



Reach Out

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH | DEC 2024



GOOD THINGS
OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL!



Merry Christmas

*May we be a people of faith
and joy that rejoices in the
light and hope that Christmas
brings!*

*Wishing you all a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy New
Year 2025 !*

***With love & regards,
Rev. Hosea Mathew (Pastor SRMC)
and members of the Pastorate
Committee and Pastorate
Conference of SRMC***

Reach Out

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPIRITUAL FOOD

From the Pastor's Desk	04
Joseph - Unsung Hero	08
Poem - The Angels	14
Hymn History	15
Who were the Magi?	17

Mission Statement

“ To be obedient, cheerful, compassionate, humble stewards of God's Word and resources, in utter dependence upon God through prayer, so that we as a congregation and those we reach out to, will experience transformation through the saving grace of God and grow as Christ-centered people, guided by the Holy Spirit. ”



Rev. Hosea Mathew

PASTOR, SRMC

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OTHERS

Praise & Prayer	06
Announcements	07
Kids' Corner	19
Picture Gallery	11



SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

BESIDE ST. PATRICK'S ACADEMY, KODATHI GATE,
SARJAPUR ROAD, BENGALURU - 35



Visit us at www.srmcblr.org



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9 AM ONWARDS**

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Greetings to you all in most Holy name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We praise God for each and every one of you for joining in the Thanksgiving service and auction in the month of November, with the offering of gratitude, remembering God's faithfulness. Thanks to all for giving generously.

Welcome to the wonderful season of Christmas celebrations and special worship services this month! I invite you all to join for Carol rounds, Christmas programmes and our Annual Christmas Fellowship Dinner. The Committees and Wings of the church have planned attractive programmes for everyone. God is calling us for a wonderful Christian fellowship through these programs. Let us make good use of these God-given privileges to worship the Lord and share messages of joy, peace and goodwill to all.

God, in fulfillment of His great purpose of saving the world from sin, chose Mary, Joseph, Magi and Shepherds to be part of this great event in the history of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. I came across a beautiful picture of Mary and Joseph admiring baby Lord Jesus in the manger, their face glowing with heavenly joy, tranquility and reverence. Scripture verse as caption that said *"for unto you is born today in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:11).

While the Saviour's birth happened long time ago in Bethlehem, the above message captures our attention to see that God made each of us part of the birth event. The words *"today"* and *"you"* helps us to personalise the event and become part of the joyous birth.

The message comes alive in the same vigour and freshness as it was at the first Christmas. The Shepherds who received the message were led to the manger. They rejoiced to see that the annunciation was true. The Magi travelled long distances, overcoming dangers, and reached the place to worship the newborn King.

Just like people above, the season calls us to be receptive to the message in all obedience and humbleness, reach out to worship Him and rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world. Every aspect of Christmas celebration must have the aim of worshipping the

Saviour, drawing near to Him.

What gifts can we offer which is suitable to this indescribable gift of God, than surrendering our life to Him as a living sacrifice and involving in sharing the good news of great joy and peace to the troubled world through loving service and witness. Let us pray for God's joy and peace fill our life enabling us to be true worshippers of Him who is the Saviour of the world our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year 2025.

- **Rev. Hosea Mathew**
(Pastor, SRMC)

LUKE 2:10-11

Fear Not,
**FOR BEHOLD, I BRING
YOU GOOD NEWS**
of great joy

that will be for all the people.
For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Savior,

**WHO IS CHRIST
THE LORD.**

Praise & Prayer

PRAISE GOD

- ♦ Praise God that he has enabled our Church to become a separate **Pastorate**, under the **Bangalore Regional Conference** of the **Methodist Church in India**.
- ♦ Praise God for His grace, as we meditated on the theme **BE THANKFUL** during the month of November.

