



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 24 Issue 12

DECEMBER 2024



2024 Motto

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

“കർത്താവിന്റെ സന്നിധിയിൽ താഴുവിൻ; എന്നാൽ അവൻ നിങ്ങളെ ഉയർത്തും”

James 4:10

Dec 7 – Carol Service
Dec 25 – Christmas Service
Dec 31 – Watchnight Service

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Pilgrim

DECEMBER 2024

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Editorial

The Gift of Bethlehem.

All over the world Christmas today is a glitzy, fun filled and festive season. In western countries, Christmas is also peak shopping season and considerable time is spent in the pursuit of the perfect Christmas gift! Perhaps the act of the Magi in bringing gifts to baby Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem established Christmas as a season for gift-giving. But it is important to recognize that the three gifts of the Magi had deep spiritual meaning as they recognized the birth of Christ was the culmination of God's plan for the salvation of the world. They brought gold as a symbol of Jesus' Kingship on earth, frankincense was a symbol of His deity, and myrrh a symbol of His death, which would seem an odd gift for a baby.

God's ways are indeed mysterious. The first Christmas night and the time leading up to that would have been quite turbulent as the Jewish people were under Roman rule and were required under decree by Caesar Augustus to journey to their villages to be counted under the census. Joseph and Mary had to endure an arduous journey for which they were likely unprepared as they arrived in Bethlehem alone with no stay arrangements made. It is unclear whether they had relatives there at the time, but it is also possible that they were on their own because of the circumstances of Mary's pregnancy. It would seem that God picked the worst time and way for Christ to be born, but God's plan and perspective differ from ours.

In fact, the context of Jesus' birth and His death on the cross were both considered shameful under the societal norms of those times, and yet this is how God chose to pave the path for our salvation. God left His glory and came down to us in the lowliest way thereby identifying with the least among us. God's greatness is seen in His love and in how He came to serve and not be served. The promise and purpose of the birth of Jesus was for "Him to save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21), thus reminding us that everyone is worthy of God's love; there are no exceptions. This is the true gift of Bethlehem!

Wishing you all happy homes and joyful hearts this Christmas!

Reshma George
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we step into the month of December, our hearts are filled with anticipation and joy, for we are about to celebrate the most profound event in human history—the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is not just a season but a divine message that resonates through the ages, reminding us of God's unending love and grace towards humanity.

In the contemporary world, where turmoil, division, and uncertainty often overshadow the light of hope, the message of Christmas becomes even more crucial. It is a time to reflect on the birth of our Savior, who came to bring peace, joy, and salvation to all. The angel's proclamation, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14), is a timeless reminder of the peace and goodwill that Christ brings into our lives.

The birth of Jesus in a humble manger teaches us about humility and God's incredible plan to reach out to us in the most unexpected ways. It calls us to look beyond the materialistic celebrations and focus on the true essence of Christmas. In a world that is increasingly fragmented, the Christmas message urges us to be agents of reconciliation, peace, and love. It challenges us to open our hearts and extend our hands to those in need, reflecting the compassion and mercy of our Lord.

As this year draws to a close, let us take a moment to thank God for His countless blessings throughout this past year. Despite the challenges and uncertainties, we may have faced, God's faithfulness has remained steadfast. We have witnessed His hand at work in our lives, our church, and our community. Let us remember and give thanks for His provision, protection, and guidance. As we look forward to the new year, let us carry with us a heart of gratitude, trusting in God's continued presence and blessings.

In this season of giving and renewal, may we draw closer to God and to one another. Let us remember that the true spirit of Christmas is found not in the gifts we give or receive, but in the love we share and the lives we touch with. As we gather with family and friends, let us keep Christ at the center of our celebrations, allowing His love to guide our actions.

May the joy and peace of Christmas fill your hearts and homes. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

In Christ's love,
Binuachen



Bible Study:

The weekly Bible study will be held every Wednesday from 8:00 pm onwards. The study focusses on the Gospel according to Mark. Please plan to attend the Bible study through our church Zoom link.

Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

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

Board Meeting

An online board meeting will be scheduled in December, date and time will be notified later.

House to House Caroling Rounds:

Our House to House caroling will continue in December as per the schedule shared in our Church WhatsApp group. For further information, please contact Rev Binu Philip, Varghese John or Febin Varkey.

Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols will be held on December 7th, 2024 at 6:00pm. Please invite your friends to come and enjoy a blessed evening. Doors open at 5.30pm.

Please note the following Worship Service details:

- **Christmas Service**
The 2024 Christmas Day Service will be held on December 25th, 2024 at 10:00am.
- **Covenant Service / New Year Service**
The Covenant Service / New Year Service will be held on December 31st. Praise and worship along with testimonies will begin at 9.30pm followed by the watchnight service at 11.30pm.

Cottage Prayer

No prayer meetings have been scheduled.

