

Advent Series 2024

The Saviour of All

Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

- Luke 2:10-11



ENGLISH SERVICES

VOL 15 NO 52
29 Dec 2024

Order of Service

Call to Worship

Gloria Patri

[MORNING]

Worship in Songs: Joy to the World; The Gospel was Promised; What Child is This

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:21-40 (ESV)

Message: Marvelling — The Saviour of All

[AFTERNOON]

Worship in Songs: Joy to the World; Hymn Of The Saviour;
Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:25-35 (ESV)

Message: The Hope of Christmas

Response Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Corporate Life & Prayer

Offering

Benediction

Announcements

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/Tagalog, for all nationalities) *In-person in Room 106 & Zoom*

8.45am DHF 2 (in Myanmar language) *In-person in Room 105 & Zoom*

2.30pm DHF 3 (in Bahasa Indonesia) *via Zoom*

8.45pm DHF 1B (in English/Tagalog, for all nationalities) *only 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

Speakers: Ps Alby Yip (8.30am & 10.30am)
Ps Dev Menon (4.30pm)

8.30am

Service Coordinator: Dn Lim Nan

Worship Leader: Eld Jeffrey Lim

Vocalist & Musicians: Music AM Team

10.30am

Service Coordinator: Dn Tiew Chew Meng

Worship Leader: Dn Mervyn Phan

Vocalist & Musicians: Music AM Team

4.30pm

Service Coordinator: Vanessa

Worship Leader: Elder Chan Kin Yip

Vocalist & Musicians: Music PM Team

Pastors and Ministry Staff

E-mail: user ID followed by @zionbishan.org.sg

Rev Dr Alby Yip, Senior Pastor	alby
Rev Dr Dev Menon, Pastor	dev
Rev Lim Jit Thye, Pastor (Cant-Mand)	jtlim
Rev Daniel Nge, Pastor (Mand-Eng)	daniel
Rev Vernon Quek, Pastor	vernon
Rev Ng Zhiwen, Pastor	zhiwen
Rev Paul Yeo, Pastor (Hokkien/Mand)	paul
Rev Ebi Mohan, Assoc. Pastor (Tamil)	ebi
Rev Chris, Asst Pastor (Tamil)	christopher
Mrs Emily Quek, Special Projects	emily
Mrs June Tan, Children's Ministry	june
Mrs Sha.ron Quek, Overseas Ministries	sharon
Mr Danny Chua, AG/Safeguarding	danny
Dr Quek Tze-Ming, Ministry Staff	tzeming
Mrs Jacqueline Ong, Youth Ministry	jacqueline
Mrs Vanessa Khoo, Women's Ministry	vanessa
Mr Joel Khoo, YAs/Discipleship	joel
Mr Timothy Ong, Missions Education	timothy
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

Marvelling—The Saviour Of All

Luke 2:21-40

Introduction

Symptom #1: Joseph & Mary

Symptom #2: Simeon

Symptom #3: Anna

Conclusion

Reflection Questions:

1. What is one key thing you remember about the passage/message?
Why?
2. What can you learn from Joseph & Mary's response in the light of the obvious "unfairness" to them from a human perspective?
3. What do you think made Simeon and Anna so sure this baby was the One?

The Hope of Christmas

Luke 2:25-35

Intro: How do you feel this Christmas season?

1. Christmas – the Dark Time

2. Waiting...

- a. Simeon – the righteous man (vs 25)
- b. The Consolation of Israel (vs 25)

3. He's Here!

- a. Marvelling (vs 26-33)
- b. Hurting (vs 34-35)

4. Waiting... Again

Discussion: How does the promise of God showing up – change the way you view this broken world or even carry out Christian ministry?

Prayer Points

Our Church

Living Room – Thank God for the many partnerships the Living Room has forged with various ministries in supplying meals and enabling hospitality and outreach efforts to happen. Pray for God's continued provision for manpower in the café, resource also for outreach efforts to 410 Sin Ming, and rest for all the staff before 2025.

