



They have conquered the dragon  
by the **blood of the Lamb** and  
by the word of their testimony,  
for they loved not their  
lives even unto death.

**Revelation 12:11**

**ENGLISH SERVICES**

VOL 15 NO 5  
**4 February 2024**

***Order of Service***

Call to Worship

Gloria Patri

[ MORNING ]

Worship in Songs: Jerusalem; This Life I Live; We Declare

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1:1-8; 11:15-19 ESV

Message: Get Real about the Revelation: Season One

[ AFTERNOON ]

Worship in Songs: Because He Lives; There is a Hope; One Day

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1:9-18 ESV

Message: Revelation Part 2

Response Hymn: Witness

Holy Communion: Behold the Lamb

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

**Speakers:** Ps Ng Zhiwen (8.30am & 10.30am)  
Ps Dev Menon (4.30pm)

### **8.30am**

*Service Coordinator:* Dn Joseph Chan

*Worship Leader:* Eld Sonny Tan

*Vocalist & Musicians:* Morning Team 1

### **10.30am**

*Service Coordinator:* Dn Tiew Chew Meng

*Worship Leader:* Eld Foo Say Chiang

*Vocalist & Musicians:* Morning Team 1

### **4.30pm**

*Service Coordinator:* Timothy Ong

*Worship Leader:* Eld Reginald Tan

*Vocalist & Musicians:* Afternoon Team 1

## Pastors and Ministry Staff

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

**Get Real about the Revelation: Season One**

Revelation 1:1-8, 11:15-19 ESV

Ps Ng Zhiwen

( 8.30am & 10.30am )

**Introduction**

**War**

**Worship**

**Witness**

**Conclusion**

**Questions for Discussion and Reflection:**

1. The dominant motif of the Revelation is that of holy war. How does this fit with or challenge your understanding of the Christian life?
2. List all the moments in Revelation chapters 1 to 11 where worship of God takes place. Is He worthy?
3. Our worship is expressed in our witnessing for Christ and His kingdom. How will you apply this in your life?

**Revelation Part 2**

Revelation 1:9-18 ESV

**Intro: Why Liddat?**

**Revisiting 1-11**

**Anticipating 12-22**

**Questions for Discussion and Reflection:**

1. What are 3 things you remember from the first half of Revelation? Why did these things stick with you? What impact have they made on your life?
2. What questions do you have that you are hoping will be answered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this book? How are you preparing yourself to listen?
3. Who can you continue to read and discuss Revelation with this year?

## *Prayer Points*

### **Our Church**

#### **Terusan Guest Workers Outreach**

The team has organised a badminton tournament on 4 Feb afternoon. They will also be continuing to enroll them into conversational English class and befriending the guest workers through conversations over tea. Pray that God will prepare all the volunteers from English and Tamil congregations, to touch the hearts of the workers with His love through the above events.

**CNY** – As many of us celebrate the festivities next weekend,

- (1) let us remember that this is an excellent opportunity to share the gospel and the love of God with our unbelieving family members.
- (2) Let us also remember that this will be a very difficult time for those who have lost loved ones, especially if they did not know Christ.
- (3) Finally let us remember those who may not have families in this country, or families who do not wish to gather for various reasons, or those from other ethnicities. Let us consider inviting others to our own gatherings or to the church dinner on 11 Feb.

### **Our World**

**India** – Our partner who labours in the Hindi belt (N India) gives thanks that God has sustained its ministry over the past 25 years through its ups and downs. Please pray for believers to remain strong in the face of challenges and for the work to thrive even amidst difficult situations. As North India is still in deep winter, another partner reports a cold wave here. May the Lord bring relief from the cold, especially for the older folks. Further north, another partner plans to set up a fellowship for Nepalis from March onwards in one of its major cities. May this fellowship nurture and grow the faith of this group of Nepali Christians there.

**Indonesia / India Elections** – Pray for the upcoming elections in Indonesia (14 Feb) and India (Apr-May). May the elections be smooth and may the freedom of religion under its respective constitutions be upheld. Let us uphold this 2 very populous nations to our lord and may local Christians continue to remain faithful witnesses of the gospel though these transitions.

