

PARISH NEWS

VOL. XXXVIII No. 12 DECEMBER 2020

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

MALAYALAM CONGREGATION OF GREATER NEW YORK



Motto: Year of Service

Sunday School: 9:30 AM

Sunday Worship Service: 10:45 AM



3833 Jerusalem Ave., Seaford, NY 11783
csiseafordchurch.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: **The Rev. Shalu T. Mathew**
(516) 342-9879 (Parsonage)
(516) 399-3534 (Cell)

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(917) 533-8452

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Mr. Thomas Daniel	(631) 332-2504
Mrs. Lincy Philip	(516) 319-5068
Mr. Chris Oommen	(516) 765-0652

Auditors:

Mr. Jayan Kurien
Mr. Tim Kinatukara

Choir Master:

Mr. Jacob John

Organist:

Mr. Varghese Paul

Sunday School Superintendent:

Mrs. Anila Shalu

CSI Council of North America Representatives:

Mr. John M. David
Mr. Jeswin Samuel
Mr. Mathew Joshua
Mrs. Saramma T. Oommen
Mr. Thomas M. Kunjummen



Dearly beloved in Christ,

At this special and sacred time of the year, I wish to extend to you and your loved ones Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year. While we might recall difficult times and frustrations in 2020, we may continue with faith, love, joy and hope, in Jesus Christ in 2021. The famous carol written in 15th century,

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

There is something unique about the Season of Advent. For example, imagine being a faithful Jew 2,000 years ago. For thousands of years your people prayed to God for deliverance. God told you that a Messiah, the Christ, would come to save you. You believe God's promise and you wait, and you wait, and you wait for that day to come. You pray, and you pray, and you pray for that day to come. There were probably many times you would have thought God forgot about you, or that maybe God changed His mind. But then all of a sudden, an angel appears to a young virgin, a star leads Wiseman, shepherds see more angels than they can count, and there in a stable lies a little baby. In that manger rests everyone's prayers they prayed for thousands of years. In that manger rests all the promises God made to His people for thousands of years.

The season of Advent is unique. It is a season of longing. Advent is a time when our prayers focus upon that First coming of Jesus as well as the Second coming of Jesus. Like the Jews of two thousand years ago, we can also pray for the Christ to come, but this time to come again. Sometimes we may feel like saying to God, and may be even do say to God, "How long do I have to wait? Where is my

deliverance?” Maybe we really are not too different from the faithful who waited for the First coming of Jesus. There is one difference though, an exceptionally large difference.

Christmas is just another holiday to many people, but to the believer, Christmas is a promise fulfilled and the reason a new covenant exists among those in whom the Holy Spirit dwells. The first Christmas was basically the beginning of the end for evil in this world and the beginning of salvation among mankind. Isaiah wrestled with the thought of the Messiah coming to the world and his people not grasping that fact; thank goodness we accept the fact that Christ was born and shall return!

This year we celebrate the Christ of Christmas with our hearts. It is my hope and prayer that we will focus upon Christ not only in this year’s celebration but also in the New Year to come. I hope we will look back and reflect upon the prophecy of Christ. May we, too, join in the work of proclamation just as the angels on that night of celebration. Let us pray we cling to the experience of the promise and presence of our Lord and Savior each day remaining in 2020 and throughout the New Year. My prayer is that we experience afresh and anew a celebration of Christ in our lives.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
&
BLESSED NEW YEAR 2021

In His Service Yours
Shalu Achen



NEWS & EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY

We celebrated the Sunday, November 8th as Sunday School Sunday. Our Sunday School children took active part in the worship service on that day. Mr. Jerry Samuel and Ms. Arya Mangalath delivered the sermon.

