

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light  
Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness  
On them has light shined  
For to us a child is born  
To us a son is given  
And they shall call his name  
Immanuel: God with us  
Isaiah 9; Matthew 1

VOL 9 NO 49

9 December 2018

8.30 & 10.30 am

## ***Order of Service***

Prayers & Prelude

Call to Worship

\*Doxology

\*Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Responsive Scripture Reading: Matt 1.18-25 KJV

Worship in Song

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7.1-17 ESV

Message: The Sign of Immanuel

\*Response Song: From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable

Corporate Life & Prayer

Offertory Response

\*Closing Hymn: I Cannot Tell

Benediction

Announcements

Postlude

\**Congregation stands*

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## Welcome

We are pleased to welcome you to worship with us. If you are new to Zion Bishan, do speak to an usher or hospitality team member to find out about our faith, or about our activities and programmes. You may also approach the Info Desk after service.

## Our Sunday services and activities

### 8.30 am

English service — *Sanctuary L1*

Children's Discipleship — *please ask at the Hospitality or Info Desk*

Mandarin service — *Chapel L4*

(8.45 am) Domestic Helpers Fellowship (English) — *Room 105 L1*

### 9.00 am

Adult Discipleship Class — *see below*

Hokkien service — *Auditorium 2 L4*

### 10.30 am

English service — *Sanctuary L1/2*

Cantonese-Mandarin service — *MPH L1*

Tamil service — *Music Room L3*

Mandarin-English service — *Chapel L4*

Domestic Helpers Fellowship (English-Indonesian) — *Room 103 L1*

Children's & Youth Discipleship — *please ask at the Hospitality or Info Desk*

### 1.30 pm

Adult Discipleship Class — *see below*

### 5.00 pm

English service — *MPH L1*

## Serving You Today

*Speaker:* Mr Vernon Quek.

Worship Ministry Team B. Music Team A.

Song leader: Deaconess Deborah Yang.

**8.30 am:** *Coordinator:* Ryan Teo. *Worship*

*Ldr:* Deacon Justin Low. *Responsive*

*Scripture Reading:* Janet Wang. *Scripture*

*Reading:* Lionel Lim.

**10.30 am:** *Coordinator:* Colin Chua.

*Worship Ldr:* Mr Kwek Khee Leng. *Scripture*

*Readings:* Jason Leong.

## Pastors and Ministry Staff

Rev Dr Alby Yip, *Senior Pastor* 9844 9536

Rev Dr David Wong, *Pastor (Mentoring)*

9748 1851

Rev Dr Dev Menon, *Pastor* 9829 6051

Rev Zheng Haoren, *Pastor (Comm Dev't)*

6353 8081

Rev Dr Steven Tan, *Pastor* (on sabbatical)

Rev Ebinezar Mohan, *Pastor (Tamil)* 8198 9696

Rev Kew See Seong, *Pastor (Mand)* 9489 4967

Rev Lim Jit Thye, *Pastor (Cant-Mand)* 9182 6957

Rev Daniel Nge, *Pastor (Mand-Eng)* 8428 0525

Mrs Emily Quek, *Special Projects* 9001 2926

Mrs June Tan, *Children's Ministry* 8388 1883

Mrs Ruth Quek, *Children/Y. Adults* 9728 7145

Mrs Sharon Quek, *Trg/Mobilisation* 9788 0195

Mr Timmy Ng, *Youth Ministry* 9007 5957

Mr Vernon Quek, *Young Adults/AGs* 9796 0196

Mr Kwek Khee Leng, *Com Outreach* 9691 9946

Mr Darrell Tan, *Communications* 9791 3221

Mr Quek Tze-Ming, *Assoc Min Staff* 9060 8340

### Confidential Care & Counselling e-mail:

*care@zionbishan.org.sg*

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## Adult Discipleship Classes

**Early Childhood Education —  
Developmental Milestones/Delay**

6 January, 1.30–3.00 pm

## Understanding Multi-Sensory Learning

13 January, 1.30–3.00 pm

Register online: [tinyurl.com/ADCSpecialEd](http://tinyurl.com/ADCSpecialEd)

# **The Sign of Immanuel**

Isaiah 7.1-17

9 December 2018

Mr Vernon Quek

## **Introduction: What's in a name?**

A matter of who you trust in

### **1. Big trouble in little Judah (v1-9)**

Ephraim (Israel): Samaria → Pekah (s/o Remaliah)

Syria: Damascus → Rezin

Assyria

### **2. The Sign: Good news or bad? (v10-17)**

2 Kings 16

### **3. Immanuel: A 21st century Christmas application**

Matt 1:21

Who are you trusting in and for what?

