



Bishop: Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung

Vicar: Revd Ian Chew

## COLLECT FOR TODAY

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of Your Son: grant that, as she looked for His coming as our Saviour, so we may be ready to greet Him when He comes again as our Judge; who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**24 Dec 2023**  
**Advent 4/Christmas Eve**

**8am & 10:30am**

**Preacher:** Revd Stephen Lim

**Sermon:** "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel"

**Bible Reading:** Romans 16:25-27;  
Luke 1:26-38

Connect with the Ascension Family

13 Francis Thomas Drive S(359339)  
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Email: [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)  
Website: [www.ascension.org.sg](http://www.ascension.org.sg)  
Event Calendar: <https://ascension.org.sg/coa-calendar>

## UPCOMING

**25 Dec (Mon)** **Christmas Day Infant Baptism Service**  
**10am** "The Word Made Flesh"

Hebrews 1:1-12;

John 1:1-14

Revd Ian Chew

**29 Dec (Fri)** **Elder Fellowship Holy Communion Service**  
**10:30am-12:30pm** Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH)  
Revd Ian Chew

**28- 31 Dec (Thur-Sun)** **Kardia Youth Camp**  
Church of the Ascension

**31 Dec (Sun)** **1st Sunday after Christmas**  
**8am and 10:30am** "The Call to Fruitfulness"  
Galatians 4:4-7;  
Luke 2:15-21  
Revd Ian Chew



The Vicar and staff would like to wish everyone a **Blessed Christmas!**

## VICAR'S MESSAGE

Dear COA Family,

Blessed Christmas to you and your family!

This Christmas season, I would like to bring you the same message of joy that the angel brought to the shepherds at the first Christmas:

*"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord"* Luke 2:10-11.

Jesus, the Son of God and Saviour of the world, has come to bring God's hope and love to a dead and dying world. He has come to bring peace and joy to the depressed and downcast soul. He has come to bring healing and strength to the sick and the weak. What a wonderful piece of news!

And for this week's devotion, I would like to focus on the phrase spoken by the angel: **for all the people**.

This good news of God saving the world is given for all races, tribes, languages and people groups of every stratum and status in society. No one is excluded from the good news of God.

Yet I have often heard it said, during my sharing of the gospel to non-Christians, that Christianity is a Westerner's religion. Even if they do not articulate it, they subconsciously view Christianity in this way. In other words, Christ is not suited for Asians.

How wrong is this view! The angel has plainly said that Jesus is given by God for all people.

Personally, I am not entirely sure where this view came from. Perhaps it was because Christianity was first embraced by the Western world and then brought to us through colonialism. Perhaps many of the Western countries are predominantly Christian or have Christian roots. Perhaps it is because the drawings of Jesus often depict him with blond hair and blue eyes.

Whatever the case may be, Jesus was in fact more Asian than Western. He was born in the Middle East and of the tribe of Judah – a Jewish person. He was more likely to have black hair and brown eyes. He was closer in heritage to Asians than Caucasians.

Please don't get me wrong. I am not trying to create a competition or a divide between Asians and Caucasians to see who deserves Jesus more. Instead, I am trying to point out how wrong the view that Christianity is a "western" religion really is.

Friends, let us not also be influenced by this view this Christmas season. Let us not think that Christianity is from the West and therefore has no relevance to our Asian family and friends. Let us see what is true and of the truth – Jesus is given by God for all people.

And in fact, many are more open to the love of God and the peace of Christ this season than ever before. I have already had the privilege to lead two strangers to Christ and have witnessed to many more who were willing to receive prayer. Let us not discount or underestimate how much this good news means to people in the world!

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
<b>English Traditional</b> Holy Communion	8:00am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
<b>English Contemporary</b> Holy Communion 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	10:30am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
<b>Mandarin</b> Holy Communion 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)
3. Write to 13 Francis Thomas Drive, Singapore 359339

## REQUEST FOR HOUSE/OFFICE BLESSING

If you need help with House or Office Blessing, please contact the Church Office or send an email to [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)

## 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



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BISHOP TITUS AND DIOCESE



## Blessed Christmas & Happy New Year

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

*Romans 15:13 ESV*

from Bishop Titus and all of us  
at the Diocesan Central Administration

Blessed Christmas! May His light shine upon you, bringing joy and peace this season.

