

# From Sorrow to Joy

Christmas Advent Series 2023

ENGLISH SERVICES

VOL 14 NO 49  
3 December 2023

## **Order of Service**

Call to Worship

Gloria Patri

Worship in Songs

AM: Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery; Joy Has Dawned / Angels We Have Heard on High  
PM: This Kingdom; Wonderful Merciful Saviour

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 8:20 - 9:7 (NLT)

Message: From Burden to Joy

Response Hymn: Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

Holy Communion: O Come, All You Unfaithful

Corporate Life & Prayer

Offering

Benediction

Announcements

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## Welcome

We are pleased to welcome you to worship with us! If you are new to Zion Bishan, do drop us a note on our contact form and our hospitality team will get in touch with you in the coming week:

[www.zionbishan.org.sg/rf](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/rf)

## Sunday Services at a glance

**8.30am** Mandarin Service

**9.00am** Hokkien Service

**9.30am** Tamil Service

**8.30am/10.30am/4.30pm** English Service

**10.30am** Mandarin-English Service

**10.45am** Cantonese-Mandarin Service

### **Domestic Helpers Fellowship (DHF)**

**Bible Study Groups** – to join via Zoom, register at [www.zionbishan.org.sg/dhf](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/dhf)

**8.45am DHF 1A** (in English, for all nationalities) *in-person at Room 103 (and upon request via Zoom)*

**8.45am DHF 2** (in Myanmar language) *in-person in The Living Room and via Zoom*

**2.00pm DHF 3** (in Bahasa Indonesia) *via Zoom*

**8.45pm DHF 1B** (in English, for all nationalities) *upon request via Zoom*

### **Children/Youth Discipleship Classes**

Register interest: [www.zionbishan.org.sg/cd-yd](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/cd-yd)

## Join us on Telegram / WhatsApp

Keep up to date with our latest bulletin and church announcements:

[www.zionbishan.org.sg/broadcasts](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/broadcasts)

## Serving You Today

**Speaker:** Ps Ng Zhiwen

**8.30am**

*Service Coordinator:* Dn Joseph Chan

*Worship Leader:* Dn Joseph Chan

*Vocalist & Musicians:* Morning Team 1

**10.30am**

*Service Coordinator:* Dn Tiew Chew Meng

*Worship Leader:* Eld Chuah Chin Yew

*Vocalist & Musicians:* Morning Team 1

**4.30pm**

*Service Coordinator:* Joel Khoo

*Worship Leader:* Dn Nicklaus Yu

*Vocalist & Musicians:* Afternoon Team 1

## Pastors and Ministry Staff

Rev Dr Alby Yip, Senior Pastor	9844 9536
Rev Dr Dev Menon, Pastor	9829 6051
Rev Ebenezar Mohan, Pastor (Tamil)	8198 9696
Rev Lim Jit Thye, Pastor (Cant-Mand)	9182 6957
Rev Daniel Nge, Pastor (Mand-Eng)	8428 0525
Rev Vernon Quek, Pastor	9796 0196
Rev Ng Zhiwen, Pastor	9092 6095
Rev Paul Yeo, Pastor (Hokkien)	9751 1897
Mrs Emily Quek, Special Projects	9001 2926
Mrs June Tan, Children's Ministry	8388 1883
Mrs Sharon Quek, Overseas Ministries	9788 0195
Mr Danny Chua, AG/Safeguarding	9239 4160
Mr Quek Tze-Ming, Assoc Min Staff	9060 8340
Miss Jacqueline Lie, Youth Ministry	9322 7629
Miss Vanessa Lee, Women's Worker	9880 4507
Mr Joel Khoo, YAs/Discipleship	9368 9221
Mr Timothy Ong, Missions Education	9271 5785
Rev Dr David Wong, Advisory Pastor	
Rev Dr Quek Swee Hwa, Pastor Emeritus	

**Confidential Care & Counselling e-mail:**

[care@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:care@zionbishan.org.sg)

**From Burden to Joy**

Isaiah 8:20 - 9:7 (NLT)

**Christmas and the Darkness**

**The Prophecy: People will Rejoice**

**This Child**

**Questions for Discussion and Reflection:**

1. What does the Bible passage (Isaiah 8:20-9:7) tell us about life and why it is the way it is? What is the burden that we carry?
2. What does God promise He will do about the darkness?
3. Think about this assurance: "The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!" How does this give you joy and hope?

## Prayer Points

### Our Church

**Christmas Outreach** – A Christmas celebration cum outreach event has been organized for 50 migrant workers from Terusan Recreation Center on Sunday, 10 Dec at 6pm. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will touch their hearts to come to Christ.

