

# From Sorrow to Joy

Christmas Advent Series 2023

ENGLISH SERVICES

VOL 14 NO 51  
17 December 2023

## Order of Service

Call to Worship

Gloria Patri

[ MORNING ]

Worship in Songs: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear; Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne; On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing

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

Message: From Shame to Joy

Response Hymn: O Come, All You Unfaithful

[ AFTERNOON ]

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

Corporate Life & Prayer

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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

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

### **8.30am**

*Service Coordinator:* Sharon Quek  
*Worship Leader:* Eld Sonny Tan  
*Vocalist & Musicians:* Morning Team 3

### **10.30am**

*Service Coordinator:* Dn Tiew Chew Meng  
*Worship Leader:* Eld Foo Say Chiang  
*Vocalist & Musicians:* Morning Team 3

### **4.30pm**

*Service Coordinator:* Jacqueline Lie  
*Worship Leader:* Eld Roland Low  
*Vocalist & Musicians:* Afternoon Team 3

## Pastors and Ministry Staff

Rev Dr Alby Yip, Senior Pastor	9844 9536
Rev Dr Dev Menon, Pastor	9829 6051
Rev Ebinezar 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, <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 Shame to Joy**

Isaiah 54:1-17

**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?

**From Tears to Joy**

Matthew 2:1-18

Mr Danny Chua

( 4.30 pm )

**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?

## *Prayer Points*

### **Our Church**

**Christmas Evangelistic Series** – Pray for the friends, especially non-believers who are invited for the Christmas evangelistic sermon series. Pray for the preachers too for God’s anointing in their preparation and preaching.

**Ubon Learning Journey (21-28 Dec)** – A team of 16 youths and young adults will be heading to Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. Pray for soft hearts for every team member, that they will be ready to receive what God wants to show them about His work in that part of the world and serve. As they visit different hospitals, schools, juvenile detention centre and village church outreach, pray also for a posture of prayer and learning to be still, even as they share the good news of Christmas through testimony, skit, craft and songs.

### **Our World**

**Lebanon** – Thank God for the Christmas season outreach events of a church we are partnering here. In the plans are a Christmas eve meal gift to the vulnerable elderly (about 120 pax) and two outreaches, one to 500 children, on 22 Dec, and one to 130 refugee children on 23 Dec. They hope to bring not just food but also a heart-warming experience of God’s comfort, joy and peace through these events. May the Lord bless these outreaches and also the follow up from

them so that the ones God is drawing to Himself, will come to find the true light of the world in Jesus.

**Nepal** – Praise God for the safe return of Pastor Haoren after 2 months with two of our partners here. He visited local congregations with various ones from our church who came for various training and learning journeys. Thank God for the good time of personal study in the language and culture of Nepal as well as time with the Lord. Praise God for how our church teams and local believers have encouraged each other to persevere and be faithful in following Jesus over these 3 mths. Pray that many of these local believers will grow in faith and be fruitful in multiplying disciples of Jesus wherever they are.

**Climate Change** – All creation is dealing with the dire consequences of climate change this year, for eg, hottest global temperatures, and natural disasters. This week, COP28, the United Nations Climate Change Conference that took place in Dubai, from 30 Nov to 12 Dec 2023 ended. On Wed, a new climate agreement was reached after two weeks of painstaking talks “making an unprecedented call to transition away from fossil fuels, but using vague language that could allow some countries to take minimal action.” (CNN, 13 Dec). Pray for wisdom and strength for Christians and churches to act and respond well as faithful stewards to this continuing crisis in God’s world.

## Last Week

Sunday Service	Attendance	Offering
English Service Livestream*	22	
English Service 8:30am	132	\$2,703.00
English Service 10:30am	458	
English Service 4:30pm	181	
No Livestream - Technical Issue	0	
Chinese Service 8:30am	96	\$1,919.80
Cant/Mand Service 10:45am	70	\$502.00
ME Service	58	\$1,057.00
Hokkien Service	55	\$463.00
Tamil Service	23	\$423.00
DHF	23	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>\$7,067.80</b>

\*Livestreaming peak concurrent viewers

BSF Men		\$1,247.38
BSF Women		\$1,943.84
Electronic Transfer		\$60,206.58
<b>Weekly Total</b>		<b>\$70,465.60</b>

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

### LAND LEASE RENEWAL FUND

Electronic Transfer		\$11,440.60
<b>Weekly Total</b>		<b>\$11,440.60</b>

**TOTAL GIFT RECEIVED TO-DATE**                      **\$10,097,050.71**

## Church Family News

1. Deepest condolences to Andrew Tay & Eileen (HIM) & family on the homegoing of Andrew's father, the late Mr Tay Bah Hee on 8 Dec 2023.
2. Pastor Zhiwen is overseas from 11 - 23 Dec.
3. Pastor Vernon is in India 10 - 20 Dec. He is preaching at Lumding Baptist Church in Assam this morning.
4. Pastor Dev was preaching at the SYFC Poly event on Sat & is at Hermon BP this morning.
5. Brother Tze-Ming is preaching at Bethesda Katong Church this morning.