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

Save The Date

THE INSTALLATION OF  
THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ARCHBISHOP  
OF THE PROVINCE OF  
SOUTH EAST ASIA

23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2024  
TUESDAY AT 4PM  
ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

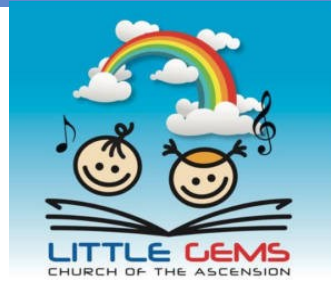


The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung will be installed as the 7th Archbishop of the Province of South East Asia (PSEA) on 23rd January 2024, Tuesday, 4pm at St Andrew's Cathedral.

## 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 **Today** 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/](https://ascension.org.sg/finance_officer/) and send your resume to [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)

## EVENT CALENDAR 2024

The COA 2024 Event calendar is available for download. Please use the below link for the event calendar: <http://ascension.org.sg/coa-calendar>

## ELDER FELLOWSHIP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

**Date:** Friday, 29 Dec 2023

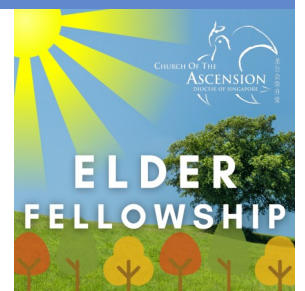
**Time:** 10:30am - 12:30pm

**Venue:** Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH)

**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.**



## 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.

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest condolences to:

- Evelyn Tan, on the demise of her son-in-law, Wilson Ling, who passed away on 20 Dec 2023 and
- Chan Weng Cheong, on the demise of his brother, Chan Yue Cheong, who passed away on 21 Dec 2023.

Please uphold Evelyn and Weng Cheong and their respective families in our prayers. \*Evelyn Tan also would like to thank the church and the members for their prayers her son-in-law, Wilson Ling.