REMEMBER AND PRAY

- ♦ Continue to pray for our Bishop N. L. Karkare, Madam Kamal Karkare, Executive Secretary Rev. David Nathaniel, Conference Treasurer, Rev. Mathew George M., and District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Sebastian Ravi Kumar. Pray continuously for the Bangalore Regional Conference and that God's will be accomplished.
- ♦ Pray for our dear Pastor, **Rev. Hosea Mathew** and his family, his wife **Mrs. Asha**, sons **Mr. Nischal** & his family and **Mr. Navjacinth**.
- ♦ Pray for the **SRMC Sunday School & Children's ministry**. Pray for wisdom and health for all teachers and volunteers and for the challenges that are involved.
- ♦ **Pray for the future of our church, that all the formalities are duly fulfilled and all the wings and committees of SRMC are functioning in the proper way.**
- ♦ Pray for the **Church Bible Study group**, resource personnel who are conducting it, that God may bring revival and growth to our congregation.
- ♦ Pray for the **Worship team, Choir, MMF, WSCS & MYF fellowships**, and all the volunteers who are striving hard to serve and raise resources for our Church.
- ♦ Pray for the new Hindi Worship Service of SRMC. Pray that more and more people may be blessed through this initiative and more souls be added to God's mighty kingdom.
- ♦ Pray for the **sick, elders, widows and the poor**, who need help in our church. Pray also for all the families that you remember at our Church.
- ♦ Pray for all the families who are suffering due to the effects of

illnesses, economic difficulties, familial tensions, etc, that God may give them strength to cope and move ahead.

- ◆ Pray that God may reveal His Plan for us in this locality and that the SRMC family may become a channel of blessing in this vicinity.

Announcements

- **Sunday Worship Service** begins at **9 am** every Sunday, with services being live-streamed on our website srmcblr.org.
- **PASTORAL CARE** is available through the Church, you can avail the services by speaking to the Pastor personally.
- **REACH OUT** is the in-house magazine of SRMC and you are welcome to contribute your stories, missionary stories, testimonies, activity pages for children and other articles.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** is held at **10 am** every Sunday morning.
- **Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) Monthly Meetings** are held every last Sunday of the month. **WSCS Bible Study** via Zoom, is scheduled for **Wednesdays at 7 pm**.
- **WSCS Fasting Prayer** is scheduled for **9th November, from 9 am to 1 pm**, via Zoom.
- **Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF)** is held on **every Sunday @ 10 am**, during the Worship Service. For more details please contact **Mr. Rabbi Jayakaran**.
- **SRMC Hindi Worship Service** is on break for December. Service will resume from January 2025.
- **Church Mid-Week Bible Study** is scheduled for every **Thursday, at 7 pm**, via Zoom.
- **Methodist Men's Fellowship (MMF) Monthly Meeting** is held on every last Sunday of the month after the Worship Service.
- **Points of Contact:** **Carol Rounds - Mr. Kumar Veeravalli;**
Christmas Dinner Candle Light Service - Mr. Dinup Divakaran;
Outreach Program - Mr. Rabbi Jayakaran
- **Humble request:** Please be consistent in your attendance to the Church—either **in Church or via live Stream**.

JOSEPH - THE UNSUNG HERO

"But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'"
Matthew 1:20-21

This month marks celebration in the Christian world where the focus is on the reflection and celebration of the gift of God's Son to this earth and the glorious hope found in His Advent!

If we will take a few moments this Christmas to read the Advent story along with the lineage of Jesus Christ spelled out by the disciple Matthew in the first chapter of the first book in the New Testament, we'll find that it was through the bloodline of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, that Jesus was linked to Abraham, to Ruth, to David the King of Israel, and finally this chapter ends with these words: "Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ" (Matthew 1: 16). Carrying such a legacy, my mind would make Joseph a *"star"* in the Bible story.

One would expect many fine words written about Christ's earthly father. And yet, as I researched books after books to my utter shock, few words are penned about this "unsung hero" as I like to call Joseph. We all have precious thoughts about Mary of Nazareth who has gone down in history as the Mother of Jesus.

She was a young woman preparing herself for marriage is confronted with a most unwelcome message. She is to become pregnant before she begins her married life. It is totally unexpected and deeply embarrassing. The shame of it will be enough to kill her. She is being asked to do what is wholly against her religious tradition and social upbringing. She is to sacrifice her social standing and expose herself to society's disapproval. She is being asked to put the plan of God above her social and religious expectations. Who will believe that what she is carrying it of the Holy Spirit and that her act of obedience will profoundly affect the history of all humanity? Against all conventional wisdom she says, "Yes" to this plan of God for her. *What about Joseph?*

What about the man who is to marry her? He stood by Mary because he too has heard the voice of God and he too believes that Mary's submission to God's purposes will bring new life to the whole human community. Joseph too is going against custom and tradition when he takes a pregnant woman for wife. We never stop to think how embarrassing his own position is. What will his parents say? What will his friends say? Here is a man who stood in solidarity with a woman he loved and trusted. A man who had an ear turned to what God is saying to him and to the world."