## Last Week

Sunday Service	Attendance	Offering
English Service Livestream*	23	
English Service 8:30am	170	\$922.00
English Service 10:30am	550	
English Service 4:30pm	251	
Chinese Service livestream*	11	
Chinese Service 8:30am	100	\$1,379.00
Cant/Mand Service 10:45am	68	\$695.00
ME Service	101	\$1,453.00
Hokkien Service	55	\$716.00
Tamil Service	16	\$304.00
DHF	27	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1372</b>	<b>\$5,469.00</b>

\*Livestreaming peak concurrent viewers

Precept Contribution	\$253.00
Electronic Transfer	\$50,795.25
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>\$56,517.25</b>

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

### GENERAL PROJECT FUND

Electronic Transfer	\$4,277.60
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>\$4,277.60</b>
<b>Total Gift Received To-Date</b>	<b>\$21,225.30</b>

### LAND LEASE RENEWAL FUND as at 31/12/2023

**TOTAL GIFT RECEIVED TO-DATE**                      **\$10,174,599.03**

## Church Family News

1. Please note that church office will be closed on **9 Feb**. There will be no Prayer Meeting on **9 Feb** and no YF on **10 Feb**.
2. Pastor Alby is preaching at the ZBCS 33rd Anniversary service this morning.
3. Ella Lee, Richard & Timothy Ong; Ps Joseph, Priscilla & Jeriah Tee (Zion S'gn) convey their heartfelt thanks to the Church Leaders, AG61, AG31, Members & Friends for their love, prayers, wake visit & support on the Homegoing of Ella's Mum, the late Mrs Janet Lee.
4. Our deepest condolences to Frankie & Linda Lie and Han Liang on the passing of Linda's mother, the late Mdm Ong Yek Ing in Surabaya, Indonesia on 30 Jan 2024.

## 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

**General Project Fund**



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

PayNow: **T10SS0029GGPF**

**ZION BISHAN BP CHURCH – GPF**

Please provide your CONTACT NUMBER on each cheque

## Looking Ahead

### **Friday, 9 Feb**

**8.00pm: No** Prayer Meeting

### **Saturday, 10 Feb**

**4.00pm: No** Youth Fellowship

### **Sunday, 11 Feb**

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

### **Revelation Series**

#### **11 Feb – The Holy War (Rev 12:1-17)**

*Ps Alby (8.30am & 10.30am)*

*Ps Dev (4.30pm)*

#### **18 Feb – The Two Beasts (Rev 13:1-18)**

*Quek Tze-Ming (8.30am & 10.30am)*

*Ps Vernon (4.30pm)*

#### **25 Feb – The Lamb, the 144,000, and the Angels (Rev 14:1-13)**

*Quek Tze-Ming (8.30am & 10.30am)*

*Ps Vernon (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](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.

### “CNY is Year of Dragon... Dragon on Ang Pow. How?”

This question was posed to me via WhatsApp by a well-meaning and concerned Zion Bishan member. Some weeks earlier, someone pointed out that Chinese New Year (CNY) Day Two fell on a Sunday, and it happened that we'd be preaching on the Woman, the Child, and the Dragon (Revelation 12). I assure you that the preaching team did not plan for this coincidence!

But what is the big fuss over dragons, and how should we think and act Christianly about this?

Actually, CNY *every year* is an occasion for engaging with the culture of our time.

I reckon we can readily embrace the tradition of family reunion and renewal of kinship ties. However, many attach to CNY traditions various beliefs about prosperity and good fortune: think of the phrases you are 'expected' to say during the *lo hei* or the exchange of red packets (*ang pows*). Each year is also tied to a particular creature of the Chinese Zodiac with its unique attributes, "lucky" (and "unlucky") numbers, and supposed influence on your personality, family, and so on.

Underlying these beliefs is the Chinese philosophy of living in harmony with nature. In practice, what most Chinese people in the street are encouraged to seek is prosperity and good fortune.

Every time CNY comes around, we should ask ourselves: Why do we perform these traditions? What is true abundance and prosperity, and where do they come from? Who oversees our lives, and can we really influence this One with these traditions?

You may also ask your loved ones to consider why they believe what they believe, or follow the traditions - they can be avenues for initiating spiritual conversations (not debates).

But things get especially tricky when it is the Year of the Dragon. The dragon is the only mythical creature in the Chinese Zodiac, and it's the most auspicious. It symbolizes the power and majesty of the Emperor, abundance and longevity. Such beliefs are not trivial and can exert a strong influence on people. For instance, the Year of the Dragon is correlated with more births in Chinese-majority nations.

