

# From Sorrow to Joy

Christmas Advent Series 2023

ENGLISH SERVICES

VOL 14 NO 50  
10 December 2023

## Order of Service

Call to Worship

Gloria Patri

[ MORNING ]

Worship in Songs: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; What Child is This; I Cannot Tell

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-13, 16-18 (ESV)

Message: From Tears to Joy

Response Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

[ AFTERNOON ]

Worship in Songs: Come People Of The Risen King; Who Am I

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 54:1-17 (ESV)

Message: From Shame to Joy

Response Hymn: O Come, All You Unfaithful

Corporate Life & Prayer

Offering		<i>page</i>
	TODAY	2
Benediction	SERMON NOTES	3
	PRAYER POINTS	5
Announcements	CHURCH FAMILY NEWS	6
	LOOKING AHEAD	7
	WORD IN SEASON	8
	ANNOUNCEMENTS	10

## 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

**Speakers:** Mr Danny Chua  
(8.30am & 10.30am)  
Mr Joel Khoo (4.30pm)

### **8.30am**

*Service Coordinator:* Dn Tay Beng Hwee  
*Worship Leader:* Dn Tay Beng Hwee  
*Vocalist & Musicians:* Morning Team 2

### **10.30am**

*Service Coordinator:* Dn Mervyn Phan  
*Worship Leader:* Dn Tiew Chew Meng  
*Vocalist & Musicians:* Morning Team 2

### **4.30pm**

*Service Coordinator:* Timothy Ong  
*Worship Leader:* Dn John Chua  
*Vocalist & Musicians:* Afternoon Team 2

## Pastors and Ministry Staff

E-mail: *user ID* followed by [@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:@zionbishan.org.sg)

Rev Dr Alby Yip, <i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>alby</i>
Rev Dr Dev Menon, <i>Pastor</i>	<i>dev</i>
Rev Ebinezar Mohan, <i>Pastor (Tamil)</i>	<i>ebi</i>
Rev Lim Jit Thye, <i>Pastor (Cant-Mand)</i>	<i>jtlim</i>
Rev Daniel Nge, <i>Pastor (Mand-Eng)</i>	<i>daniel</i>
Rev Vernon Quek, <i>Pastor</i>	<i>vernon</i>
Rev Ng Zhiwen, <i>Pastor</i>	<i>zhiwen</i>
Rev Paul Yeo, <i>Pastor (Hokkien/Mand)</i>	<i>paul</i>
Mrs Emily Quek, <i>Special Projects</i>	<i>emily</i>
Mrs June Tan, <i>Children's Ministry</i>	<i>june</i>
Mrs Sharon Quek, <i>Overseas Ministries</i>	<i>sharon</i>
Mr Danny Chua, <i>AG/Safeguarding</i>	<i>danny</i>
Mr Quek Tze-Ming, <i>Assoc Min Staff</i>	<i>tzeming</i>
Miss Jacqueline Lie, <i>Youth Ministry</i>	<i>jacqueline</i>
Miss Vanessa Lee, <i>Women's Worker</i>	<i>vanessa</i>
Mr Joel Khoo, <i>YAs/Discipleship</i>	<i>joel</i>
Mr Timothy Ong, <i>Missions Education</i>	<i>timothy</i>
Rev Dr David Wong, <i>Advisory Pastor</i>	
Rev Dr Quek Swee Hwa, <i>Pastor Emeritus</i>	

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

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

**From Tears to Joy**

Matthew 2:1-18

Mr Danny Chua

( 8.30am & 10.30am )

**The Darkness of Christmas**

**The Tears of Christmas...**

*... In Bethlehem*

*... In Babylon*

**The Longing for Joy at Christmas**

**Questions for Discussion and Reflection:**

1. What struck you from today's Bible passage or the message?
2. Do you agree that Christmas can be an especially painful time of darkness for some of us? Why or why not?
3. What is the joy you are longing for this Christmas?
4. What do you think of the kind of joy Jesus offers through Christmas?