ZB Chinese Services – Thank God for the 281 attendees at our ZBCS Combined Christmas Service. Please pray for relationship building and follow-up with the non-believers that came. Pray for some of our members as they are having a retreat in Kluang from 27 - 30 Dec, organised by the Mandarin-English Congregation. Please also pray for Ps Paul, his family and Hong York as they travel to Malaysia to encourage the MCEL churches this weekend. Pray for a smooth journey, Ps Paul's sermon and good fellowship.

Next Lap 2025 – As we enter the 3rd year under our renewed vision, we will spend the month of January once again going through our three main themes. This year in particular will focus on #getsent - that all our fellowships, from AGs to congregation will become missional communities.

Our People

Ubon Youth Team (23 - 31 Dec)

– Thank God that the Christmas celebration collaboration with 4 local churches was well received by the villagers there. Pray for continued sustenance of strength and healing for the remainder of their time there, especially for a few in the team who are unwell.

Remember the Invisible Ones - While we celebrate the festive season, let us also remember that there are invisible ones around us who may dread festive seasons. They may be confined home for health reasons, or those struggling emotionally or financially. There are also those who are single and alone or who have just lost a loved one and this is the first festive season without that person. We can add to the list. Pray for them, or better, visit them or invite them out.

Our Denomination

Emmanuel BP – As we give thanks to God for many visitors at their recent Christmas service, they also request prayer for their upcoming church retreat on 4 Jan 2025. This is their first retreat or camp since the Covid pandemic! Ps Vernon will be the speaker.

Our World

ZB Missions Workers – Pray for **RN, JN, JHL**, who serve unreached youths in our Polytechnics.;

For **DT** and **CL** who are involved in mobilisation of the Singapore church for unreached peoples and places globally; For **KY** who serves the mental health needs of those internally displaced in West Asia; For **ET** as she serves an unreached people group here in SG; For **SA** and her husband, **J** as they seek God for where they might be placed longer term for unreached people work.

May God be near to each of them especially for 2 of them who are overseas during this festive season. For **DM**, as she supports the work of helping disciple-making movements start in key Asian cities.

Philippines Relief Trip “Operation Blessing” – Thank God that our ex-Partner’s full budget need for this relief aid trip for 200 affected families has been met from believers supportive of SMO (Student Missionary Outreach) within and outside of the Philippines. For journey mercies and good gospel opportunities as they travel on 27 Dec for “Operation Blessing” to the affected region.

Last Week

Sunday Service	Attendance	Offering
English Service Livestream*	24	
English Service 8:30am	201	\$1,030.00
English Service 10:30am	462	
English Service 4:30pm	257	
Chinese Service livestream*	7	
Chinese Service 8:30am	85	\$1,106.00
Cant/Mand Service 10:45am	62	\$555.00
ME Service	59	\$1,425.00
Hokkien Service	56	\$1,500.40
Tamil Service	16	\$1,845.00
DHF	22	
TOTAL	1251	\$7,461.40

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Chinese Combined Services	281
English 10.30am Service	869
English 4.30pm Service	271
Tamil Service	21
TOTAL	1442

*Livestreaming peak concurrent viewers.

Electronic Transfer	\$50,237.14
Weekly Total	\$57,698.54

Weekly offering to meet budget for 2024/25: \$82,235

GENERAL PROJECTS FUND

Electronic Transfer	\$2,925.50
Christmas	\$2,000.00
Weekly Total	\$4,925.50
Total General Projects Fund:	\$5,475,490.98

Church Family News

1. Ps Vernon is on overseas leave from 23 - 31 Dec.
2. There is no ME Service this Sunday as most are away for a retreat in Kluang.
3. The Church Office will be closed in the afternoon on 31 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

General Projects 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

Tues, 31 Dec

(Chapel)

7.00pm: Chinese Watchnight Service

(Main Sanctuary)

10.00pm: Testimony Time

11.00pm – 12mn: English Watchnight Service

Wed, 1 Jan

8.30am: Tamil New Year Service

Fri, 3 Jan

8.00pm: Prayer Meeting

Register at www.zionbishan.org.sg/fpm

Sat, 4 Jan

4.00pm: Youth Fellowship

Register at www.zionbishan.org.sg/yf

Sun, 5 Jan

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

The Next Lap Series

5 Jan – Every Member Mature

Ps Vernon Quek

12 Jan – Personal Discipleship

Ps Dev Menon

19 Jan – Gospel Culture

Ps Alby Yip

26 Jan – Missional Communities

Ps Ng Zhiwen

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.

