



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

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MARCH 2024



Happy Easter!

2024 Motto

“Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you”

“കർത്താവിന്റെ സന്നിധിയിൽ താഴുവിൻ; എന്നാൽ അവൻ നിങ്ങളെ ഉയർത്തും”

James 4:10

- March 09: Women's Fellowship Annual Retreat**
- March 10: Women's Sunday**
- March 24: Palm Sunday**
- March 28: Maundy Thursday - service at 7.30pm**
- March 29: Good Friday - service at 10.00am**
- March 31: Easter Sunday - service at 10.00am**

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Pilgrim

MARCH 2024

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Editorial

Staying the course of the cross!

We have all experienced or surely will experience challenging times in our life at one point or other, and often we are inclined to think of our problems and struggles as being the most severe. Yet so many of us have heard the story that if everyone was asked to pool their burdens and pick a different one, we are most likely to take back our own cross after seeing the heavier ones that others carry in comparison to ours! The point is that we all have our lot in life, and no ones' life is perfect regardless of our perceptions based on what we see outwardly.

In today's materialistic and image-driven world there is a tendency to think that we are spiritually right when God's blessings and favour are visible in our lives, and that when we face personal or financial struggles, job loss, or sudden illness, or great suffering, we have somehow fallen out of favour with God. We should guard against this type of thinking because even Jesus' life on earth was not devoid of sufferings and struggles. The gospels document how Jesus dealt with physical needs such as hunger and thirst, and faced rejection, isolation, being falsely accused and judged by a rigged system. Isaiah therefore aptly described Jesus as being, "...despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3).

So, in our darkest moments when our instinct is to feel alone and abandoned by God, let us choose to believe firmly that Jesus understands our vulnerability. Afterall, even Jesus in His last moments on the cross cried out in despair, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46), exposing his humanity. Still, He endured, surrendered to God's purposes, and fulfilled His earthly ministry in God's unparalleled plan to reconcile humankind to Himself for eternity.

We should draw comfort from Jesus' life lived as wholly man and truly God! He defeated sin and death, so we can carry our crosses too and be assured that through Him alone do we have victory! May we therefore, journey with Christ on the path of the cross when we join to remember His passion leading up to Easter, and beyond.

Happy Easter!

Reshma George
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

As we journey through the Lenten season, we are reminded of the significance of the cross, the passion, and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. These pillars of our faith serve as lights of hope, guiding us through the trials and triumphs of our lives.

The 'cross', a symbol of sacrifice and redemption, calls us to reflect on the immense love of God manifested through the ultimate sacrifice of His Son. It is a reminder that, through our own crosses and struggles, we are never alone. In embracing our crosses with faith and courage, we participate in the redemptive work of Christ and find strength in His enduring love. The Passion of Christ reveals the depth of His love for humanity. In His suffering, Jesus offers Himself as a perfect sacrifice to reconcile us with God. As we contemplate His passion, may we be moved to repentance and renewal, and may His mercy inspire us to extend compassion and forgiveness to others.

Yet, our journey does not end at the cross. The Resurrection heralds the triumph of life over death and light over darkness. Through Christ's resurrection, we are offered the promise of eternal life and the assurance that, no matter how hard our trials may seem, joy will ultimately prevail. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, let us rejoice in the hope of Christ's victory and live as witnesses to His resurrection power in our world today. As followers of Christ, we are called to be heralds of this good news, proclaiming the victory of life over death, hope over despair. Let us share the joy of the resurrection, inviting others to encounter the risen Christ and experience the transformative power of His love. Through our words and deeds, may we inspire hope, ignite faith, and light the flame of true joy in the hearts of all those who surround us.

During this Lenten season, let us take time to contemplate on the significance of the cross, the passion, and the resurrection in our lives. Through prayer, fasting, self regulation and acts of charity, may we draw closer to the heart of Christ and allow His love to transform us from within. May the grace of God accompany you on your Lenten journey, and may the joy of the resurrection fill your hearts with renewed hope and steadfast faith.

Yours in Christ,
Binuachen



Lenten Meditation:

In-person Lenten prayers takes place every Wednesday at 7:30 pm. Meditations focus on the call and journey of the people of Israel. Please plan to attend the Lenten meditation every Wednesday at 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

The Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship will take place on every Thursday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Church Sanctuary. Please join the fellowship through Zoom.

Women’s Fellowship Retreat

A one-day retreat organised by the Women’s Fellowship will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, March 9th, 2023. For further details please contact our Women’s Fellowship Director, Binssy Mathews.

Board Meeting

The monthly board meeting will be held on March 10th after the social hour.

Annual General Body

The date and time for the Annual General Body meeting will be confirmed and communicated as soon as possible.

Cottage Prayer

- Jordan area in-person prayer will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, 2024, at 7:00 PM. This prayer fellowship will be held at the residence of Mr. Jijo Cherian Varughese and Mrs. Anushka Aley Abraham.
- Gilead area in-person prayer will be held on Saturday, March 16th, 2024, at 6:30 PM. This in-person prayer fellowship will be held at the residence of Mr. Sam Daniel P. and Mrs. Selva Kumari.
- Shalom area in-person prayer will be held on Sunday, March 24th, 2024, at 6:30 PM. This in-person prayer fellowship will be held at the residence of Mr. Abraham P. George and Mrs. Elzy George.

