy- the need for discernment between true and false prophets, God's promise to bless all His people with spiritual gifts, and the reality that all things will fade except love. *"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy"* (1 Corinthians 14:1,



NKJV) was a powerful reminder that prophecy and any other spiritual gifts should always be rooted in love.

Each participant shared a lesson learned from the verses. Some highlighted that God speaks to us through His Word, and that spiritual gifts without love are meaningless. Others realized that when we hold onto God's Word, we become prophets in our own right, for we proclaim His promises and need not fear the future. As Acts 2:17 (NKJV) states, *"I will pour out of My Spirit on*



all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy." This promise reassures us that prophecy is a gift meant for all who seek Him.

A crucial takeaway from the session was the distinction between biblical prophecy and mere fortune-telling. Prophecy is not about predicting the future like horoscopes; rather, it involves speaking God's truth as revealed in Scripture. To do this effectively, we must be deeply rooted in the Bible. Dr. Joan Elango encouraged us to study Scripture daily with a notebook and pen, paraphrase verses in our own words, and apply them to our lives. As *1 John 4:1 (NKJV)* warns, "*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*"

The session concluded with a renewed commitment to studying God's Word diligently. Prophecy is not reserved for a select few—it is for all who faithfully listen to and proclaim God's message.

Prayer Pointers



- ❖ The Episcopal Leaders -
Bishop Dr. Anilkumar Servand and District Superintendent Rev. Sam Sudalaiyandi.
- ❖ The Pastors and Office Staff.
- ❖ Ministries of Christ Methodist Church,
Vaitheeswaran Koil
- ❖ Parsonage Construction at Chidambaram.
- ❖ Those who are sick and in pain, especially
Mrs Priya David, Mrs. Janette Michael and
Ms. Adline Shuba.
- ❖ Those seeking job and life partner.
- ❖ The Sunday School, MYF, Young Adults,
WSCS, Methodist Men, Elders Fellowship,
Cell groups, Bible Study, AMC choirs, Prayer
walk, Prayer station, Seekers Care Group
and Aspire Group.
- ❖ The Union and State Governments.
- ❖ The Global affairs - economy, ecology,
peaceful atmosphere.