



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

Volume 20 Issue 12

DECEMBER 2020



2020 Motto

'Let us rise up and build'

'നാം എഴുന്നേറ്റ് പണിയുക'

Nehemiah 2:18

Christmas Carol Service

- December 24, 6:30 pm

Christmas Service- December 25, 10 am

Watchnight Service

- December 31, 10:30 pm

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Pilgrim

DECEMBER 2020

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Editorial

Celebrate the milestone...

Have you sighted the star of Bethlehem yet? How long have you been following it? Have you reached the “house” and seen the Bright Morning Star and paid respects? Many people take this journey. Sometimes they are easily distracted and lose the track, or land at a tavern and forget about the Star. The wise men followed the star, travelled a lot and finally reached their destination.

“And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:9-11)

Every year in December, we think about the biggest miracle: The Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us, the Lord God of Hosts reducing himself to a meek, tiny babe just for the love He has for us. But we usually forget the babe and go after the festivities. Many stars around us change our focus, and we fall a prey to some “bright stars”. *As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let’s follow the Word of God and “seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.” (Isaiah 55:6)* Then the happiness and joy of finding Him shall fill our hearts and give us the power to ardently follow Him all our days. If only all people opened their hearts and gave room for the King of glory!

Then we could make this Christmas a milestone. Merry Christmas!

Samuel Anselm Samuel
Editor



Achen's Message



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

John 1:12 says but to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. God has given us another Christmas. This year we are celebrating a completely different Christmas. It can be described as a lockdown Christmas. A Christmas celebration in the midst of limitations. Jesus' birth was in the midst of many limitations. Not only the inn but the houses in Bethlehem and the minds of the people there were buried before Jesus. That is why Mary had to give birth to Jesus somewhere along the way. That is why Jesus had to be laid in a manger. Take a look back this Christmas. Have we not shut our hearts toward God?

This lockdown is not God's punishment. But it is the result of our actions. Forgetting God is a reflection of man's distorted thinking. It will be clear from an example. We celebrate our birthdays. Our hearts rejoice when people wish. December 25 is nowhere recorded as Jesus' birthday. But how do we celebrate Christmas, the birthday of Jesus? Does Christmas make us feel at least part of the joy we bring to our birthdays? Satan has succeeded in trying to get us to say Happy Holidays instead of saying Happy Christmas. Christmas is a day to talk about the birth of Jesus, and share Jesus with one another. But the Christmas season turns into a celebration to share our own performances or to find happiness for ourselves. Are we able to change our minds at least during this lockdown? Are we able to accept Jesus with an open mind? Let Christmas be a time of truly spiritual joy.

Last month, we celebrated our harvest festival successfully. I extend my sincere thanks to all those who attended. Also I express my gratitude to the Church Committee & PR team. Especially, I would like to express my thanks to our church members Shini Samuel, Grace Ann Samuel, Anna Esther Samuel, Suja Sarah Koshy, Joshua Moothedom, Chris George, Abraham K. Varghese, Varghese V. John, Tojan Joseph Abraham, Rijo George Cherian, Anil Raj Daniel, John Cherian Mathew, Zac Santhosh Koshy, Samuel Anselm Samuel & Daniel Thomas.

We had a fruitful worship on Sunday School Sunday. I appreciate the director, Rejni Gajraj for her coordination. Also I express my gratitude to our youth director, Joshua Moothedom for coordinating the Youth Sunday successfully.

Pray for our church activities, especially for our Carol service.

May God bless you all

Thank you

Rev. Anish M George Padickamanni

Cell:6479948238





New YouTube Channel Link – CSI Church, Toronto

Please note below the CSI Church, Toronto – YouTube Channel Link for Sunday Worship Service
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF6C8AxfhNgMAVqQBvcMmww/live>

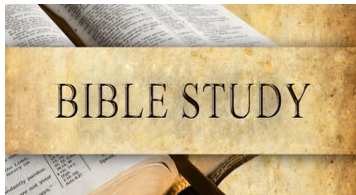
On-line Giving (Interac e-Transfer)

Please make your offering through on-line giving at csichurchtoronto@outlook.com

Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship

The Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship takes place on every Wednesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Church Sanctuary. Please join the fellowship through **Virtual Worship**

Bible Study – “The Coming of Jesus Christ”



The Bible study takes place on every Wednesday from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The Bible Study provides an in-depth learning on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It also provides an opportunity for members to connect with and understand each other while continuing to build personal relationship with God. Anish Achen is leading the Bible studies. Please plan to attend the Bible study through **Virtual fellowship**.

Board Meeting

The board has decided to meet on every Sunday at 8:30 pm through video conferencing (GoTo Meeting) during the restriction period of COVID-19.

Men’s Fellowship Sunday – December 06, 2020

Sunday, December 06, 2020 will be observed as Men’s Fellowship Sunday.

Christmas Carol Service – December 24, 2020

Our **virtual Christmas Carol Service** will be held on December 24, 2020 at 6.30 pm. Please stay tuned for more information.

Christmas Day Service – December 25, 2020

Christmas day service will start at 10:00 am on December 25, 2020.

Watchnight Service - December 31, 2020

Our watchnight service will start at 10:30 pm on December 31, 2020 with prayer and testimonies followed by covenant service. More details to follow.

Cottage Prayer

Shalom area prayer will be held on Saturday, December 05, 2020 at 7:30 pm. The prayer meeting is hosted by Abraham and Elzy George. Please join the virtual fellowship.

Jordan area prayer will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 7:30 pm. The prayer meeting is hosted by Hans and Beena Thomas. Please join the virtual fellowship.