If you wish to be included in the parish e-mail list to receive special notices, please send your e-mail ID to the Secretary at secretary@csichurchtoronto.org

March 03, 2024 3rd Sunday in Lent	True worship that liberates		
	Old Testament	Exodus 3:11-18	English Service
	Psalm	137	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 16:25-34	Nittu Mathew Jacob and family
	Gospel	Luke 13:10- 17	
March 10, 2024 Womens Fellowship Sunday	Women as spokespersons of sacrificial love		
	Old Testament	Proverbs 31:15- 31	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	20	Read by
	Epistle	1 Peter 4:14-19	Women's fellowship members
	Gospel	Luke 1:28-38	
March 17, 2024 5th Sunday in Lent	Cross: A new vision of the Messianic Age		
	Old Testament	Deuteronomy 18:15-22	English Service
	Psalm	10:1-12	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 13:8-17	Sam P Daniel and family
	Gospel	Matthew 8:1-4	
March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday	Hosanna : New King in the Temple		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 56:1-8	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	24	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 3:16-23	Joseph K David and family
	Gospel	Matthew 21:1-17	

March 28, 2024 Maundy Thursday	Eucharist: The Remembering Jesus		
	Old Testament	Exodus 12:1-17	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	116	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 11:23-34	Abraham P George, Ashley Varghese, Daisy Mathai
	Gospel	Matthew: 26:17-30	
March 29, 2024 Good Friday	Cross: Death of Death		
	Old Testament	Numbers 21:1-9	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	22	Read by
	Epistle	1 Corinthians 15:50-58	Samuel Anslem Samuel, Eva Bose, Zac Santhosh Koshy
	Gospel	Mathew 27: 1-56	
March 31, 2024 Easter	Resurrection: Celebrating the Joy of Salvation		
	Old Testament	Exodus 14:5-31	English Service
	Psalm	118:14-29	Read by
	Epistle	Colossians 3:1-11	Joseph P Mathews and family
	Gospel	Matthew: 28:1-10	





BIRTHDAYS

01	Ivana Micheal Donny	12	Ashley Varghese
02	Hans Thomas Varghese	12	Ujwal Prakash
02	Jayden Hans Thomas	13	Jeevan Fenn Varughese
02	Thankamma Mathew	16	Lenora Grace
03	Raimole Joseph	17	George Mathew
04	Jeena Joseph	18	Neil Mathews
04	Soloman Danny Alamshah	18	Robin George
05	Joseph Thomas	18	Jaby Mathew
06	Jijo Devasya	18	Rohan Vergis John
07	Nithin Jacob	19	Mekha Elizabeth Varughese
08	Abigail Cherian	19	Sonia Joseph (Dr)
09	Shinu Punnoose	20	Vilayil I. Kurian
09	Littymol Xavier	20	Mathew George
10	Vimal Philip	20	Niya James
10	Vinod Maliyekal	21	Leanne George
11	Sidhant Mathews	22	Elzy George
11	Neil Jinoj	23	K. Philip Alexander
12	Joshy Ani Mathew	23	Chinnu Elizabeth Mathew
12	Jewel Mariam Toms	24	Jovet Abraham Sabu



BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 25 | Emily A Verghis | 28 | Ansu Rachel Raju |
| 25 | Marilyn M Verghis | 29 | Vaiga Thampy |
| 27 | Bryan Philips | 30 | Susan Alex |
| 28 | Elizabeth Philip | 31 | Rakesh Thampi |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 11 | Oommen Cherian & Mariamma Cherian |
| 28 | Donny Philip Varughese & Anuja Jose |
| 30 | Sam Daniel P & Selva Kumari |



Celebrating Women's Day: Honoring Biblical Heroines

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

As we commemorate International Women's Day 2024, themed "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress," we are reminded of the profound impact women have on societal advancement. This theme underscores the importance of supporting and empowering women, recognizing their inherent value and contributions to society.

In the pages of the Bible, we find inspiring narratives of women who exemplify strength, courage, and faithfulness. Their stories resonate with timeless truths that continue to inspire and empower women today.

Ruth, a woman of unwavering loyalty and resilience, played a pivotal role in the lineage of Jesus Christ. Her journey from loss to redemption serves as a testament to God's faithfulness and His ability to work through ordinary individuals to accomplish His purposes.

Jehosheba, a woman of courage and sacrifice, risked her life to save her nephew, ensuring the continuity of the Davidic line. Her unwavering commitment to God's promises and her bold actions highlight the power of individual influence in advancing His kingdom.

Priscilla, a leader in the early church, exemplified partnership, hospitality, and commitment to truth. Alongside her husband Aquila, she mentored young leaders and contributed to the theological purity of the church, challenging societal norms and empowering women in leadership roles.

As we reflect on the lives of these remarkable women, let us be inspired to embody their virtues of loyalty, courage, and servant leadership. Let us honor their legacy by investing in women and accelerating progress in Christianity.

May this Women's Day be a time of celebration and reflection, as we strive to make a positive impact on the world around us. May we, as women in Christ, be empowered to embrace our identity and fulfill our God-given potential.

In Christ's love,

Beena Annet Hans Thomas

The Executive Committee Members of CSI Church, Toronto

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