## 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, 22 Dec**

**8.00pm:** Prayer Meeting

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

### **Saturday, 23 Dec**

**4.00pm:** Youth Fellowship

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

### **Sunday, 24 Dec**

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

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

**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.*

## Loving our helpers

“I was so happy and blessed to join your church. I felt so warm and joyful. I got one offday in a month but I will try to come every month. Thank you so much for giving me that opportunity. God is speaking to me to come closer more and more through the sermon on that day. And we are talking about your church. Your church is so wonderful.”

This message came from a helper who attended our 10.30am worship service and the Domestic Helpers Fellowship (DHF) outreach party on 3 Dec 23!

In the past, DHF held yearly parties in the hope of reaching domestic helpers with the gospel and having them join our weekly bible studies. Each year, although helpers thoroughly enjoyed the party, no one responded when we tried to follow up with them. So this year, we decided to hold our party specifically for the helpers of ZB families, as the employers can help to encourage their helpers to join DHF.

Our first announcement was made on 12 Nov 23. For the first 2 days, no one responded. I asked the Board of Deacons to pray. The Friday Prayer Meeting prayed, and the English congregations prayed on 19 Nov. After that, we had people registering every day. Even after the closing date on 27 Nov, registrations continued, right up till the day of the party. We had planned for 60 helpers, but God sent us 64! We were also very encouraged that many from the English and Chinese services invited their helpers to the party, and many came to help out at the party. It was truly a church-wide effort! During the party, our regular DHFers also played their part to invite the guests to join DHF. One of our non-Christian regulars shared that she is always happy during DHF meetings, and another said she felt peace when we prayed for her during our meeting.



*Simultaneous interpretation into 3 languages*



The Sunday after the party, our Myanmar group had 3 visitors in person and 1 via Zoom. The Indonesian group had 2 visitors, with 1 more indicating that she would join this week. We are very thankful to God, because DHF's membership prior to 3 Dec was 29, so 6 is a 20% increase! Please pray for more helpers to join DHF.

We have seen how regular Bible study in their native languages has impacted the lives of helpers. We taught them the obedience-based Bible study method known as Discovery Bible Study (DBS). Since then, many helpers have grown to enjoy studying God's word together, and even to facilitate the Bible studies on their own. Through discovering God's truths in the Bible themselves, and learning to obey and share with others what they learn, many have grown in their relationship with Christ. The DBS method also teaches them to care for each other. The regular DHFers have formed a strong bond with each other and the DHF team. We hope that this will help them to see Christ's love for them.

Please continue to pray for the gospel seeds that were sown in the helpers' hearts, for the DHF team as we disciple the helpers, and for ZB families to be a channel of God's love to our helpers.



## 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 by **TODAY.**

### ZION BISHAN'S 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CHURCH CAMP

English Camp Theme:  
**Gospel People**

Camp Dates: **14 - 18 June 2024**  
(Fri - Tue)

Speakers: Ps Simon Murphy & Ps Jacob Ng, Redemption Hill Church

**TWO** more weeks to enjoy Early Bird discount which ends on **31 Dec!**

For more information and to register, visit [bit.ly/zbcamp24](http://bit.ly/zbcamp24)

### WATCHNIGHT SERVICE 2023

**31 December 2023 (Sunday)**  
**10pm to 12mn @ Sanctuary**  
**Testimonies start at 10pm**

*Join us for a time of testimony sharing, worship, and hear from His Word to gain strength to continue living for Him in the coming year.*

If you'll like to share your testimony but can't be there in person, please send it to:

**Ps Zhi Wen,**  
[zhiwen@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:zhiwen@zionbishan.org.sg)

**Dns Debbo,** [debbole@gmail.com](mailto:debbole@gmail.com)

### MISSIONS PRAYER NIGHT

Join the **in-person** Friday Prayer Meeting this week to pray for the team going to Philippines from 26 Dec to 1 Jan.

**Date: 22 Dec 2023**

**Time: 7.45-9.00pm**

**Venue: Zion Bishan, MPH at Level 1**

NB: There will be no option for Zoom FPM for this week.