



Bishop: Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung

Vicar: Revd Ian Chew

COLLECT FOR TODAY

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at Your first coming sent Your messenger to prepare Your way before You: grant that the ministers and stewards of Your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready Your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at Your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in Your sight; for You are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

17 Dec 2023
Advent 3

8am
Nine Lessons and Carols - ACE

10:30am

Preacher: Victor Wu

Sermon: "I Am (Not)"

Bible Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Connect with the Ascension Family

13 Francis Thomas Drive S(359339)
T(65) 6283 3988 F: (65) 6283 3220



Email: admin@ascension.org.sg
Website: www.ascension.org.sg
Event Calendar: <https://ascension.org.sg/coa-calendar>

UPCOMING

24 Dec (Sun) 8am and 10:30am	Advent 4/ Christmas Eve "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel" Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 Revd Stephen Lim
25 Dec (Mon) 10am	Christmas Day Infant Baptism Service "The Word Made Flesh" Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14 Revd Ian Chew
29 Dec (Fri) 10:30am-12:30pm	Elder Fellowship Holy Communion Service Ascension Hall Revd Ian Chew
28- 31 Dec (Thur-Sun)	Kardia Youth Camp Church of the Ascension



VICAR'S MESSAGE

Dear COA Family,

What is the significance of times and seasons to our spirituality and faith?

The answer: they are actually very significant in God's sight!

Just three Sundays ago, we started the Christian year with the season of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent is actually the Church's New Year's Day. And the year continues until the Advent of the following year.

So what's so special about establishing a Church's year that is separate from the normal calendar year of January to December? Isn't it troublesome and confusing?

Let's delve into what God did with the Israelites when he first delivered them from slavery in Egypt. This is what he commanded the Israelites on that day through Moses:

"This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year" (Exodus 12:2).

In other words, the Israelites were to follow a new calendar, with new festivals and seasons determined by God. They were to stop following the customs of Egypt where they were delivered from. God was re-orientating the entire people towards himself.

This then is the significance of times and seasons. They orientate our lives to a source. We derive our identity and values from observing the calendar we follow.

The Christian calendar thus orientates our lives around the life of Christ. It does so by reminding us of the significant events in the life of Christ as well as his works in our lives:

1. We begin the church year with Advent – preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ (Dec).
2. We celebrate the birth of Christ with the Christmas season (End Dec – Jan).
3. Christ is revealed to be the Saviour of the world in the season of Epiphany (Jan – Feb).
4. We enter into a 40-day period of fasting to identify with the suffering of Christ (Mar).
5. The season of Lent culminates in the Holy Week – from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday (Mar – Apr).
6. After the season of Lent comes the season of Easter – a 50-day period of time celebrating the resurrection of Christ (Apr – May).
7. After the season of Easter is the season of the mission and growth of the Church in the power of the Spirit (Jun – Oct).

As we live according to the Christian calendar each year, we begin to internalise and grow into the life of Christ more and more. This helps us in our maturity in our faith and rootedness in Christ. We learn more and more each year that we don't live according to the standards and patterns of this world but our focus is on Christ alone.

So don't underestimate the power of celebrating festivals, seasons and years that are commanded by the Lord. They have the power to shape us more and more to be his people.

Let's start by observing the season of Advent meaningfully.

God bless,
Revd Ian



WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

We warmly welcome you to worship with us at our Sunday Services.

The Church Office is open daily from Tuesday to Saturday (9am to 5.30pm), except for public holidays.
Office Phone: 62833988
Emergency contact: 81002203

Sunday Service	Time	Venue
English Traditional Holy Communion	8:00am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
English Contemporary Holy Communion 1 st & 3 rd Sun	10:30am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
Mandarin Holy Communion 1 st & 3 rd Sun	10:30am	Ascension Hall (Level 3)

NEW TO COA?

Whether you have joined our service today, onsite or online, or found us on the web, we are glad you have! Do let us know if you would like more information or prayer, or to just give us some feedback. Please contact us at admin@ascension.org.sg or click on the link and kindly fill in the form to help us keep in touch with you. Click [here](#).