**From Shame to Joy**

Isaiah 54:1-17

Mr Joel Khoo

( 4.30 pm )

**Introduction** — Longing at Christmas

*3 pictures of God's Promises*

**1. *The Barren Woman — People Restored (v1-3)***

**2. *The Afflicted City — Home Rebuilt (v11-17)***

**3. *The Shamed Wife — Relationship Repaired (v4-10)***

**Joy at Christmas**

**Questions for Discussion and Reflection**

1. What do you think about God's promises of restoration?  
Is there any promise (regarding people, city, or relationship) that stands out to you? Why?
2. How does seeing God's promises of restoration help us to come to Jesus, despite shame & brokenness?  
What are you looking forward to the most when Jesus returns?

## Prayer Points

### Our Church

**Land Lease Renewal** – On 7 Dec, we have submitted the application for our land lease renewal for another 30 years. Ps Alby has written in the WIS the series of coincidences on what happened on that day where we submitted our application. Do keep in prayer for God's favour and above all God's continued provision of more Gospel opportunities!

**Guest Workers Outreach** – For the Christmas celebration cum outreach event a total of 50 migrant workers have registered their names to attend. This event will be held today at 6.00 pm. Please pray that our Lord will speak to them as they enjoy the hospitality of our church people and more importantly their hearts will listen to the Christmas gospel and respond.

**LR Christmas Outreach** – Our Living Room staff and befrienders are organising a community lunch for some residents at Sin Ming on 18 Dec. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring more willing hearts and hands together for this event. Pray also for God to work in the hearts of the residents that they will be open to receive the message from the skit, and that this event will lead the team to more evangelistic opportunities with the residents through conversations and prayers.

**Youth Camp 2023 — Not Yet Home** — is happening on 11 – 15 December. Pray for the 70 youths and leaders, as they learn about how Christians are set apart as God's people in this world. Through the various messages led by Eld Reuben from ZS, and through the workshops, games, and extended time together at Sembawang campsite, may the campers grow in their faith journey on earth while looking forward to the final Home.

**Radion Team** – Thank God for safe return last Monday of the 8-members team that went to Thailand with Radion, a Christian NGO serving vulnerable children and families in Khek Noi

village. The team were immensely blessed by what the Lord is doing in this community. They learnt much from interacting with the Radion staff and the villagers, and from conducting an evangelistic children's camp. Pray for the Radion staff and local church to follow up well with the children who came forward to receive Christ during the camp, and pray for our ZB team to have the space and time to reflect and process the many things they have experienced. To God be the glory!

### Our Denomination

**Emmanuel BP Church** – Pray for the bilingual outreach service on 17 Dec, 9.30am, by Ps Simon Neo of Breakthrough Missions at One Pemimpin. May the EBPC members be moved to bring their family and friends to hear the good news of Christ. They are happy to welcome visitors from Zion Bishan too!

### Our World

**Volcanic Eruption:** On 3 Dec, Mt Merapi (Sumatra) erupted and killed at least 22 people (5 Dec, ST). Pray for the rescue and relief efforts for all the people affected.

**Indonesia Team:** Thank God for the safe return of the 7-members church team to Indonesia last Sunday. It was a very fruitful visit to various workers in different parts of an Indonesian Island. How encouraging it was to hear of what God was doing through various former Missiology School Alumni. Pray that the team will also have time to reflect and process important takeaways from all that they have experienced. Praise God for the faithfulness of these various ones, often in the face of much sacrifice and sometimes discouragement. May God be their strength and anchor to persevere in their various communities.

## Last Week

Sunday Service	Attendance	Offering
English Service Livestream*	17	
English Service 8:30am	140	\$1,125.00
English Service 10:30am	421	
English Service 4:30pm	198	
Chinese Service Livestream*	4	
Chinese Service 8:30am	97	\$6,672.00
Cant/Mand Service 10:45am	109	\$1,363.00
ME Service	55	\$1,294.00
Hokkien Service	59	\$606.00
Tamil Service	18	\$1,601.75
DHF	103	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>\$12,661.75</b>

\*Livestreaming peak concurrent viewers

Use of Premise	\$646.00
Electronic Transfer	\$74,870.38
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>\$88,178.13</b>

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

### LAND LEASE RENEWAL FUND

Gift No: 1883	\$50.00
Electronic Transfer	\$4,906.60
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>\$4,956.60</b>

**TOTAL GIFT RECEIVED TO-DATE**                      **\$10,085,174.15**

## Church Family News

1. Congratulations to Joshua and Chloe Khoo, on the birth of their firstborn daughter, Khoo Yuxi Eden, on 6 Dec 2023.
2. Congratulations to Teo S.A. and R. J. Rodriguez, as they entered into holy matrimony, on 7 Dec 2023!
3. Congratulations to Bennett Tan and Dns Larissa See, as they entered into holy matrimony, on 9 Dec 2023!
4. Pastor Alby is preaching at the Hokkien service this morning.
5. Pastor Zhiwen will be overseas from 11 - 23 Dec.
6. Pastor Vernon will be in India from 10 - 20 Dec.