Gilead area prayer will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 7:30 pm. The prayer meeting is hosted by Christy and Shirly Abraham. Please join the virtual fellowship.

If you wish to be included in the parish e-mail list to receive special notices, please send an e-mail to the Secretary at torcsichurch@gmail.com



December 06 2nd Sunday in Advent Men's Sunday	Word of God: Light to our Path		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 55:6-13	English Service
	Psalm	119:105-112	Read by
	Epistle	Galatians 1:11-17	Men's Fellowship
	Gospel	Luke 1:67-80	
December 13 3rd Sunday in Advent	Hope of Salvation		
	Old Testament	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	43	Read by
	Epistle	2 Peter 3:8-13	Ajoy Lional & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 1:18-25	
December 20 4th Sunday in Advent	Rejoice, the Lord is Near		
	Old Testament	Zechariah 2:6-13	English Service
	Psalm	50:1-15	Read by
	Epistle	1Thessalonians 5:12-24	Abraham K Varghese & Family
	Gospel	John 16:16-24	
December 24 Christmas Eve 6:30 PM	God Coming to Us		
	Old Testament	Micah 5:1-9	English Service
	Psalm		Read by
	Epistle	Matthew 2:1-6	Church Choir
	Gospel	John 1:1-14	
December 25 Christmas 10 AM	Finding space for the Prince of Peace		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 9:2-7	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	85:8-13	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 1:3-14	Church Committee
	Gospel	Luke 2:1-14	





BIRTHDAYS

01	Rebecca Thomas	11	Leyma Ann Koshy
01	Sajin Mathew Alexander	12	Joana Grace Varguise
01	Ruby Mathews	12	Navin Abraham
02	Sanju Cherian	12	Christina Mariam Johnson
04	Sheeba Ghosh	13	David Thomas
04	Rachelamma Thomas	15	C. Mathew Thomas
04	Anoop James	16	Tojan Joseph Abraham
05	Maria Gajraj	20	Elizabeth Shirley Abraham
06	Anaya Sara Cherian	20	Derek
06	Jefferson Sam	20	Jisha Mary Alexander
07	Daniel Thomas	21	George Philip
07	A. Sally Thomas	24	Rhea Grace Varguise
08	Shalini Mary G. Enoch	28	Daniel Koshy
09	Toms Jacob	29	Rennie Philips Joseph
09	Ajil Thayyil Mathew	30	Sandhra Elizabeth Eapen
10	Aiden Manuel David	31	P. Matthew Verghis
11	Vinu Jacob	31	Liz Varughese



ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Jiby Jacob & Jain Daniel
- 17 Abhilash Raj & Smitha Titus
- 18 Reji Johnston & Milly Johnston
- 28 Vimal Philip & Tania Mariam Jacob
- 29 Samuel Anselm Samuel & Shini Samuel
- 29 Balaji I. Kuruvilla & Rebecca Thomas
- 29 Geogy Thomas V & Lintu George
- 29 Sandeep Mathew Varghese & Sinu Susan Mathew
- 30 Alex Oommen & Susan Alex
- 30 Shoby Jacob Sunny & Sherin Philip Daniel

<p>December 27 1st Sunday after Christmas</p>	Family as a Gift of God		
	Old Testament	Joshua 24:14-22	English Service
	Psalms	128	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 3:14-21	Hans Thomas & Family
	Gospel	Mark 3:31-35	
<p>December 31 & January 01 11:30 PM Watch Night Service</p>	Prepare to Meet your God		
	Old Testament	Amos 4:1-13	Malayalam Service
	Psalms	91	Read by
	Epistle	Romans 5:1-11	Church Committee
	Gospel	Luke 13:1-9	



The Executive Committee Members of the CSI Church, Toronto

President	Rev. Anish M. George	Vice-President / Rector's Warden	Mr. Zac Santhosh Koshy
Secretary / People's Warden	Mr. Daniel Thomas	Women's Fellowship Director	Mrs. Preetha Philips
Joint Secretary / Trustee	Mr. Abraham K. Varghese	Men's Fellowship Director	Mr. Santhosh Cherian
Treasurer	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel	Youth Fellowship Director	Mr. Joshua Moothedom
Joint Treasurer / Trustee	Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis	Mission Director	Mrs. Elizabeth Mathai
Sunday School Director	Mrs. Rejini Gajraj	Public Relations Director	Mr. Varghese V. John
Choir Director	Mr. Chris George	Social & Entertainment Director	Mr. Jacob P. John

Report after reading Gospel of Matthew

Thejus John

This gospel is the real journey through the life of Jesus. Matthew 's book is the first of the New Testament Gospels. In Matthew, Jesus tells us what it is to be part of His kingdom, the "kingdom of heaven". Starting from when the angels came to Mary (mother of Jesus) and said to her that you will be the mother of Jesus Christ the son of God. This gospel is just not about Jesus Christ and the miracles he did, it's also about how much our heavenly father loves us, forgives us and even teaches us to be better people.

For me, this gospel has taught me life lessons like honesty, integrity, love and the power of a family. This is the way of God telling us on how to live a pure life that's filled with faith and love. My perspective of this gospel is really intriguing. There are so many questions and so many answers but truly I tell you, the gospel of Matthew is that part of the Bible that has the answers to some of our greatest disbeliefs such as where will we go when we pass away. Jesus answered that question by telling us about how if we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we will go to the heavenly kingdom of God.

And to finish this report I want to put in some of the verses I found intriguing.

- "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field". - Matthew 13:44
- "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied". - Matthew 5:6
- "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you". - Matthew 7:1-2

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