If you are driving to church:

- Register for your new car decal via this link <https://bit.ly/3omt1Y9> (Please contact the church office if you cannot access the online form.)
- We encourage everyone to register for the new decal to enter St Andrew's Village. The SAV guards have the authority to deny entry to vehicle without proper identification.

UPDATE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

If your home or email address or contact number has been changed, please notify the church office to ensure you continue to receive COA correspondence. You can notify us in any of the following ways:

1. Call the church office at 62833988
2. Email to admin@ascension.org.sg
3. Write to 13 Francis Thomas Drive, Singapore 359339

ELECTRONIC OFFERTORY

INTERNET BANKING (BANK TRANSFER)

Account Name: Church of The Ascension

Bank Name: OCBC

Account Number: 511010332001

Reference: Tithing number (if any), and any other description e.g. month of contribution etc.

PAYNOW VIA UEN

Step 1: Log in to your internet banking account

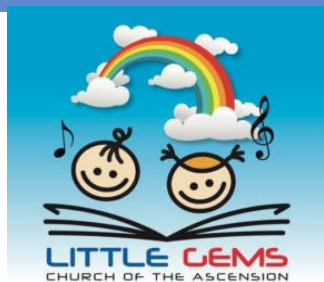
Step 2: On the PayNow transfer screen, enter the UEN number T08CC4066A for the Church of the Ascension



CHILDREN MINISTRY

Please take note that there will be no Sunday School today. LG and KFC will be in recess from 3 Dec to 31 Dec.

***LG** will be having their Christmas Party on **24 Dec 23** (Sunday) at 10.30am.



BREAKFAST AT LKC

Welcome to our 'Refreshment Corner' and enjoy your fellowship with the food and beverage.

We praise God and are grateful for the generous monetary contribution we have been receiving.

If anyone is interested in contributing in kind (eg. food and drinks), please contact Elaine Koh (94511625) or Clare at the church office. In consideration of hygiene and proper coordination, we seek your kind cooperation in informing Elaine or Clare before placing any food contribution at the 'Refreshment Corner'.



VACANCY FOR COA STAFF POSITION

We are looking for a suitable candidate to fill the following position:

- COA Finance Officer (part-time) Interested applicants, please click on the below URL https://ascension.org.sg/finance_officer/ and send your resume to admin@ascension.org.sg

ELDER FELLOWSHIP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

Date: Friday, 29 Dec 2023

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm

Venue: Ascension Hall (AH)

Speaker: Revd Ian Chew

Lunch will be provided after Service at LKC Hall.

Do join us if you are 60 or older. Please contact the Church Office for registration and more information.



CLOSURE OF CHURCH OFFICE

In lieu of the public holidays which fall on Mondays, the church office will be closed on following days:-

- 1) 26 Dec 23 (PH-Christmas Day) — Office will reopen on 27 Dec 23 (Wednesday).
- 2) 2 Jan 24 (PH-New Year's Day) — Office will reopen on 3 Jan 24 (Wednesday).

For any urgent matters, please contact 81002203.

HOST PARENTS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS IN SA HALL 2024

A new batch of 82 Sec 1 and 3 students have just arrived in SA Hall. If you are interested to sign up as a Host Parent for the students, please do contact the Church Office to apply or inquire for more information. Host Parents are required to care for 2-3 students per family for a period of 2 years.

INSTALLATION OF THE 7TH ARCHBISHOP OF PSEA : 23 JAN 2024

Save The Date

THE INSTALLATION OF
THE 7TH ARCHBISHOP
OF THE PROVINCE OF
SOUTH EAST ASIA

23RD JANUARY 2024
TUESDAY AT 4PM
ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE



The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung will be installed as the 7th Archbishop of the Province of South East Asia (PSEA) on 23rd January 2024, Tuesday, 4pm at St Andrew's Cathedral.