FAREWELL TO BISHOP RT. REV. THOMAS K. OOMMEN

We conducted a Virtual Farewell meeting for our Bishop and former vicar the Rt. Rev. Thomas K Oommen and Kochamma through Zoom and YouTube on Sunday, November 22nd, 2020 at the end of our worship service. A farewell gift of \$6,250 was given to the Bishop at the meeting which was collected from our members through voluntary contributions. Thanks to all our members who actively participated in this program on a short notice. Thirumeni retired on November 29, 2020.

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

This year due to the restrictions imposed by the Government on religious gatherings because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we had two Thanksgiving worship services, first one on Saturday, November 28th and the second one on Sunday, November 29th. About 140 members in total attended the worship service at the church and many others participated in the virtual worship service on Sunday. We have collected \$17,000 as Thanksgiving Day offering through special envelopes provided to our members. Thanks to all those who wholeheartedly contributed their thanksgiving offerings.

As the spread of the Covid-19 virus shows no sign of slowing down, this is the time and it is our obligation to offer our thanks to God, the great provider and protector, for the wonderful ways He leads us and keeps us safe and healthy in one of the most difficult times in our life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNCIL SUNDAY

We will celebrate Sunday, December 6th as Council Sunday. Our Council Representatives will take active part in the worship service on that day.

LEGISLATIVE GENERAL BODY MEETING

The Legislative General Body Meeting of our Congregation will be held on Sunday, December 20th immediately after the worship service. Elections will be held for the following positions:

4 Board of Trustees (3 years term)

2 Internal Auditors

2 St. Thomas Ecumenical Representatives

Joint Conveners for various programs in 2021

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Our Christmas Carol service will be held at the Church on Saturday, December 19th, at 6 p.m. The Rev. Mathew Varghese (Vicar, St. John's Marthoma Church) will deliver the Christmas message on this occasion. The program can be viewed in Zoom and in YouTube also.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

We will have our worship services celebrating the birth of Christ on Friday, December 25th and also on Saturday, December 26th at 10 a.m. Two worship services are arranged to accommodate maximum possible numbers allowed for us to gather at this time.

Please note that the offertory collected on these days will be given to our Vicar as Christmas gift.

WATCH - NIGHT SERVICE & NEW YEAR SERVICE

Please note the following time schedule for the Watch-Night service and the New Year worship service (Covenant Service):

Virtual Watch-Night Service - **Only on Zoom & YouTube** - On Thursday, December 31st - Starts at 10:30 p.m. with a prayer and testimony session followed by the Covenant Service at 11:30 p.m.

New Year Service (Covenant Service) - **At the Church and also on Zoom & YouTube** - On Friday, January 1st at 10:45 a.m.

TELE PRAYER MEETINGS

Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m. – December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

Tele-Conference Number: 605-468-8025 Access Code: 918802#

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Women's Fellowship Bible Study will be held as Tele-prayer meetings on December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 10:00 a.m. (Use above telephone #).



OTHER NEWS

OBITUARY

- † *Mr. Maman P. Maman* (Denver, Colorado), 68 years, brother of Mrs. Aleyamma Mathews (Williston Park, N.Y.) was called to eternity on November 11th.
- † *Mrs. Chinnamma Oommen* (Tholasserry, Kerala), 97 years, mother of our former Vicar, the Rev. T.O. Oommen and our members Mr. Thomas T. Oommen (Glen Oaks, N.Y.) and Mrs. Susan Ninan (East Meadow, N.Y.) was called to the heavenly abode on December 2nd.

Our heartfelt condolences to all the grieving families. May the divine peace of God be upon the family members.

SPECIAL THANKS

- ❖ Thanks to our GEMS and Youths for the gesture of love shown to our elderly members by giving them beautiful flower bouquets in connection with the Senior Citizen's Sunday.
- ❖ Thanks to Mr. Thomas N. Varughese and family for donating the decorative ropes and Bench numbers to set up the pews as per the special sitting arrangements required in connection with the Covid-19 related restrictions.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday!



