

From Sorrow to Joy

Christmas Advent Series 2023

ENGLISH SERVICES

VOL 14 NO 53
31 December 2023

Order of Service

Call to Worship

Gloria Patri

Worship in Songs

AM: Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendour; Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery;
Before The Throne

PM: Come Behold the Wondrous Story; Immanuel

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 2:5-18; 9:18-28 (ESV)

Message: The Second Christmas

Response Hymn: Jesus is Lord

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

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

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

Join us on Telegram / WhatsApp

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

www.zionbishan.org.sg/broadcasts

Serving You Today

Speaker: Pastor Vernon Quek

8.30am

Service Coordinator: Dn Joesph Chan

Worship Leader: Elder Jeffrey Lim

Vocalist & Musicians: Adhoc Team

10.30am

Service Coordinator: Joel Khoo

Worship Leader: Eld Chuah Chin Yew

Vocalist & Musicians: Adhoc Team

4.30pm

Service Coordinator: Dn Peter Wang

Worship Leader: Dn Peter Wang

Vocalist & Musicians: Adhoc Team

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, Advisory Pastor	
Rev Dr Quek Swee Hwa, Pastor Emeritus	

Confidential Care & Counselling e-mail:

care@zionbishan.org.sg

The Second Christmas

Ps Vernon Quek

Hebrews 2:5-18; 9:18-28



Intro: What makes Christmas, Christmas?

Understanding the First Christmas (Hebrews 2:5-18; 9:18-26)

1. From Creation to Christmas (2:5-9)

David in Psalm 8

2. Christmas: Jesus' Birth AND Death (2:9-15)

Jesus' Death: Love for His brothers (2:10-13)

Jesus' Death: Helps and delivers us (2:14-18; 9:18-26)

From the First to the Second Christmas (9:26b -28)

From Death to Salvation: 'Peace on earth, good-will toward men'

Conclusion: The Greater Second Christmas is coming...

Eagerly waiting for Jesus (9:28)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection:

1. What makes Christmas, Christmas to you? How has today's passage changed your understanding of Christmas?
2. How does today's passage help you love God and Jesus more in return for what's been done for us that First Christmas?
3. Is the coming Second Christmas important to you? Why or why not?
4. What are some specific ways you can live for the Second Christmas in 2024?

Prayer Points

Our Church

The Next Lap Vision - Let us continue to pray that the Lord will help Zion Bishan grow Every Member Mature in Christ as we approach 2024. Thank God for the opportunities we had to deepen in understanding and grow in Personal Discipleship (e.g. through the June sermon series and church camp). Pray that the discipleship relationships fostered this past year would continue growing and bearing gospel fruit in the years ahead.

Our People

Christmas - We thank God for a blessed Christmas Day and for all who came for the different services. Pray for the Gospel's continued work in the hearts of the many non-Christians who came. Pray also for the many in our midst who are facing life's challenges during this festive season for the Peace of Christmas to fill their hearts. If you are one of these, please do reach out to any of the pastors. We want to journey with you.

SA and J – Pray for SA (from our church) and her husband, J, who are preparing for gospel work in the Philippines next year. They recently were married in early December, though J sustained a sports injury to his knee about 5 days before their wedding. After medical investigation,

J has had knee surgery on 22 Dec, in Philippines, his home country. Pray for a full recovery for him and for God's provision for their medical expenses.

Our World

Israel-Hamas War - The Gaza health ministry reported that 21,110 Palestinians have been killed and 55,243 wounded in Israel's offensive on Hamas since Oct 7 (CNA, 28 Dec). Pray for relief aid to be able to reach those who need it. As we have reflected this Christmas on how Jesus brings us from sorrow to joy, let us continue to pray for peace efforts in this conflict to persevere on and God to have mercy on those suffering on both sides of this conflict.

Nepal – Our partner in Nepal had a Christmas event with over 330 Tibetan Buddhists (TB) attending. This was a good opportunity to share God's message of love and light with this community and also some of its leaders. There are very few believers in this community, so pray that the seed of the gospel sown here will bear fruit in God's time.

Last Week

Sunday Service	Attendance	Offering
English Service Livestream*	17	
English Service 8:30am	180	\$1,403.00
English Service 10:30am	594	
English Service 4:30pm	292	
Chinese Service livestream*	13	
Combined Chinese Service	205	\$2,894.00
Tamil Service	15	\$97.00
DHF	12	
TOTAL	1328	\$4,394.00

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

English Service Livestream*	15	
1030am Christmas Service	697	\$2,200.00
430pm Christmas Service	172	
Tamil Service	17	\$697.00
TOTAL	886	\$2,897.00

**Livestreaming peak concurrent viewers*

Use of Premises	\$100.00
Electronic Transfer	\$75,874.97
Weekly Total	\$83,265.97

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

LAND LEASE RENEWAL FUND

Gift Nos: 1884-5	\$1,200.00
Electronic Transfer	\$7,236.60
Weekly Total	\$8,436.60

TOTAL GIFT RECEIVED TO-DATE **\$10,113,243.61**

Church Family News

- Pastor Alby will be preaching at Zion Serangoon BPC this morning and Mt Horeb BPC in the evening.