ADVENT 2023 - BISHOP TITUS' MESSAGE



ADVENT 2023

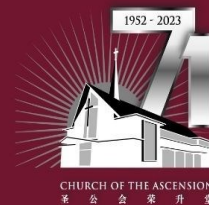
Message from Bishop Titus



As we enter the season of Advent, let us reflect on Bishop Titus' message.

May we continue to live wisely as we anticipate the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Please click on the this [Link](#) for the English Advent Video 2023.

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS - 8AM SERVICE : 17 DEC 23



8AM SERVICE

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

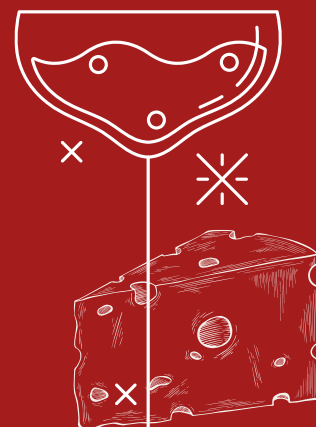
Anglican Chamber Ensemble

Sunday, 17 December 2023

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY : WINE N CHEESE NIGHT - 23 DEC 2023

Wine n Cheese Night

DATE: 23/12/23
SATURDAY
TIME: 1930-2130 HRS
LOCATION: SOMEWHERE IN
SINGAPORE



CHRISTMAS DAY INFANT BAPTISM SERVICE



Parents who would like to have your infants baptised or elderly folk who wish to undergo baptism by sprinkling can register their interest using this [link](#) or email their enquiries to admin@ascension.org.sg

DECEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE

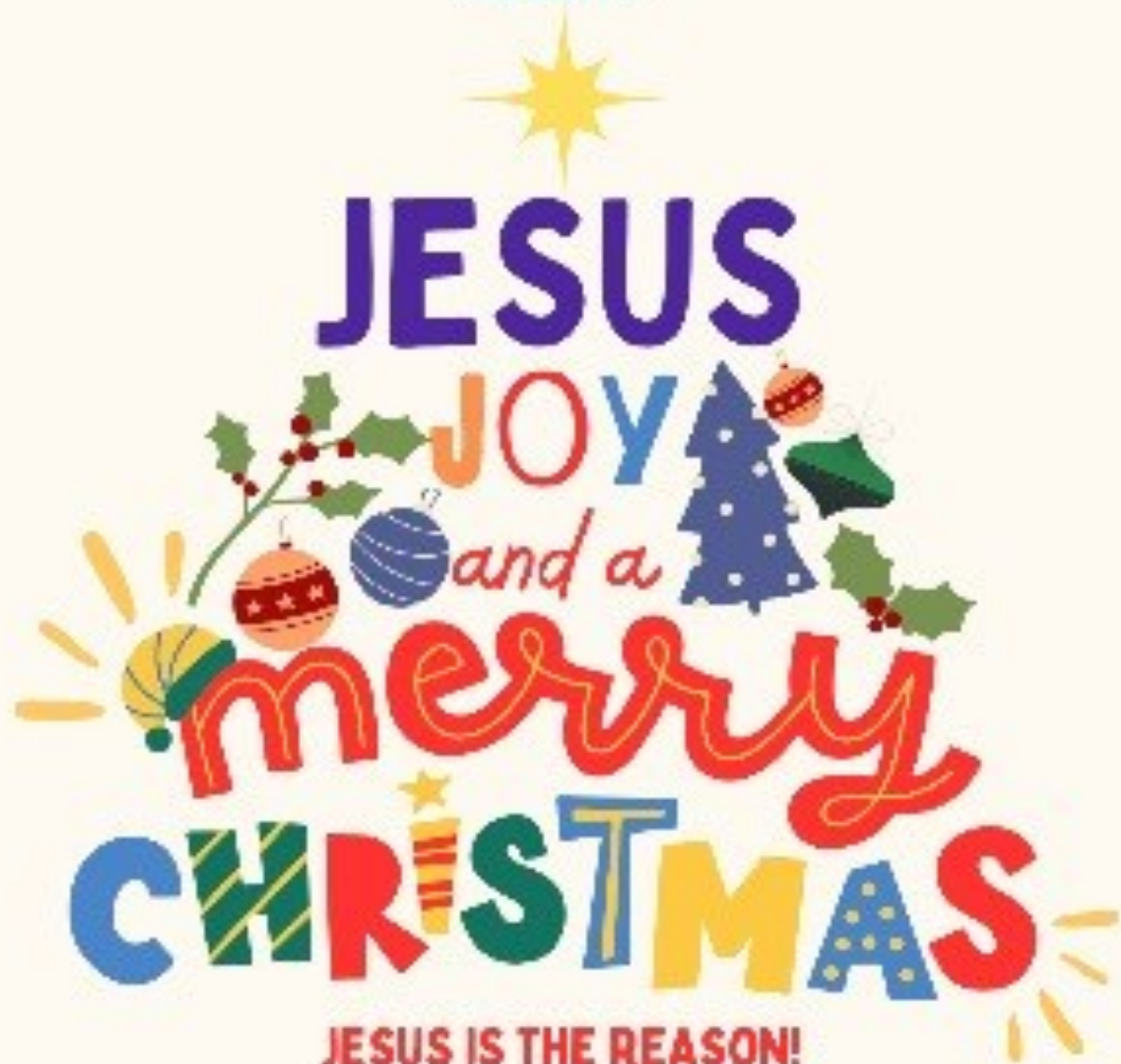
The logo for the Church of the Ascension, featuring a stylized white building with a cross on top, set against a dark background with a large gold star and a banner that says "1952 - 2023". Below the building, the text "CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION" and "圣公会荣升堂" is written.