December

08	Jibu Koshy	Plainview
08	Roby Daniel	New Hyde Park
09	Noah K. Philip	New Hyde Park
10	Jophry K. Philip	New Hyde Park
11	Stacey Susan Paul	New Hyde Park
12	Raina Elizabeth Jacob	Plainview
14	Dr. Mathew A. Mani	Staten Island
14	Michael Tharian	Manhasset
14	Esther Mary Philip	Garden City Park
17	Benita Daniel	Dix Hills
17	Bindu Kurian	Hicksville
18	Jayden Mathew	Manhasset Hills
18	Rev. Shalu T. Mathew	Seaford
20	Kris Thomas Varughese	Staten Island
21	Mathew Joshua	Manhasset Hills
21	Libin Abraham John	Salisbury
22	Jeswin Thomas	New Hyde Park
22	Alex G. Joseph	Commack
23	Sherry Sarah Oommen	Dix Hills
23	Riana Elizabeth Kurien	Floral Park
26	Thomas J. Paickattu	East Meadow
28	Sherin A. Jacob	New Hyde Park
28	Sruthy Libin John	Salisbury
30	Linoy Ninan Simon	East Meadow
31	Raju John	Floral Park
31	Simi Roy	East Meadow

January

01	Lukose Muriyattil	West Hempstead
01	Lilly Paulose	Connecticut
02	Mary Lukose	West Hempstead
02	Salikutty Mathew	East Meadow
02	Rosh Stephen Philip	Flushing

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Happy Anniversary!

December

16 Mr. & Mrs. Sunny David
27 Mr. & Mrs. Biju Joy



ALMANAC

December 13 **(English)**

Third Sunday in Advent
Hope of salvation

Zephaniah 3: 14-20	Mr. Jophry K. Philip
Psalm 43	Mr. Roby Daniel
2Peter 3: 8-13	Mr. Sachin Jacob
Matthew 1: 18-25	

December 20 **(Malayalam)**

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Rejoice the Lord is Near

Zechariah 2: 6-13	Mr. Thomas Samuel
Psalm 50: 1-15	Mr. Jayden Mathew
1Thessalonians 5: 12-24	Ms. Esther Mary Philip
John 16: 16-24	

December 25 **(Malayalam)**

CHRISTMAS

Christmas: Finding Space for the Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9: 2-7	Mr. Mathew Joshua
Psalm 85: 8-13	Ms. Benita Daniel
Ephesians 1: 3-14	Mr. Libin John
Luke 2: 1-14	

December 27
(English)

First Sunday After Christmas
Family as Gift of God

Joshua 24: 14-22

Mr. Biju Joy

Psalm 128

Ms. Riana Elizabeth Kurien

Ephesians 3: 14-21

Ms. Sherry Oommen

Mark 3: 31-35

December 31
(Malayalam)

Watch Night Service (Virtual)
Come to the Lord with Thanksgiving

2Samuel 6: 1-15

Mr. Koruthu Kinatukara

Psalm 91

Mr. Kris Thomas Varughese

Colossians 3: 12-17

Mr. Abraham Daniel

Luke 17: 11-19

January 1
(Malayalam)

NEW YEAR (Covenant Service)
God's Continuing Act of Grace

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Mr. Raju John

Psalm 136

Mr. Linoy Simon Ninan

Romans 5: 1-11

Mrs. Mary Lukose

Luke 13: 1-9

January 3
(Malayalam)