What profound thoughts to consider this Christmas Day. Do we have our ears tuned to hear the heavenly message that God is sending us today?

Dear Friends! There are few people whom God calls to do great things for Him! But the best thing most of us can do in this world is to live out a real, simple, beautiful, strong Christian life in our allotted place. Thus in our little measure we shall reflect the life of the Master Himself, showing others some feeble reflection of His sweet and loving face, and doing in our imperfect way a few of the lovely things He would do if He were here Himself in our place.

Do we in quietness listen to the call to serve God, no matter the personal cost? While we frequently shine the light on Mary's spirit of obedience in following God's call to be God's handmaid, we need to also turn our focus on Joseph who chose to be obedient to the angel messenger who also visited him.

In explaining the words penned by the disciple Matthew regarding Joseph, Bible commentator Matthew Henry points out that this "righteous" man could have, according to the law, been completely right if he had chosen to walk-off and leave Mary in the situation she found herself - pregnant and unmarried. But as the Bible tells us: "While Joseph thought on these things, he was sent a heavenly messenger. God graciously directed him what he should do.

Note, those who would have direction from God must think...When (Joseph) was at a loss, and had carried the matter as far as he could in his own thoughts, then God came in with advice. It was in a dream - in quietness and peace - that God sent a message to Joseph.

And interestingly, the angel called Joseph, "thou son of David." A relationship perhaps forgotten long ago by the poor carpenter as he

struggled with his day to day living!

As Matthew Henry further points out, "the angel puts (Joseph) in the mind of his relation to King David, that he might be prepared to receive the surprising intelligence of his relationship to the Messiah, who everyone knew, was to be a descendant of David...It was a requirement that this poor carpenter keep in mind his own high birth."

Value yourself, was what the angel said to the humble Joseph. "The Line of the Messiah is going to be drawn from you." There is a tremendous message for you and me today during this Advent 2024.

God may thus say to every true believer

Fear not, thou son or daughter of Abraham, thou child of God! Value yourself, and forget not the dignity of thy birth, thy new birth ...for it is a great mercy to be delivered from our fears, and to have our doubts resolved.

As we celebrate the joy of Advent, the First Coming of Jesus, in quietness and peace, may our hearts be tuned to the message of His Second Coming and be prepared to receive Him!

*O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by,
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*

- Written by Dr. Prema Sunder Raj

Please continue to support SRMC's vision of a wholesome and God-loving Faith Community in this part of the city. You can send in your tithes/offerings to the Church by scanning this QR code. May God bless you abundantly!





*Let us spread the
Christmas Cheer!*

S R M C
**CAROL
ROUNDS**
2024

DATES:
6, 8, 13, 15 DEC 2024



*Bus Available
from Church*



- Special Offering Envelopes will be made available for Carols Offerings
- You can reach out to any of the Lay Activities Committee members if you wish to host carolers for dinner
- Contact Lay Activities Committee members for more details

SRMC THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

AUCTION - 10 NOV 2024



SRMC Church

BANK ACCOUNTS DETAILS

General Fund Account

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL FUND

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0416053000018350

IFSC CODE: SIBL0000416

BANK: SOUTH INDIAN BANK, KORAMANGALA

UPI ID: SRMCHURCH@SIB



Use any UPI payments app to pay:



Building Fund Account

ACCOUNT NAME: SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0518053000009989

IFSC CODE: SIBL0000518

BANK: SOUTH INDIAN BANK, SARJAPUR ROAD

Please continue to support SRMC's vision of a wholesome and God-loving Faith Community in this part of the city. You can send in your tithes/offerings to the Church by scanning the QR code shown above.

May God bless you abundantly!