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



 **CSI CHURCH
TORONTO**

CHRISTMAS CAROL *Rounds*

BRINGING CHRISTMAS CHEER
TO YOUR DOORSTEP

*We're coming to share the spirit of
Christmas with you through carols!*

FROM | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 24

JOIN IN . SING . SPREAD JOY



**CSI CHURCH
TORONTO**

Presents

MANGER THRONE

A Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols

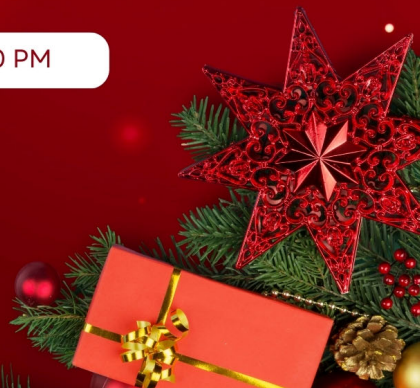


Saturday, 6PM
7 December, 2024



1315 Kipling Avenue
Toronto, M9B 3N7

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM



Celebrating the Good News			
01 December 2024 Advent Sunday	Old Testament	Exodus 2:1-10	English Service
	Psalm	117	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 9:10-18	Jomel Varghese & Family
	Gospel	Luke 1: 46-56	
Word of God: Inspired to Inspire			
08 December 2024 2nd Sunday in Advent	Old Testament	I Kings 19:1-21	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	119:33-40	Read by
	Epistle	Revelation 10:1-11	Reuben Jones & Rufus Jones
	Gospel	Luke 1: 39-45	
Deliverance from the bondage of Sin			
15 December 2024 3rd Sunday in Advent	Old Testament	Exodus 14: 1-14	English Service
	Psalm	37: 1-12	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 8:1-11	Daniel Thomas & Family
	Gospel	John 8:31-38	
Maranatha – O Lord come			
22 December 2024 4th Sunday in Advent	Old Testament	Deuteronomy 18:15-22	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	28	Read by
	Epistle	I Corinthians 16:13-24	Sajesh Mathew & Family
	Gospel	John 1: 1-14	

Christmas: A New Dawn			
25 December 2024 Christmas	Old Testament	Isaiah 9:1-7	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	98	Read by
	Epistle	Galatians 4:1-7	Board of Directors
	Gospel	Luke 2:1-14	
Family as Healing space			
29 December 2024 First Sunday after Christmas	Old Testament	Genesis 33:1-11	English Service
	Psalm	91	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 6:1-9	Geogy Thomas & Family
	Gospel	Luke 15: 11-24	
Come to The Lord and Rejoice			
31 December 2024 Watch Night ser- vice	Old Testament	Isaiah 1:1-20	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	89:1-18	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 16:19-34	Shijo P John & Family
	Gospel	Luke 19 :1-10	



BIRTHDAYS

01	Sajin Alexander	11	Leyma Ann Koshy
01	Ruby Mathews	11	Santhosh Philip George
01	Hazel Rachel Suraj	12	Navin Abraham
02	Sanju Cherian	12	Joana Grace Varguise
02	Bency Mathew	13	David Thomas
02	Sohan Mangalam Cheriyan	13	Esther Susan Jeffin
04	Rachelamma Thomas	14	Sharon Lazar Sajan
04	Sheeba Ghosh	14	Rebecca Mathew
04	Neenu Saji	15	C. Mathew Thomas
04	Sonia Johnson Thomas	16	Tojan Joseph Abraham
04	Rohan Peter	16	Abraham Abraham
05	Alaina Vinu	18	Andrhea Mercy Robin
05	Maria Gajraj	19	Ajisha George
05	Sony John Saju	20	Elizabeth Shirley Abraham
05	Selma John	20	Jisha Mary Alexander
06	Dan Philip Binu	21	George Philip
06	Anaya Cherian	22	Sajesh Mathew
06	Jeferson Sam	24	Rhea Grace Varguise
06	Jithin Thomas Ninan	25	Betson Abraham Mathew
07	Daniel Thomas	28	Daniel Koshy
07	A. Sally Thomas	28	Nimisha Thomas
08	Hanokh John Mathew	29	Rennie Philips Joseph
08	Shalini Mary George Enoch	30	Sandhra Elizabeth Eapen
08	Sherin Leya Oommen	30	Rufus Luke Johns
09	Ajil Thayyil Mathew	31	P. Matthew Verghis
11	Vinu Jacob		



ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Joshua Moothedom & Grace Ann Samuel
- 12 Jith Koshy & Seena Reji
- 14 Jiby Jacob & Jain Daniel
- 17 Abhilash Raj & Smitha Abhilash
- 20 Jeffin Mohan Cheriyan & Reebu Mariam Jeffin
- 21 Soloman Danny Alamshah & Priya Rachel Abraham
- 26 Chinnu Elizabeth Mathew
- 27 Calvin Jacob & Ashley Varghese
- 28 Vimal Philip & Tania Miriam Jacob
- 28 Shijo Perumannoor John & Dona Deena Varghese
- 29 Samuel Anselm Samuel & Shini Samuel
- 29 Geogy Thomas Valavuchirackal & Lintu George
- 29 Sandeep Mathew Varghese & Sinu Susan Mathew
- 29 Tom Karottaparambil John & Ancy Mathew
- 30 Alex Oommen & Susan Alex
- 30 Shoby Jacob Sunny & Sherin Philip Daniel
- 30 Christo Kingston & Ajana S Vijayakumar
- 30 Nithin Chemmanoor & Miriam Achu Kurian
- 31 Robin Roy & Elvy Ann Mathew



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

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Joint Treasurer / Trustee	Mr. Shijo Perumannoor John	Sunday School Director	Mrs. Beena Annet Hans Thomas
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