#### **Domestic Helpers Fellowship (DHF)**

The aim of DHF is to reach every helper in every ZB family. We thank God that many families from both English and Chinese services invited their helpers to attend today's gospel outreach party. We are expecting almost 80 domestic helpers! Do pray that they will all turn up, and for the programme to proceed smoothly. Pray for clear interpretation of Ps Zhiwen's message into Tagalog, Burmese and Indonesian, and for meaningful breakout group discussions on the message. Ask that the Lord will speak to every attendee through this event and that many would return to join the Sunday DHF bible studies regularly and to come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

#### **Overseas Ministries Visits:**

**1) Indonesia** – Thank God for fruitful visits by our church team to various brothers and sisters and their families here. The team has been encouraged by the sharing of stories, food, fellowship and worship together. Pray for strength and courage for this community to minister the love and grace of God to those who have yet to encounter that.

**2) Thailand (Radion Group)** – Thank God for the smooth arrival of the group at this NGO's centre in Thailand. Radion works to save vulnerable children and youth in this area. Thank God for times of culture learning and language preparation for their days of going out into the community. It was also good that

the team were able to join the children who stay at this centre, in some of their routines (for eg, exercise). It was particularly nice that the team was able to join them in the Lantern Festival this week. Pray for their hearts to be moved and broadened by what the Holy Spirit is showing them from the home visits and interactions with various ones in the community.

### Our World

**Middle East** – The need for essential items such as water, food and medicine is still greatly needed in Gaza during this truce. Pray that untreated disease, which has been increasing will be stemmed by restoring the Gaza health system. Diarrhoea and respiratory infections are already widespread in overcrowded UN facilities where almost 1.1 million people are sheltering (BBC news, 29 Nov). Pray for God's mercy to be upon the vulnerable in Gaza.

**Nepal** – Pray for Brother Haoren from our church and S. Rai as they visit a partner in East Nepal next week. They will be spending some time encouraging a gathering of the partner's workers through some time together in K town. Pray for good communication despite the language difference. May the Lord use this time to mutually bless both sides. The partner's workers live in very high and remote villages here in Nepal, hence this gathering is very important for the encouragement of this small community of believers. Recently, there has been some unrest in Nepal. Pray for political stability, strong governance and an economic growth for this country.

## Last Week

Sunday Service	Attendance	Offering
English Service Livestream*	18	
English Service 8:30am	160	\$425.00
English Service 10:30am	449	
English Service 4:30pm	208	
Chinese Service Livestream*	8	
Chinese Service 8:30am	70	\$3,562.40
Cant/Mand Service 10:45am	60	\$491.00
ME Service	66	\$1,218.00
Hokkien Service	55	\$399.00
Tamil Service	16	\$870.00
DHF	20	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1130</b>	<b>\$6,965.40</b>

\*Livestreaming peak concurrent viewers

Electronic Transfer	\$50,048.66
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>\$57,014.06</b>

Weekly offering to meet budget for 2022/23: \$75,000.98

### LAND LEASE RENEWAL FUND

Electronic Transfer	\$5,355.60
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>\$5,355.60</b>

**TOTAL GIFT RECEIVED TO-DATE**                      **\$10,080,217.55**

## Church Family News

Congratulations to Joshaniel & Rachel Tan, on the birth of their firstborn daughter, Elodie Ren Tan, on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023, in Hokkaido, Japan!

## Info for Giving

For tithes and offering:

**General & Missions Fund**



DBS Current A/C: **070-901056-3**

PayNow: **T10SS0029GGMF**

**ZION BISHAN BP CHURCH**

To give towards the

**Land Lease Renewal Fund:  
General Project Fund**



DBS Current A/C: **070-901055-5**

PayNow: **T10SS0029GGPF**

**ZION BISHAN BP CHURCH – GPF**

Indicate **“Land Lease Renewal Fund”** on back of cheque

Please provide your **CONTACT NUMBER** on each cheque

## Looking Ahead

### **Friday, 8 Dec**

**8.00pm:** Prayer Meeting

**Register at [www.zionbishan.org.sg/fpm](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/fpm)**

### **Saturday, 9 Dec**

**4.00pm:** Youth Fellowship

**Register at [www.zionbishan.org.sg/yf](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/yf)**

### **Sunday, 10 Dec**

Worship Services at **8.30am, 10.30am**  
and **4.30pm**

### **Advent Series: From Sorrow to Joy**

#### **10 Dec – From Tears to Joy**

*Mr Danny Chua (8.30am & 10.30am)*

#### **From Shame to Joy**

*Mr Joel Khoo (4.30pm)*

#### **17 Dec – From Shame to Joy**

*Mr Joel Khoo (8.30am & 10.30am)*

#### **From Tears to Joy**

*Mr Danny Chua (4.30pm)*

#### **24 Dec – From Oppression to Joy**

*Mr Quek Tze-Ming*

#### **25 Dec ( Christmas ) 10.30am & 4.30pm**

#### **From Humiliation to Joy**

*Ps Alby Yip*

## Your Response

Thank you for joining us today!  
If there's anything you would like the church to know, do reach out to us online or via email.