Second Sunday After Christmas
Revelation for Liberation

Isaiah 61: 1-11

Mr. Thomas J. Paickattu

Psalm 76

Ms. Sherin A. Jacob

Revelation 5: 1-10

Mrs. Salikutty Mathew

Luke 4: 16-21

2020 Calendar

January 01	New Year's Day Service
January 03-05	Youth Winter Retreat
February 08	Elected Officials Retreat
February 16	Annual General Body Meeting
February 23	S.S. Mid-Term Exam / Teachers Retreat
February 26	Ash Wednesday
March 01	Women's Sunday/A.F. Defensive Driving Course
March 06	Women's Fellowship - Day of Prayer
March 14	Y.F. Winter Fellowship Meeting/ GEMS Retreat
March 21	Sunday School One Day Trip
March 28	Youth – Real talk I
April 04	Region 1&2 A.F. & W.F. Retreat (<i>Postponed</i>)
April 05	Palm Sunday
April 06-08	Passion Week Special Services
April 09	Maundy Thursday
April 10	Good Friday
April 11	Youth Real Talk II
April 12	Easter
April 18	Y.F. Region 1 Retreat (<i>Postponed</i>)
April 25	S.S. Region 1&2 Retreat (<i>Canceled</i>)
May 10	Mother's Day
May 17	Youth Bake Sale (<i>Postponed</i>)
May 29-31	Church Family Retreat (<i>Canceled</i>)
June 06	Sunday School Picnic (<i>Canceled</i>)
June 07	Mission Sunday
June 13	A.F & W.F. One Day Retreat (<i>Canceled</i>)
June 14	S.S. Final Exam (<i>Canceled</i>)
June 20	Youth Summer Fellowship Meeting
June 21	Father's Day
June 27	Sunday School Annual Competitions(<i>Canceled</i>)
July 09-12	Youth National Conference (<i>Canceled</i>)
July 19	V.B.S Finale / S.S. Anniversary (<i>Postponed</i>)
July 19	Elders Breakfast (<i>Canceled</i>)
July 25	Church Picnic (<i>Canceled</i>)
July 26	Mid-Year G.B. Meeting
July 29	Youth One Day Trip
August 01	Inter Church Volleyball Tournament (<i>Canceled</i>)
August 02	Laity Sunday
August 6,7,8	V.B.S

August 07-08	CSI Council N.A. Annual Meeting (<i>Canceled</i>)
August 08	Y.F. Coffee House (<i>Canceled</i>)
August 22	S.S. Regional Competitions (<i>Canceled</i>)
September 06	Harvest Festival
September 13	Choir Sunday
September 13	First Day of Sunday School / Teachers Retreat
September 18-20	Church Convention
September 26	A.F. / W.F. One Day Trip (<i>Canceled</i>)
September 27	CSI Day
October 09	All Night Prayer (<i>Postponed</i>)
October 10	Youth Fall Fellowship Meeting
October 11	Youth Sunday
October 18	SS Operation Christmas Child
October 24	Church Family Night (<i>Postponed</i>)
November 08	Sunday School Sunday
November 14	Sunday School Fall Fest
November 28	Youth Get-Together
November 29	Thanksgiving Sunday
December 4,5,11,12	Christmas Carol Rounds (<i>Canceled</i>)
December 19	Christmas Carol Service
December 20	Legislative General Body Meeting
December 20	Parish Day (<i>Canceled</i>)
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	Tri-State Joint Carol Service (<i>Canceled</i>)
December 31	Watch Night Service

NOTICE

Our Legislative General Body Meeting is scheduled to be held on Sunday, December 20, 2020, immediately after the worship service. All the members listed in our voter's list are requested to attend.

For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a Savior which
is Christ the Lord
Luke
2:11



In Loving Memory



Mr. Kalathumkal K. Philip (Joy)

Called to Eternal Home: December 16, 2001

***“If we live, we live for the Lord;
and if we die, we die for the Lord.
So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.”***

Romans 14:8

With Love from,
Kunjumol, Jophry, Lincy, Jonathan, Joelle
Jerry, Mini, Noah, Lucas, Jacob, Zoe
Jenny and Anup

In Loving Memory



Mrs. Sosamma Joseph (Kunjukunjamma)

Called to Eternal Home: December 19, 2004

“The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”

Lamentations 3:25-26

With Love from,
Mr. Joseph Samuel
Jimmy and Jerry

FIRST CLASS MAIL

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:
Secretary

C. S. I. Malayalam Congregation
3833 Jerusalem Avenue
Seaforth, NY 11783

DATED MATERIAL