COA Sermon Schedule December 2023

<p>1 Dec (Fri) 8pm Advent Carol Service Led by Anglican Chamber Ensemble (ACE)</p>	<p>17 Dec (Sun) Third Sunday in Advent 8am: 9 Lessons in Carols - ACE 10.30am: I Am (Not) - Victor Wu</p>
<p>3 Dec (Sun) First Sunday in Advent Maranatha! Be Awake Church! Ps Edward Zaccheus</p>	<p>24 Dec (Sun) Fourth Sunday in Advent & Christmas Eve Blessed be the Lord God of Israel Revd Stephen Lim</p>
<p>10 Dec (Sun) Second Sunday in Advent Are You Prepared? Revd Soon Soo Kee</p>	<p>25 Dec (Mon) 10am Christmas Day & Infant Baptism Service The Word Made Flesh Revd Ian Chew</p>
<p>16 Dec (Sat) 6pm Carols By Candlelight A Starry & Spotty Christmas</p>	<p>31 Dec (Sun) First Sunday of Christmas The Call to Fruitfulness Revd Ian Chew</p>

LITTLE GEMS CHRISTMAS PARTY: 24 DEC 2023

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, LITTLE GEMS SUNDAY SCHOOL
PRESENTS:



JESUS IS THE REASON!

**JOIN US FOR A FUN MORNING FULL OF SONGS, STORIES AND GAMES!
(FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN 18 MONTHS AND 6 YEARS OLD)**

DATE:

24 DECEMBER 2023, SUNDAY

TIME:

10.30AM- 12.00PM

VENUE:

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, LEVEL 1, SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

GROWING IN

FRUITFULNESS

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. - John 15:16

31 DEC, SUN

The Call to Fruitfulness

Rev'd Ian Chew

7 JAN, SUN

Fruitfulness in our Family

Rev'd Sam Kuna

14 JAN, SUN

Fruitfulness in our Work

Lawrence Lee

21 JAN, SUN

Fruitfulness in our Ministry

P's Henson Lim

28 JAN, SUN

Fruitfulness in our Personal Lives

Jennifer Heng

4 FEB, SUN

Fruitfulness in our Finances

Barney Lau

11 FEB, SUN

Fruitfulness in our Witness

Rev'd Ian Chew

CHURCH CAMP 2024

Church of the Ascension
**Church Camp
2024**

**FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSES
TOGETHER**

DATE: 1ST - 4TH JUNE

**VENUE: AMERALD RESORT
HOTEL, DESARU**

SPEAKER: REVD TIMOTHY CHOW

More details to come

ONLINE DIOCESAN CERTIFICATE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES (DCBS) - 2024 - TERM 1