Get in touch with us:

- If you are joining us for the first time
- to find out more
- to request prayer
- to provide feedback
- to send a word of encouragement

You may find our response form at [zionbishan.org.sg/rf](http://zionbishan.org.sg/rf)

Or email us at

[office@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:office@zionbishan.org.sg)

Confidential care & counselling matters, please email [care@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:care@zionbishan.org.sg)

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

**THANKS FOR YOUR RESPONSE.**

## **The Reason for the Season!**

I've always believed that coincidences are God's hand in the glove of history. It recently happened again. Our sermon series is now on Revelation. We paused our study at chapters 10 and 11 on 19 November. Then we commenced the Christmas evangelistic sermon series on 26 November which will lead us through to Watchnight Service on 31 December.

So, what's the coincidence? "Coincidentally," Rev 10-11 are where John's vision turned from judgments to salvation. God in His mercy would not want those without Christ to face the full extent of His wrath. We read and heard that judgments alone are not enough to change hearts. We need people who will bring the Gospel to the world of non-Christians.

Hence, coincidentally, we are reminded in Rev 10-11 that the people of God, you and I, are part of God's plan to reconcile the world to Himself. Then we start our Christmas evangelistic sermon series where we encourage all to reach out and invite our family and friends who have not accepted Christ to join us.

I really believe there is divine intention behind this coincidence and also God's divine invitation to us here in Zion Bishan to be a part of His salvific work this Christmas season. I hope that will make even stronger the reason for the season for us. That the Christmas season is not just for meals and celebrations. Christmas is the season for the Reason.

It is the season for believers to proclaim to unbelievers the reason for Christmas—Christ! The world knows Christmas as the season to be jolly. We Christians call it the 'Season of Joy'. But what exactly is the basis of this joy? This evangelistic Advent series seeks to explore the necessary sorrow that everyone must first understand in order to fully realise Christmas joy.

Each of these sermons will explore an aspect of the suffering and sorrow that Jesus came to deliver us from and end with an invitation to experience afresh the great joy we have in our Saviour being born into this world. So, keep your prayer alive for yourself, and more so for those whom you know need Christ and the true joy that only He can offer!

## Announcements

### ADVENT SERIES 2023: FROM SORROW TO JOY

This December, come join any of our services to find out why Jesus is the Joy that we all need this Christmas season.

**Sundays 3 - 31 Dec:**

8.30am, 10.30am & 4.30pm

**Christmas Day:** 10.30am & 4.30pm

*Lunch & dinner will be provided after the Christmas Day services*

### TUITION MINISTRY 2024

**Jan - Dec 2024 (Thurs), 7 - 9pm**

Calling on members, non-communicant members and catechumens to sign up as tutors in this Home Missions ministry to reach out to students between Primary 1 to Secondary 5. Weekly dinner will be provided.

You can also sign up to serve as volunteers to provide logistics support or read the Bible with parents/guardians of the students.

For more information, please contact

**Dns Li Hwee @ 9672 7467,**

**Timothy @ 9271 5785**

or email [timothy@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:timothy@zionbishan.org.sg)

### INFANT/CHILD BAPTISM

**On 24 Dec 2023**

Interested parents, please email

[lydia@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:lydia@zionbishan.org.sg) for form and sign up by **10 Dec**.

### LADIES CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

**9 Dec 2023 (Sat) 6 - 8pm**

Please join us for a time of praise and adoration @ **Winnie's home**.

Sign up with **Lydia @ 8338 3982** by **TODAY**.

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY STAFF

**Job description:** In consultation with the Pastor in-charge, you are required to provide direction and leadership to the teachers and helpers serving in the children's ministry. You will oversee all the activities of the Children's Discipleship program involving curriculum development; resource materials management; recruitment and training of lay teachers; communicating with parents to nurture the faith of their children.

In addition, you are required to assist in running ad hoc programs like Children's camp and outreaches.

**Qualifications:** You should be a spiritually mature Christian with an outgoing personality and be willing to work with children as well as their parents. You should possess a diploma/degree from a tertiary institution or theological college and have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Those who lack relevant ministry experience can be trained via the **EXCEL apprenticeship program**.

If you are interested, please submit your resume to [adam@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:adam@zionbishan.org.sg)