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What was the big idea in the sermon? How would you summarise and explain this passage in a sentence to someone who wasn't with us today?
2. What does the name Immanuel mean to you this Christmas? Reflecting on your life this past year, is the thought of 'God with us' a challenging or comforting thought?
3. Is there anything you want to change about the way you celebrate Christmas as a result of what you've heard this morning?

## *Prayer Points*

### **Our Church**

**The Spirit of Christmas** — It is the season of Advent, leading up to Christmas. Our sermon series on Isaiah deals with the themes of longing and promise, recovering the depths of human need and God's grace that meet in the true meaning of Christmas.

As we pray over the political turmoil, the cultural ills, and the personal brokenness of our time, we find promise and hope in God's word, in God's gift of Immanuel, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promise of Christ's return. Let us pray for a deeper appreciation and celebration of Christmas.

**SLA Meeting** (13 Dec) — Do continue to pray for God's favour to be on the meeting relating to our land lease renewal, to take place between Pastor Alby and team, and officials from the Singapore Land Authority (SLA). Pray that God will enable us to renew the lease, and to continue our witness and ministry here in Bishan.

**Friendship Meal** (17–21 Dec) — Thank God for this opportunity to share the spirit and message of Christmas. Pray for more to volunteer to serve during this outreach week.

### **Our World**

**St Thomas Church** — Praise God that they recently celebrated the 20th Anniversary of their mission to the unreached parts of their nation, and had a mission consultation to broaden their vision for ministry.

Keep praying for the team, who are there to share about discipleship and early childhood education. Pray that they may depend on the Lord and the leading of the Holy Spirit in all things, that they may be responsive to Him, to serve well as a team, and together with the local leaders.

Pray for the participants to learn much: that the ministry trainees will grow in their understanding of prayer and personal mission statement, and that the early childhood teachers will gain good insights in pedagogy and classroom setup. Pray for God's protection over all involved.

**Yemen** — Pray for real progress toward peace through talks that have been held in Sweden between the warring parties. The country is under imminent threat of famine due to the 4-year civil war, also seen as a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

## Last Week

Last Sunday, 2 December, we welcomed:

**Morning Services:** Angelina Ang, Li Yeal Lim, Christoph Meister, Eunice Tan, Jowin Yien and others.

**Evening Service:** Leticia Choo and Christabel Tan.

Service	Attendance
English 8.30 am	253
English 10.30 am	600
English 5 pm	26
Mandarin	104
Cantonese/Mandarin	62
Mandarin/English	46
Chinese Sunday School	23
Hokkien	75
Tamil	18
<b>TOTAL (*excl. ADCs)</b>	<b>1,207</b>

## Land Lease Renewal Fund

**Weekly Total** **\$22,374.00**

(Weekly Target: \$97,993)

## Info for Giving

### General & Missions Fund

DBS Current A/C: 070-901056-3

PayNow: T10SS0029GGMF

ZION BISHAN BP CHURCH

### Land Lease Renewal Fund

DBS Current A/C: 070-901055-5

PayNow: T10SS0029GGPF

ZION BISHAN BP CHURCH – GPF

(please indicate *Land Lease*

*Renewal Fund* on back of cheque)

Please provide your *CONTACT NUMBER* on each cheque

## Your Response

9 December 2018

NAME

PHONE

E-MAIL

You may e-mail your response to **office@zionbishan.org.sg**

PLEASE TICK AS APPROPRIATE

I would like to:

- sign up for an activity
- request prayer
- give feedback
- send a word of encouragement
- other:

RESPONSE DETAILS:

(more space overleaf)

Please note that the church will retain and use your submitted data as needed to process your indicated response.

HAND YOUR RESPONSE TO AN USHER, THE INFO DESK, OR PUT IT IN THE OFFERING BAG

FOLD AND TEAR ALONG LINE TO DETACH

## ***Church Family News***

1. Fellowship Tea and Flowers: Tony and Elena Lim. (Thanksgiving).
2. Congratulations to Linus and Serene Koe on the birth of their daughter, Bethany, on 3 Dec. Congratulations to their families also.
3. Today, Pastor Alby is preaching at Baptist Fellowship Church; Pastor David is preaching at Boscombe Life Church; Pastor Dev is preaching at Emmanuel BP Church.
4. Pastor Steven is on sabbatical till 28 Feb.

## ***Looking Ahead***

### **Friday 14 December**

**8 pm: Prayer Fellowship**, AG32 chairing.

### **Sunday 16 December**

Worship Ministry Team C. Music Team A.

**8.30 am:** *Coordinator:* Anthony Chiam. *Worship Ldr:* Dn Sunil Peter. *Responsive Scripture Reading:* Mary Seah. *Scripture Reading:* Carol Low.

