



Church Of The Ascension

GROWING deeper

WON

Walk in Christ, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith.

Colossians 2:6-7

Bishop: Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung

Vicar: Revd Ian Chew

## COLLECT FOR TODAY

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**3 Dec 2023**  
**Advent 1**

**8am & 10:30am**

**Preacher:** Ps Edward Zaccheus

**Sermon:** "Maranatha! Be Awake Church!"

**Bible Reading:** 1 Cor 1:3-9;  
Mark 13:24-37

Connect with the Ascension Family

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



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

<b>10 Dec (Sun)</b> <b>8am and 10:30am</b>	<b>Advent 2</b> "Are You Prepared?" 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8 Revd Soon Soo Kee
<b>16 Dec (Sat)</b> <b>6pm</b>	<b>Carols by Candlelight - A Starry &amp; Spotty Christmas</b>
<b>17 Dec (Sun) 8am</b> <b>10:30am</b>	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b> ACE Advent 3 "I Am (Not)" 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28 Victor Wu



## VICAR'S MESSAGE

Dear COA Family,

How do we understand the nature of God's will for our lives?

This is a most important question as it will help us to know and accomplish God's will for us – his good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:2).

One way of understanding God's will is that it is fixed and we only need to hear God's voice clearly in our hearts and minds. Then we can carry them out in a specific manner.

The Quakers, also known as the Religious Society of Friends, is one such example. Quakerism emerged in the 17th century and emphasizes a direct and personal experience of God's guidance. They believe that every individual has direct access to the inner light that is within them. Their worship services often involve long periods of silent waiting and listening for God's guidance on specific matters.

While this way of discerning God's will in this manner has its merits of stilling one's heart and mind from anxiety and fear, I believe that it leads to an unfortunate consequence. That is, it leads a person or a congregation to excessive passivity. This can ironically lead them to miss out on God's purposes!

A common modern-day argument that I hear from some people is this: "Unless the Lord tells me clearly and specifically to do something or move in a certain direction, I will not do it. I will remain in my current situation. I will wait for the Lord." They will not take the initiative but wait passively for clear signs to act.

Yet in the book of Acts, we often see the apostles on the move, acting in faith in response to possibilities or doors opened by God. They often used their enlightened reasoning to make decisions and trust the Spirit to lead and guide them along the way. And the result was that the church was grew exponentially and many were greatly blessed.

One prime example is the apostle Paul on his missionary journeys. He would often take the initiative to make plans to bring to the gospel to unreached cities and depend on the Holy Spirit to guide him. He and his companions tried to enter Bithynia once, but the Spirit did not allow them to but directed him to Macedonia in a dream instead (Acts 16:7). This led to the establishment of the church in Philippi, from which we get the letter to the Philippians.

This way of understanding God's will is especially important as we enter the season of Advent. It is not a season of waiting passively for the coming of Christ to earth. Rather, true waiting involves active preparation and work, so that we might be found prepared and ready to enter into in the new life when Christ comes again.

This is a right approach to finding out God's will for our lives.

Blessings,

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

## 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

There is no Sunday School today. Recess begins from 3 Dec to 31 Dec.

Please take note that there will be No Sunday School for LG and KFC for the whole of December.



Enquiries: [Shirley Kwek](#)

## 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



## 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)

## VICAR AND MISSION TEAM AWAY TO THAILAND (6-12 DEC 2023)

Vicar and the Mission Team will be away in Chiangmai, Thailand. Please do keep them in prayer for safety and fruitfulness in their ministry.

## 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 your interest using this [link](#) or email their enquiries to [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)

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



### **SAVE THE DATE — Installation Service of the 7th Archbishop of PSEA**

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.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT : 16 DEC 2023

*Carols by Candlelight 2023*

# *A Starry & Spotty Christmas*

*Based on "You are Special" by Max Lucado*



Date: 16 December 2023

Location: Church of the Ascension

Programme:

Christmas Market & Dinner: 6pm-7.30pm

Sanctuary Program: 8pm-9.30pm

TICKETS

\$5



## RENOVATION WORKS TO MPH (1-15 DEC 2023)

The Multi-Purpose Hall will be undergoing renovation works for the next weeks to enable it to serve the church's future needs. Specific works include the upgrading of the lights, ceiling and walls of the MPH. It will not be available for use during this period. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