The real trouble for us comes with *this* zodiac creature's connection to the "great red dragon" described in Revelation 12 and elsewhere. You'll learn about this dragon at the sermon on 11 February, but for now it suffices to say that this dragon is no friend. He is the arch-enemy of God and of His people.

*Should Christians dabble with anything that carries signs of the dragon, especially during this CNY?*



First, we should be careful about *identifying* any dragon that we encounter today with that great red dragon. The great red dragon is not the 'Chinese' dragon. The Chinese dragon is often seen as benevolent and not as the embodiment of evil. Chinese Christian scholars have even questioned whether the word for **long<sup>2</sup>** (龙 / 龍) should have been translated as 'dragon'.

For that matter, the great red dragon in scripture is also not a western dragon. It is true that western dragons are typically fearsome, aggressive, and evil, but even that depiction is bound to specific times and contexts. The dragons in *How to Train your Dragon* are very different from the ones in *The Hobbit* or in the *Harry Potter* series!

The great red dragon is *sui generis* and best understood within the world of scripture. What we are left with are associations that are concerning, because when many Christians see a Chinese dragon, they cannot help but think of the great red dragon.

1. Like it or not, both are called *dragons*.
2. Both have a serpentine appearance.
3. Both offer the prospect of prosperity and abundance.
4. They are both tied to imperial power.

What then?

**Even if there are apparent similarities between the Chinese dragon and the great red dragon, we need not fear them.** Giving and receiving *ang pows* with dragon signs in and of themselves do not signify evil on anyone's part (Those who do must take issue with all other depictions of dragons, including dragon boats!). We should not let any sign of the dragon exert a controlling influence on us.

Instead of fear, we may act in **faith**. The next time you see an *ang pow* with a dragon, think more of the red color of the packet and how it symbolizes the blood of the Lamb, our Saviour Jesus Christ. This is precisely how the great red dragon is defeated: "*And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb...*" (Revelation 12:11). In the light of what Christ has done for us, there is nothing to fear about the dragon. The red packet may even present an opportunity to tell a loved one about Jesus.

We should also act with **love**. There may be others who are troubled by these associations, and for the sake of their conscience I may (out of love) choose not to give 'dragon' *ang pows*. This follows the apostle Paul's example. He chose not to eat food offered to idols *if* doing so would cause a weaker brother to be stumbled, even though Paul knew full well that the idols had 'no real existence' (1 Corinthians 8). You may consider using *ang pows* that have pictures and wishes that you can heartily assent to. There are even *ang pows* with Christian greetings!

Finally, live in **hope**. We believe that the dragon is defeated, and Christ is victorious. It is so much better and fitting to fix our eyes on Jesus and on the great hope that He has secured for us. It is worth your while to read again and again all the blessings that Jesus promises to give to all who remain faithful to Him (read Revelation 2 and 3). We look forward to a glorious future of eternity with Him - Heaven on earth.

This, my friends, is true prosperity and abundance.

## Announcements

### CATECHISM CLASS

For baptism, reaffirmation and transfer of members

Starting **17 Feb (Sat) 1.30 - 3.00pm**

Email Lydia

([lydia@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:lydia@zionbishan.org.sg)) for a

form. Contact Ps Dev

([dev@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:dev@zionbishan.org.sg)) for more information. Sign up by **11 Feb**.

*Child care available upon request.*

### CNY CHURCH FAMILY DINNER

Come have a CNY meal with your church family on the 2nd day of Chinese New Year!

**11 Feb (Sun) 6pm, Fellowship Hall**

Register for dinner

at: [bit.ly/churchfamdinner24](https://bit.ly/churchfamdinner24)

by **TODAY**.

### EXTRAORDINARY CONGREGATION MEETING

To all communicant members:

ECM will be on **25 Feb (Sun) 1.00pm** at the **Main Sanctuary**.

### LOOKING FOR CE TABLE HOSTS!

Help others discover Jesus through the Gospel of Mark.

3 weekly training sessions from **21 Feb**, the course begins on **13 Mar** and will run for **7 Wednesday evenings**.

Register or more info can be found at [bit.ly/zbcehosts](https://bit.ly/zbcehosts)

### BPCIS COMBINED GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

**Here is Your King**  
( John 19:14-30 )

Speaker: Bishop Emeritus  
Dr Robert Solomon

**29 Mar 2024 (Fri) 5pm**  
Anglo-Chinese School,  
Independent, Dover Road

Register or more info can be found at <https://shorturl.at/jwzJW>

Transport is provided for those who need, please ensure you indicate your request in the registration form.