## 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.

## CHRISTMAS DAY INFANT BAPTISM SERVICE



## DECEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION  
圣公会荣升堂

# COA Sermon Schedule December 2023

**1 Dec (Fri) 8pm**  
Advent Carol Service  
Led by Anglican Chamber Ensemble (ACE)

**3 Dec (Sun)**  
First Sunday in Advent  
Maranatha! Be Awake Church!  
Ps Edward Zaccheus

**10 Dec (Sun)**  
Second Sunday in Advent  
Are You Prepared?  
Rev'd Soon Soo Kee

**16 Dec (Sat) 6pm**  
Carols By Candlelight  
A Starry & Spotty Christmas

**17 Dec (Sun)**  
Third Sunday in Advent  
8am: 9 Lessons in Carols - ACE  
10.30am: I Am (Not) - Victor Wu

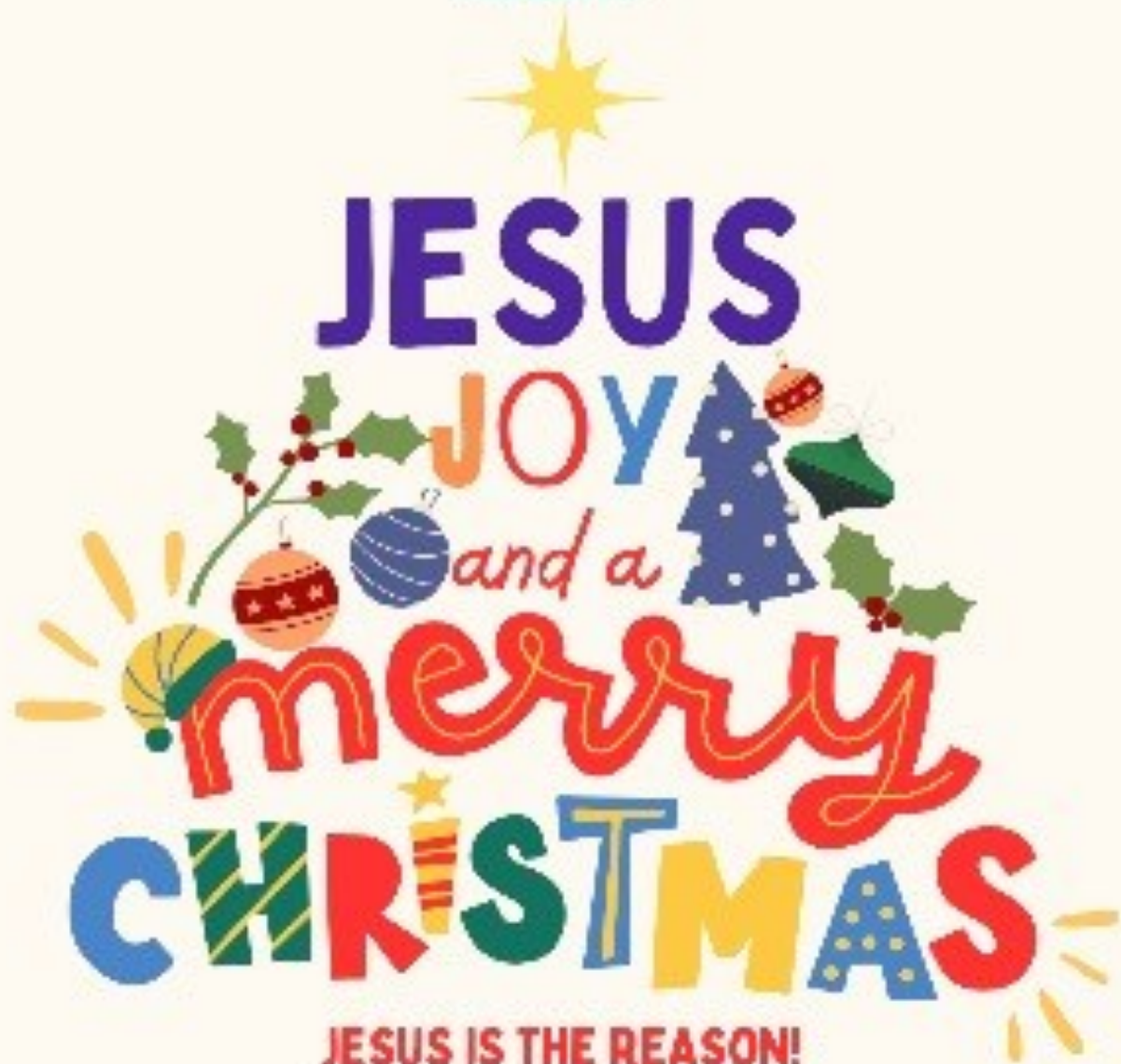
**24 Dec (Sun)**  
Fourth Sunday in Advent & Christmas Eve  
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel  
Rev'd Stephen Lim

**25 Dec (Mon) 10am**  
Christmas Day & Infant Baptism Service  
The Word Made Flesh  
Rev'd Ian Chew

**31 Dec (Sun)**  
First Sunday of Christmas  
The Call to Fruitfulness  
Rev'd Ian Chew

LITTLE GEMS CHRISTMAS PARTY: TODAY

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*

**Revd Ian Chew**

**7 JAN, SUN**

*Fruitfulness in our Family*

**Revd Sam Kuna**

**14 JAN, SUN**

*Fruitfulness in our Work*

**Lawrence Lee**

**21 JAN, SUN**

*Fruitfulness in our Ministry*

**Pt 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*

**Revd 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: 24 - 30 DEC 2023

### 1) DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE:

#### CHAPEL OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Acting Vicar:

English and Mandarin Congregations:

St Hilda's Primary School:

St Hilda's Secondary School:

Revd Glenn Chan

Clergy, staff and parishioners

Principal and staff

Principal and staff

### 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.

World: Pray for the peace of Jesus Christ to reign over the conflicts taking place in many parts of the world. Pray that all the people will know and believe in the Prince of Peace in this Christmas season.

### 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) Little Gems Christmas Party: 24 Dec 2023 (Today). Pray for parents who are pre-believers to sense the love of Jesus through the songs and games.

3) Christmas Day Infant Baptism Service: 25 Dec 2023. Members who will be baptised:

Adults - Lim Chye Hong (林彩凤); Benjamin Yap; and Verona Leong.

Children - Chua Xuan En Abigail; Lee Rou Hui Mikaela; Noah Ng Hong Xu; Lim Jie Ying, Lilia; and Lee Yan Feng Adriel.

### 4) THE SICK AND SUFFERING:

#### For health and recovery

Evelyn Tan, Joanne Lau, Noah Ng Hong Xu

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

#### 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