Diocesan Certificate of Biblical Studies **ONLINE**



All lessons
will be
conducted
via Zoom.
Registration
details can
be found on
the
Diocesan
website
[here](#)

Old Testament

1A Overview of the Old Testament (Free of Charge)

Instructor: Ms. Vivien Chen

1 lesson: 4 Jan 2024 7.30pm - 9pm



4B The Prophets : Jeremiah & Ezekiel

Instructors: Revd. Hambali Leonardi
Revd. Aaron Cheng

10 lessons: 11 Jan - 14 Mar. 7.30pm - 9pm

Exam (optional) 23 March



New Testament

1B Overview of the New Testament (Free of Charge)

Instructor: Mr. Keith Leong

1 lesson: 4 Jan 2024 7.30pm - 9pm



11 The Pauline Epistles: 1 & 2 Corinthians

Instructors: Ds. Bessie Lee
Ms. Vivien Chen

10 lessons: 11 Jan - 14 Mar. 7.30pm - 9pm

Exam (optional) 23 March





Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers

PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK: 17 - 23 DEC 2023

1) DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE:

DEANERY OF LAOS -

Dean:
Church of the Holy Spirit
Anglican Relief & Development Agency (ARDA)

Revd Canon Dr Lewis Lew
Clergy, Staff and parishioners

Pray for:

- 1) The Lord's provision of finances and teachers.
- 2) Unity amongst the workers.
- 3) Growth, Conversions, and Discipleships.

2) SINGAPORE AND THE WORLD:

Singapore: There has been a rise in COVID-19 infections in recent weeks. Pray for protection of Singaporeans from this current wave and healing for those who have been infected.

Gaza: Pray for the safety of Israelis and Palestinians involved in the conflict and that lasting peace will be brought by the Lord Jesus into the hearts of the people in that land.

3) PARISH

- 1) Kardia Youth Camp (28 –31 Dec 2023): Pray for God's empowering for the camp speaker Ps Loke Chi Shyan and blessings upon all the participants.
- 2) Christmas Day Infant Baptism Service on 25 Dec 2023: Pray for the 5 Infants and 1 elderly folk who are getting baptised at the Service.
- 3) Pray for all our members to remain faithfully focused on Christ who will come again as Judge and King.

4) THE SICK AND SUFFERING:

For health and recovery

Evelyn Tan, Joanne Lau,
Lily Chan, Mary Yee, Tan Teck Hin,
Wong Wah Kum, Zephan Heng

Relatives and Friends of COA members

Benjamin (Lesley Ho's nephew) - Hepatitis B
David Yeong (Margaret Onn's husband) – cancer
Sng Hock Meng - healing of the mind
Soo Ngook Khinn (Sien Yee's father) - salvation
Ong Chwee Hock (Ong Siew Chin's brother) -
physiotherapy and lymphoma
Wilson Ling (Evelyn Tan's son-in-law) - healing of
the liver cancer.

For healing

Annie Huan - strength for her legs
Conelius Loo - sleep apnea
Joseph Phua - muscular degeneration
- stones in left kidney.
- urinary tract infection.
Felicia Koh - tiny cyst on the liver remain
harmless. Liver enzymes to be
stable. Wisdom on the doctors to
give the right diagnosis.
Zephan Heng - ALP in the liver to be back to
normal level and good report for
test results.
Steven Syn - restoration and stomach.
Janet Hale - relief from pain in her body.
Wilson Lim - continued recovery from loss of red
blood cells
Nancy Chan (Low) - stroke & heart

“ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.”
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24