## 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, 15 Dec**

**8.00pm:** Prayer Meeting

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

### **Saturday, 16 Dec**

**4.00pm:** Youth Fellowship

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

### **Sunday, 17 Dec**

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

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

**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.*

### **Coincidence, Again!!!**

The first 30-year lease of the land where Zion Bishan is built on, 4 Bishan Street 13, Singapore 579792, commenced on 1 July 1992 and expired on 30 June 2022. We were then placed on a short-term lease as the government is cognizant of the high cost of land lease and was looking to lower the cost. The exercise was completed on 28 May 2023.

I made various enquiries to confirm what is needed and what can we do to optimize our lease application for another 30-year lease. After the Session's approval on 15 November, I made final plans and collation of the documents needed. We were ready to submit the online application and I planned it to be on 7 December during our weekly staff devotions.

I wanted the occasion to be a surprise for the staff so only a few knew of my plans. But a day before, the staff who did not know of the surprise surprised me saying she had invited a special guest to speak at our devotion. After these past years of being surprised by God, I was not at all affected by the change of plans. So I thought I would do it after the devotion.

But coincidence again! The speaker anchored his sharing on the three core values of our Vision, Personal Discipleship, Gospel Culture and Missional Communities and spoke on the identity, purpose and calling of the Church. Don't you agree that it was indeed a divine coincidence? How apt a message and reminder it is for us as we submit our application for a fresh lease.

God's surprises did not end there. Sharon invited a number of our mission co-labourers to the staff devotion and for a meeting with the speaker after. Among those who came were Dns Cerintha Chia, Elder Foo Say Chiang, and Pastor David Leong. I immediately recalled that Dns Cerintha was the lawyer who inked our first 30-year land lease on 1 July 1992! And "somehow" she appeared on the day when we applied for the next lease. Elder Say Chiang, on the other hand, is on the EXCO of the lease renewal committee and is also the chair of the present church upgrading committee whilst Pastor David Leong was the chairperson of the previous church upgrading committee. I was awed to tears. The big question that is swirling in my mind now is: "What is God telling us through these series of coincidences?"

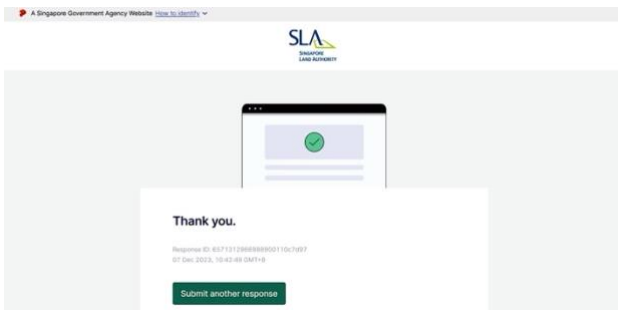




I firmly believe coincidences are God's Hand in the gloves of history. If it is, then through the history of 7 December 2023, what is God showing us of the future of Zion Bishan? More importantly, what must we, this generation of Zion Bishan members and worshippers do and respond so that we may work towards and realize this future that God has planned for us?

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all the years of your support in Zion Bishan's life, faith and ministry. I humbly seek your continued support and co-labour in the Gospel ministry of Zion Bishan to "Present Everyone Mature in Christ: For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."

*Praise, thanks and glory be to GOD, Amen!*



## *Announcements*

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Join us this Christmas  
on **25 Dec 2023!**

**2 Services: 10.30am & 4.30pm**

- Pre-service Carol Singing:  
10am & 4pm
- Followed by Bento  
Lunch/Dinner

Visit <https://t.ly/vnh07>  
to register for post service  
Bento Lunch or Dinner

### **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.**

### **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)