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, 5 Jan

8.00pm: Prayer Meeting

Register at www.zionbishan.org.sg/fpm

Saturday, 6 Jan

4.00pm: Youth Fellowship

Register at www.zionbishan.org.sg/yf

Sunday, 7 Jan

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

The Next Lap Series:

7 Jan - Every-One Mature

(Congregational Model)

Ps Ng Zhiwen (8.30am)

Ps Alby Yip (10.30am)

Ps Dev Menon (4.30pm)

14 Jan - Personal Discipleship

(Lessons Learned)

Joel Khoo (8.30am & 10.30am)

**Missional Communities -
Why Help Other Churches**

Ps David Wong (4.30pm)

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

Or email us at

office@zionbishan.org.sg

Confidential care & counselling matters, please email 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.

BPCIS UPDATE, 31 DEC 2023

Finally, the year ends. We will remember 2023 for several things. India surpasses China as the world's most populous country. Artificial intelligence makes its appearance as ChatGPT and offers both promise and peril. U.S.-China tensions continue. Wars exact heavy tolls in Ukraine and the Middle-East. Global temperatures shatter records.

In Singapore, we give thanks for peace in our land, and food on our table. But we have our challenges.

PLAYING MUSICAL CHAIRS

Two years after COVID restrictions eased, churches in Singapore are finding themselves in rounds of musical chairs. We remember this game as one when we start the music and walk around a ring of chairs. When the music stop, everyone rushes to find a seat. Because there are more people than chairs, a few will be "out" with no seat to land on.

COVID got many walking around to different churches, visiting their online services, savouring sermons and checking out worship styles. The music stopped and visitors either returned to their own church or moved on to another. Some chose to stay online or else drop church altogether. As a result, churches experience a nett gain or loss.

Our BPCIS churches witnessed the following this Christmas:

Adult Baptism: 37

Child Baptism: 20

Reaffirmation: 14

Transfer: 46

All in, 97 communicant members were added to our churches, together with 20 infants or children. Significantly, transfers make up the largest group of new members. Over such increase, we rejoice. However, these numbers do not tell the whole story. What about the missing ones, those who have stopped attending church, onsite and perhaps also online?

As good shepherds (John 10:14), our pastors and leaders will need to account for the number of sheep present or missing. As the round of musical chairs continues, let us all remember those who are “out” and help them find a chair or church they can settle in, find fellowship and grow in worship and service.

OVER TO 2024

During the festive season, I heard a speaker remind us that Christmas is not the whole story. Indeed—it’s not true that “man will live forevermore because of Christmas day” as a popular song goes. The story continues with Good Friday and Easter Sunday when life forevermore would be accomplished by Jesus’ sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection.

As the new year begins, we look forward to Good Friday when, for the first time, BPCIS churches will meet together (5.00pm) at a “neutral” venue: ACS Independent at Dover Road. Also for the first time, our Chinese-speaking congregations will meet (10.30am) at Faith BP Church at Serangoon Gardens. Transport will be provided from our churches. Watch out for details!

Pastor David Wong
General Secretary, BPCIS

Announcements

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE 2023

31 Dec 2023 (Sun)
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 Ng Zhiwen (zhiwen@zionbishan.org.sg)** or **Dns Debbo (debbole@gmail.com)**

If you are not able to make it for service, but would still like for your family to reflect on the year together, a **New Year's Eve Family Devotion** will be made available here: <https://shorturl.at/hjklL>

ZION BISHAN'S 30th ANNIVERSARY CHURCH CAMP

English Camp Theme: **Gospel People**
Camp Dates: **14 - 18 Jun 2024** (Fri - Tue)

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

Early Bird discount ends **TODAY!**

For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/zbcamp24

WOZ PRAYER & PRAISE 2024

6 Jan 2024 (Sat) 3-5pm
@ Queenie's Place

Come to bless and be blessed!
Thank God for the past year and look forward to serve Him in the New Year.
Ladies, contact **Lydia @ 83383982** to register.

BE A BLESSING TO SENIORS

13 Jan 2024 (Sat) 10.30am
3rd Floor Conference Room

In this session, Ps Alby and team will share the vision of **SENIORS360**, various opportunities and equipping tools available, through which you can make a difference in the lives of seniors.

Open to all Zion members and worshippers with a heart to reach seniors.

There is no age requirement!

Register by **6 Jan 2024**:
<http://tinyurl.com/s360jan24>

ZB WOMEN'S WEEKEND

13 Jan 2024 (Sat), Chapel
9am-1pm (Including Lunch)

Theme: Putting on Christ Together
Speaker: Ms Vanessa Lee

Inviting all ladies in Zion Bishan (13 y/o and above), to join us for a time of encouraging one another through a Bible talk from Colossians 3. There will be worship, tea and a time for fellowship and discussion!

As saints, we have all been raised with the supreme Christ, who is now seated at God's right hand in heaven! Yet, what does that mean for our day-to-day living in this earthly life, until He appears in glory? And how does that shape the way we relate to one another as sisters in the body of Christ?

Please register at bit.ly/zbwomen

For more information, do approach **Vanessa Lee or Dns Debbo**.