Christmas: Merry or Messy?



From time to time, some horrific tragedy takes place around Christmas to remind us that not all is well in our world.

In 1988, on 21 Dec, a Pan American flight leaving London for New York carrying passengers going home for Christmas, was bombed in midair, killing all 243 passengers on board, together with 16 crew members and 11 people on the ground when the plane crashed into a little Scottish town Lockerbie.

In 2004, 26 Dec, an undersea earthquake, measuring 9.3 on the Richter scale, hit near Aceh in Indonesia, and sent a massive tsunami, with waves up to 30 metres, across the Indian Ocean, devastating cities in Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, all the way to Africa, killing 230,000 people in 14 countries.

In 2012, 14 Dec, a lone gunman entered a Primary School in Connecticut, USA, and shot dead in cold blood, 20 children aged 5 and 6, together with 6 of the teaching staff.

The Lockerbie Bombing, the Indian Ocean Tsunami and the Sandy Hook School Massacre—all remind us that while we sing of “peace on earth and goodwill towards all men”—we are far from finding peace and goodwill. Our world, despite all the festivity of the season, is a broken one.

We think of the families and friends waiting at the New York airport to receive their loved ones coming home for Christmas—who never came home.

We think of those who lost their entire homes and families in the tsunami when they had just celebrated Christmas the day before.

We think of the parents who buried their young children and who will not have them around to open their Christmas presents or sing with them their Christmas carols or laugh with them around the Christmas dinner.

No wonder one of the carols describe Christmas as follows:

And in despair I bow my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of “peace on earth, goodwill to men”

Indeed, what is Christmas but a brief escape from the real world—the real world of terrorist bombings, natural disasters, and senseless killing? Christmas is merry only when we see it on the surface.

But peel back the layers of our merry Christmas and look beneath. We will see a messy Christmas, the first and original Christmas—beginning with the scandal of the pregnancy of an unwed mother, through the massacre of young children by a ruthless king, and ending with the flight of refugees to a foreign land.

Christmas then was far from peaceful and joyful. The moment Jesus was born, his life was threatened. From the very start, Christmas provoked evil. Jesus escaped death as his parents took him and fled to another country. But the infants in Bethlehem perished at the hands of an evil king.

As we celebrate Christmas again, the world is still messy, if not messier. Yet the coming of Jesus into the world took place precisely because the messy world needs someone to deal with its mess.

And what could be messier than what happened at the cross where Jesus, beaten and broken, hanged to redeem us from the curse by becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3.13)? As one born to die to pay for all the mess we have made, Christ is indeed the good news of Christmas!

You may access the blog at davidwong.sg for more reflections.

Announcements

Watchnight Service

Join us for a time of testimony sharing, worship in songs, and hear from the Lord as we usher in a new year as a church family.

31 Dec 24 (Tues)

Main Sanctuary

10pm: Testimony Time

11pm - 12mn: Service

As we end the year, we'd like to hear from each other about how knowing the love of Jesus has made an impact on our lives especially these past few months. If you would like to share a testimony, let us know in this form here:

<https://shorturl.at/a3ESy>

If you are unable to make it for watchnight service but would like to also meaningfully reflect on the past year with your family or AG family, we encourage you to use this New Year's Eve Devotion:

<https://tinyurl.com/ZBNYED24>

Church Camp 20-23 June 2025

Venue: ParkRoyal A'Famosa Melaka Resort

Register **ASAP** before Early Bird flies away on 31 Dec 2024! Sign up at:

<https://bit.ly/2025ZBCamp>

WOZ Prayer & Praise 2025

11 Jan 2025 (Sat)

2 – 5.30pm

MPH

Come to bless and be blessed
Thank God for the past year and look forward to serving Him in the New Year

Contact **Lydia @8338 3982** to register.