## 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

CHURCH CAMP 2024

*Church of the Ascension*  
**Church Camp  
2024**

**FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSES  
TOGETHER**

**DATE: 1ST - 4TH JUNE**

**VENUE: AMERALD RESORT  
HOTEL, DESARU**

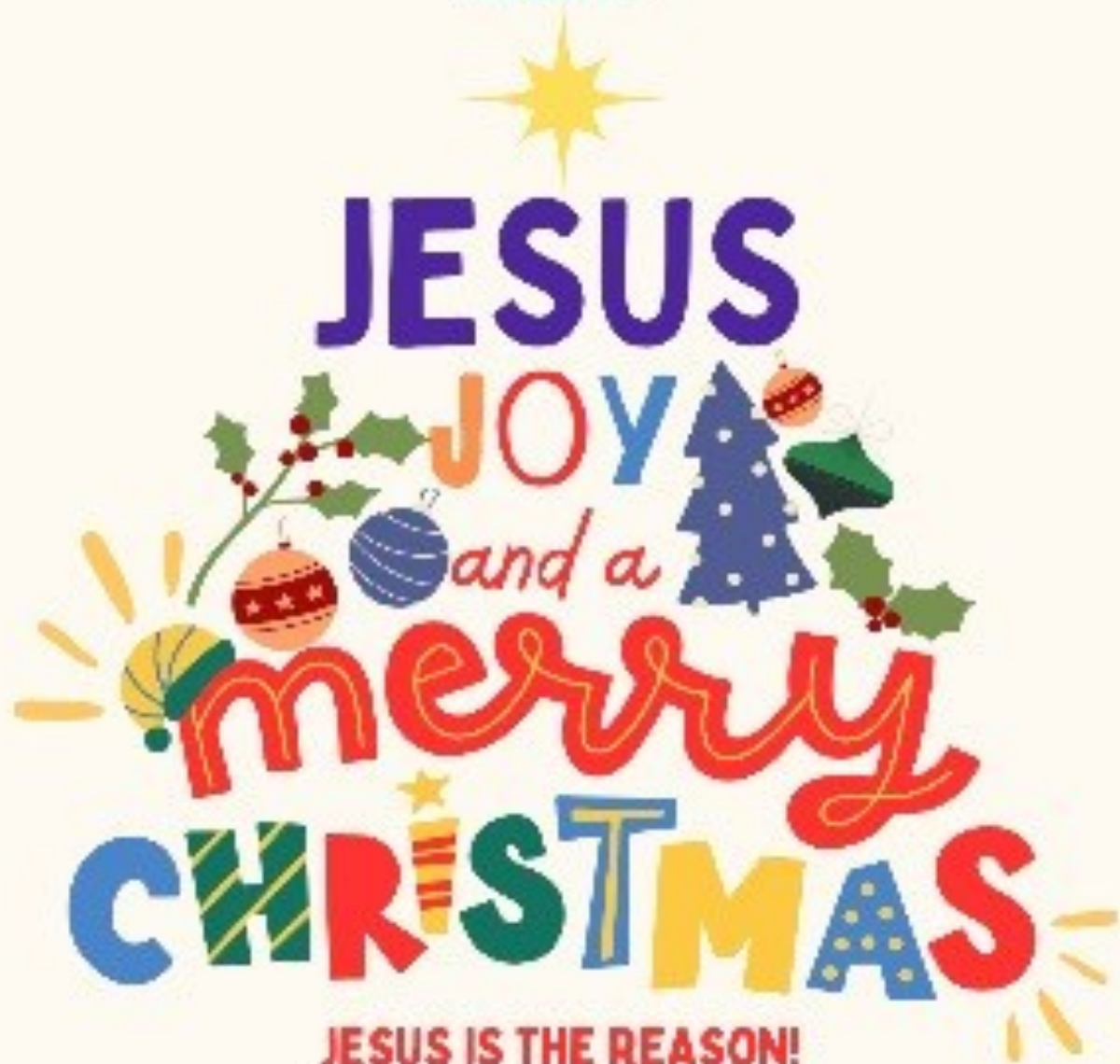
**SPEAKER: REVD TIMOTHY CHOW**

*More details to come*



COA - LITTLE GEMS CHRISTMAS PARTY ON 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**



*Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers*

## PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK: 3 - 9 DEC 2023

### 1) DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE:

#### DEANERY OF CAMBODIA

Dean:

The Anglican Church of Cambodia (ACC)

Revd Steven Seah

Pray for:

- 1) For Fr. Will Mclaughlin and his core as they lead the new church plant in Sensok, Phnom Penh.
- 2) For the pastors as they begin a ministry in inner healing and deliverance where the need is great.
- 3) For protection and good health, and continued anointing upon the pastors as they bring to Christ and build up in Christ those under their care.

### 2) SINGAPORE AND THE WORLD:

Singapore: Singaporeans more stressed than global average; 16% say their stress was 'not manageable'. For Instance, three in five Singaporeans cited the "cost of living" caused by global inflation as a reason they were feeling stressed. Youths today believe the pressure of being competitive in Singapore would lead to more people feeling stressed. Pray that Singaporeans at all age groups would be able to deal with this issue.

World: Pray for God's preservation of lives in the various conflicts around the world. Pray for the successful release of all hostages in the Israel-Gaza conflict and the protection of lives in the escalating civil war in Myanmar.

### 3) PARISH

- 1) Pray for God's protection and blessing on our mission team to Chiangmai, Thailand on 6-12 Dec led by Vincent Lim. Pray that their ministry would be fruitful and effective and that good relations will be established for further partnerships in future.
- 2) Pray for smooth preparation for Carols by Candlelight on 16 Dec and many hearts of our friends will be open to God's love during the service.
- 3) Pray for an expectant and seeking heart for God's kingdom during this season of Advent.

### 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  
Andreatte Loh - Smooth recovery from operation

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away... Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come."*

Mark 13:31; 33