



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

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APRIL 2024



2024 Motto

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

“കർത്താവിന്റെ സന്നിധിയിൽ താഴുവിൻ; എന്നാൽ അവൻ നിങ്ങളെ ഉയർത്തും”

James 4:10

New Service Time: 10.30am

April 19—Men's Fellowship Praise Night

April 28—Malayala Lokam Anniversary

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Pilgrim

APRIL 2024

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editor

Rev. Binu Philip

Editor

Reshma George

Publication Team

Geogy Thomas
Aji Sam Mathews
Rishvi Narayan

Address

CSI Parsonage
1311 Kipling Avenue
Etobicoke M9B 3N7
Ontario
(416) 231 1717

Articles / Feedback

May be sent to
pilgrimcsi.to@gmail.com

Editorial

Is Christ our way, or in our way?

We have just passed another winter and lent season and are hopefully feeling renewed and ready for the showers and flowers that spring promises. During the time of lent and in the weeks leading up to Easter we were reminded of Christ's sacrificial love and passion which was the culmination of God's great plan for our salvation. But what does this mean for us in our daily lives going forward? Has something changed in our way of thinking? Do we accept that we only need to believe in Jesus to be forgiven and saved? Do we feel God's presence with us more than we did a few weeks ago? Has anything really changed?

It is important that we ask ourselves these questions if we want to keep growing in our spiritual journey. The world we live in is driven by selfishness and greed and does not align with the virtues of selfless love, sacrifice and service of others as Christ showed us. That said, it is also true that we as Christians are recipients of God's grace and therefore have the ability and obligation to live as Christ instructed us. The Bible cautions us that if we live without restraint we will be overcome by the world, meaning that we will be enslaved by what we choose to obey; either sin leading to death, or obedience to God leading to righteousness (Romans 6:16). So, if we want to live as true Christians in our daily lives, we should probably start by asking ourselves whether we see Christ as our way, or do we find that He is *in* our way?

I hope that we will all take a moment to answer this question truthfully, and perhaps through that we will be challenged to look back at the sermons and lessons we heard over the last few weeks and find at least one thing that God's Spirit spoke to us about. If we are earnest in our seeking, I am sure that the Holy Spirit will lay something upon our heart to change about the way we think or live, and through that help us to grow closer to Him.

Reshma George
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ.

Greetings in the name of Risen Lord.

As we journey through the season of Easter, I hope and pray that we all are filled with gratitude and enjoy the real joy of resurrection. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ stands as the cornerstone of our faith and hope that illuminates our paths even in the darkest of times.

After Easter Sunday, we find ourselves surrounded by the implications of this miraculous event. The resurrection is not merely a historical event to be commemorated; it is a living reality that continues to shape and transform our lives today. It is a reminder that death does not have the final say, and that through Christ, we are granted the gift of eternal life.

In the light of resurrection, we are called to embrace a renewed sense of purpose and hope. Just as Christ emerged from the tomb, victorious over death, we are also invited to rise above the challenges and trials that we may face. The resurrection assures us that God's power is at work in our lives, enabling us to overcome every obstacle and to live abundantly in His grace.

As we reflect on the significance of the resurrection, let us be mindful of its profound implications for our daily lives. Let us strive to embody the spirit of resurrection in all that we do, seeking reconciliation where there is division, offering love where there is hatred, and extending forgiveness where there is hurt. Let us also remember those who need the hope and healing that the resurrection brings. May we reach out to them with compassion and solidarity, sharing the good news of God's redeeming love and offering them a glimpse of the eternal joy.

As we continue our journey through the Easter season, may we be ever mindful of the transformative power of resurrection. Let us walk in the light of Christ's victory over death, confident in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from His love.

May God bless you abundantly,

Yours in Christ,
Binuachen



Bible Study: Book of Ezra. The Bible study will take place on every Wednesday from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. The Bible Study provides an in-depth learning of various book of Bible. Please plan to attend the Bible study through Zoom.

Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

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

Church Service Timings

Please note that Worship Services will start at 10.30am from April onwards.

Board Meeting

There will be monthly board meeting on April 14th, 2024 after the social hour.

Men's Fellowship Praise Night: The Men's fellowship will be hosting a praise night on April 19th, 2024. More program details will be shared in the days to follow.

Malayala Lokam Anniversary: The Malayala Lokam Anniversary celebrations will be held on April 28th, 2024.

Cottage Prayer Meetings:

- **Jordan area in-person** prayer will be held on **Saturday, April 6th, 2024, at 7:00pm.** This prayer fellowship will be hosted at the residence of **Mr. Ajoy Lional and Mrs. Rejy Elizabeth.**
- **Gilead area in-person** prayer will be held on **Saturday, April 20th, 2024, at 6:30pm.** This prayer fellowship will be hosted at the residence of **Mr. Christy Abraham and Mrs. Shirley Abraham.**
- **Shalom area in-person** prayer will be held on **Sunday, April 14th, 2024, at 6:30pm** This prayer fellowship will be hosted at the residence of **Mr. Mathew Kuruvilla (Babychayen) and Mrs. Elizabeth Kuruvilla.**

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

April 07, 2024 1st Sunday after Easter	Encounter with the Risen Lord		
	Old Testament	Genesis 32: 22-32	English Service
	Psalm	40	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 9: 1-18	Shijo John & Family
	Gospel	John 20: 24-29	
April 14, 2024 2nd Sunday after Easter	Identifying the Risen Lord in the Workplace		
	Old Testament	Ruth 2:1-18	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	15	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 9: 36-43	John Cheriyan & family
	Gospel	John 21: 1-14	
April 21, 2024 3rd Sunday after Easter	Community formation around Resurrection Experience		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 25: 1-9	English Service
	Psalm	126	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 4: 32-37	Jijo Cherian & family
	Gospel	Luke 24: 13-35	
April 28, 2024 4th Sunday after Easter	Believing in Christ: The Resurrection		
	Old Testament	2 Kings 4 :27-37	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	90	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 26: 12-23	Malayala Lokam
	Gospel	John 11: 17-28	



BIRTHDAYS

03	Benjamin Ninan	12	Regi Koshy
03	Anitha Onteru	12	Jijo Cherian Varughese
03	Aji Sam Mathews	12	Sherin Philip Daniel
03	Sajith Abraham Varghese	12	Aneetta Mariam George
03	Ethan Manu Varghese	14	Rini Miriam Jacob
03	Saumya Sam	14	Lintu George
04	Mathew Modayil Kuruvilla	14	Daniel Shijo John
04	Robin Roy	15	Mary Alexander
05	Justy Joise	15	Diani Mathai
06	Angelina Raichel Ajoy	15	Evaan Vivek
06	Tania Miriam Jacob	16	Ruth Philips
07	Gershon Varughese Jijo	17	Jacob Cherian
07	Sandeep Charuvil Ninan	17	Joseph K. David
08	Dona Deena Varghese	17	Rebeccamma Thomas
09	Moncy Manu	17	Rohan Bijo Philip
10	Monisha Kunnelnaduparambil Suresh	19	Jeffin Sunny George
10	Robina Thomas	19	Donny Philip Varughese
11	Miriam Chacko	20	Tim Eapen
11	Vismaya Mary Villees	21	Mini George



BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|--------------------|
| 21 | Jacob P. John | 24 | Anisha Mariam Sugu |
| 21 | Manoj Kurien | 24 | Aswin Philip |
| 21 | Abel Williams | 25 | Sid Abram Eapen |
| 22 | Abraham Chacko | 28 | Joshua Mathai |
| 22 | David Joseph | 28 | Cijo Sunny |
| 24 | Nathan Jinoj | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|--|
| 05 | Abraham G. Joy & Joby Abraham |
| 08 | Aji V. Mathews & Sophy Aji Mathews |
| 11 | Tony Koshy Abraham & Jisha Mary Alexander |
| 13 | Jeffin Sunny George & Jis Maria George |
| 14 | Sajith Abraham Varghese & Sherone Ann Jacob |
| 22 | Hans Thomas Varghese & Beena Annet Hans Thomas |
| 22 | Joseph K. David & Jeena Joseph |



Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Malayala Lokam would like to introduce Christian cultural art forms to us Keralites residing outside Kerala. This is a humble attempt to offer a glimpse into the vibrant heritage of our peoples' faith journey.

Margamkali is a traditional group dance form and a folk art originally performed mainly by the Syrian Christian community of Kerala, which is now widely performed across all other Christians denominations during festivals and marriages. It is particularly notable for its rhythmic elegance and the cultural heritage it represents. Margamkali is believed to have originated over a millennium ago, with roots that trace back to the arrival of Saint Thomas the Apostle in Kerala and the early years of Christianity in the region. "Margam" means path or way or solution in Malayalam, but in the religious context it means the path to attain salvation. Typically, a dozen dancers sing and dance while clapping around a *Nilavilakku*, wearing the traditional *Chattayum Mundum*. The lamp represents Christ and the performers are His disciples. The dance is performed in a circular formation, which symbolizes unity and eternity. The movements are graceful and coordinated, with steps and claps forming an essential part of the rhythm. The songs used in Margamkali are in Malayalam and are traditionally based on the life of Saint Thomas and the introduction of Christianity to Kerala. This art form is a blend of dance, music, and narrative, and continues to be a vibrant expression of communal identity and faith. Margamkali was facing a decline in popularity, but efforts have been made to revive and preserve this traditional art form. It is now included in various cultural festivals and competitions across schools and colleges in Kerala, helping to introduce the younger generation to their ancestral heritage.

Chavittunadakam or stamping drama is a unique art form that stands as a testament to the cultural synthesis between the local traditions of Kerala and the influences brought by Portuguese missionaries in the early 16th century. It is most popular in the coastal regions of Kerala like Kochi, Kollam and Kodungalloor. During the arrival of the Portuguese missionaries, there weren't many art forms or performances at Christian churches, and thus, they came up with the idea of this new art form. Chavittunadakam is an example of cultural amalgamation, where European operatic elements were blended with traditional Indian performing arts such as Kalarippayattu (a martial art form of Kerala), Koodiyattam (a Sanskrit theatre form), and Nattuva (a classical dance form from Tamil Nadu).

The scripts of Chavittunadakam are usually written in Malayalam and sometimes in Tamil, with live music and it is performed in open spaces near churches and in village squares. Chavittunadakam primarily focuses on Biblical stories and adventures of Christian soldiers, with dramatic expressions, elaborate costumes, and vigorous dance movements. In modern times, the significance of Chavittunadakam extends beyond its religious context, becoming a symbol of the rich cultural heritage of Kerala. It represents the historical layers of migration, interaction, and cultural exchange that have shaped the region.

In Christ's love,
Eva Bose

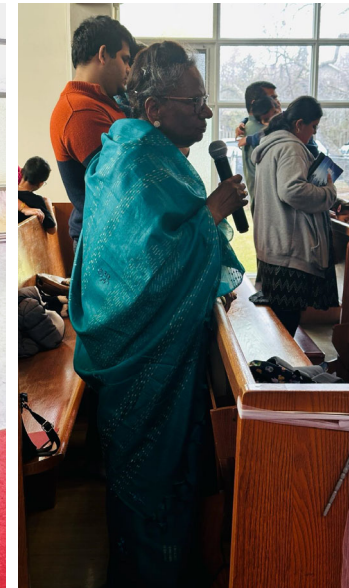
Release of 2024 Church Directory





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Gallery



Women's Fellowship Retreat



**The Executive Committee Members of CSI Church, Toronto**

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