**10.30 am:** *Coordinator:* Christopher Lim. *Worship Ldr:* Dn Chan Kin Yip. *Responsive Scripture Reading:* Chew Ping Nan. *Scripture Reading:* Peter Yap.

Isaiah 11.1-9 "The Branch & the Spirit" (Pastor Dev)

### **5.00 pm December Series:**

**"ieatisave: meals with Jesus"**

**9 Dec** – A Picnic with 5,000 (Mr Quek Tze-Ming)

**16 Dec** – Eating & Drinking—with Levi (Mr Kwek Khee Leng)

**23 Dec** – Eating & Drinking—with the Pharisees (Mr Kwek Khee Leng)

**30 Dec** – The Last Meal? (Mr Quek Tze-Ming)

THANKS FOR YOUR RESPONSE!  
YOU MAY HAND IT TO AN USHER  
OR THE INFO DESK, OR PUT IT IN  
THE OFFERING BAG

## Christmas: Gift-Exchange or Gift-Giving?

I was in a Christmas organizing meeting many years ago when the idea of getting the worshippers to bring a gift for exchange was discussed. There were concerns that people may be obliged and fears that some will “take and not bring.” Then there were concerns that some will be shortchanged if the value of the gift they received is lesser than the gift they prepared. Of course there were also fears that some will prepare less than ideal gifts. It was finally agreed that each person will be “encouraged” to bring a gift of around five dollars.

It seemed like a neat solution. But that discussion caused me a sleepless night. I felt something fundamental was missing in that meeting. We were so caught up with the physical value of the gifts that we missed the spiritual value. We were side-tracked by the perceived spirit of the people coming for the Christmas service that we missed out on the spirit of Christmas. We were *planning for Christmas* but missed out on the *spirit of Christmas*. Christmas is never about gift-exchange; it is about gift-giving.

“For God so loved the world, that he **gave** his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

(John 3:16, emphasis added)

How will your Christmas be this year? If you do not yet have plans, I invite you to pray about being a part of the spirit of Christmas:

1. **December 8 Christmas Outreach.** Join in the follow-up of the friends who came.
2. **December 17–21 Friendship Meals at The Living Room.** Join as servers and befrienders in this community outreach.
3. **December 25 Christmas Service.** Christmas services are known to rekindle the faith of those who have “back-slided.” If you know of someone, bring the person along and commit to following-up with that person.
4. **December 30 Christmas Outreach Party for Foreign Domestic Helpers.** Bring your helper, be a befriender, or even prepare gifts for them.

You can be God’s gift to someone.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Devotions for Caregivers**

Booklet of 30 devotions written specially for Christians facing the challenges of a caregiving role. Published by Our Daily Bread Ministries. Available at the Info Desk.

### **Friendship Meal**

**17–21 December, 6–8 pm**

Our final Friendship Meal of 2018 is happening close to Christmas. Do consider serving the Lord through befriending our neighbourhood over a warm meal. You could contribute a dish, serve food and drinks, befriend our guests, or provide entertainment, e.g. carolling, playing an instrument. Sign up by contacting Rachel (8518 9656) or Zhi-Wen (9092 6095). AGs are welcome to serve together.

### **Christmas Service & Lunch**

**25 December, 10 am**

Advent is here, and we'll be celebrating Christmas service on 25 December from Isaiah 9. Lunch will be catered after service, at \$5/pax. Please sign up at the link below, and provide payment at the fellowship hall today or 16 Dec. Register:

*[bit.do/ZionChristmasLunch2018](http://bit.do/ZionChristmasLunch2018)*

### **Christmas Outreach Party for**

#### **Domestic Helpers**

**30 December, 12.30–4.30 pm**

An outreach event for domestic helpers, with food, fellowship, games and a gospel sharing session. Please contact Charis (9066 4153) or Cerintha (9650 5392) to sign up (by 23 Dec) or for details.

### **Youth Fellowship Leaders Needed**

The Youth Ministry needs young adult leaders (2nd year tertiary education and above) who can commit to attend Youth Fellowship (YF) on Saturdays and Sundays to create a fun and nurturing community where youths can learn the gospel, the Great Commission, and learn to share it in a fun and engaging way with other youths in the Bishan estate and at school. Join us if you love youths and want to impact them for Christ. Weekly commitment for one year (2019). Contact Timmy Ng: 9007 5957

### **Philippines Mission Exposure Trip**

**5–11 January**

Visit our mission partners Student Missionary Outreach (SMO), a youth organisation with a vision to reach Filipino youths for Christ. Good especially for those who have finished their O and A Levels. Participate in the ministry of SMO through visits to schools, children's homes, prayer walks, games and interaction with students. Contact Sharon (9788 0195) for more info or to sign up.