The Angels

The angels came down from the heavens above
To spread the wondrous tidings
The shepherds they listened for miles around
Found the angels mesmerizing

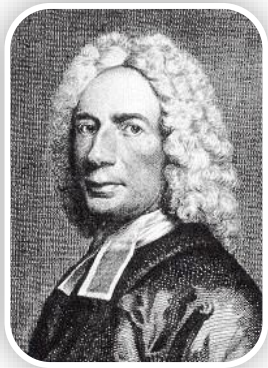
But more awesome still than their mighty wings
Than their thousand staring eyes
Was the news they brought of miraculous things
In a stable begun that night

A Son was born to God that night
A Savior to us all
The greatest gift, of eternal life
Of salvation from the fall

Author unknown

HYMN HISTORY - JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the World is an English Christmas carol. It was written in **1719** by the English minister and hymnist **Isaac Watts**. The carol is usually sung to the American composer Lowell Mason's 1848 arrangement of a tune attributed to George Frideric Handel. The carol's lyrics are a Christian reinterpretation of Psalm 98 and Genesis 3.



The tune usually used today is from an 1848 edition by Lowell Mason for The National Psalmist. Mason was by that time an accomplished and well-known composer and arranger, having composed tunes such as "*Bethany*" and "*Hamburg*", which were used for the hymns "Nearer, My God, to Thee" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". A very similar arrangement of the tune to today's arrangement, and also with the present-day lyrics, was published in Mason's 1839 book *The Modern Psalmist*. It was also titled "Antioch" and attributed to Handel.

"Joy to the world" is perhaps an unlikely popular Christmas hymn. First of all, it is based on a psalm, and second, it celebrates Christ's second coming much more than the first. This favorite Christmas hymn is the result of a collaboration of at least three people and draws its initial inspiration not from the Christmas narrative in Luke 2, but from Psalm 98.

Watts paraphrased the entire Psalm 98 in two parts, and it first appeared in his famous collection, *The Psalms of David, Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* (1719).

"Joy to the world" was taken from the second part of the paraphrase, Psalm 98:4-9, entitled "The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom." Watts, commenting on his paraphrase of the psalm, notes: "*In these two hymns I have formed out of the 98th Psalm I have fully exprest what I esteem to be the first and chief Sense of the Holy Scriptures . . .*" For Watts, the psalms were not to be viewed as biblical material in their own right, but had value only inasmuch as they pointed toward the New Testament.

Isaac Watts was born in Southampton, Hampshire, England, in 1674

and was brought up in the home of a committed religious nonconformist; his father, also Isaac Watts, had been incarcerated twice for his views. Watts had a classical education at King Edward VI School, Southampton, learning Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

Watts could not attend Oxford or Cambridge because he was a non-conformist and these universities were restricted to Anglicans—as were government positions at the time. He went to the Dissenting Academy at Stoke Newington in 1690. Much of the remainder of his life centred on that village, which is now part of Inner London.

Following his education, Watts was called as pastor of a large independent chapel in London, Mark Lane Congregational Chapel, where he helped train preachers, despite his poor health. He held religious opinions that were more non-denominational or ecumenical than was common for a non-conformist Congregationalist. He had a greater interest in promoting education and scholarship than preaching for any particular sect.

Watts took work as a private tutor and lived with the non-conformist Hartopp family at Fleetwood House on Church Street in Stoke Newington. Through them, he became acquainted with their immediate neighbours Sir Thomas Abney and Lady Mary. He eventually lived for a total of 36 years in the Abney household, most of the time at Abney House.

On the death of Sir Thomas Abney in 1722, his widow Lady Mary and her unmarried daughter Elizabeth moved all her household to Abney House from Hertfordshire, and she invited Watts to continue with them. He particularly enjoyed the grounds at Abney Park, which Lady Mary planted with two elm walks leading down to an island heronry in the Hackney Brook, and he often sought inspiration there for the many books and hymns that he wrote.

Watts lived at Abney Hall in Stoke Newington until his death in 1748; he was buried in Bunhill Fields. He left an extensive legacy of hymns, treatises, educational works, and essays. His work was influential amongst nonconformist independents and religious revivalists of the 18th century, such as Philip Doddridge, who dedicated his best-known work to Watts.

- Compiled by Joel Dubba

Sources: umcdiscipleship.org / en.wikipedia.org

Who were the MAGI?

Each year, some of us would be asked to play one of the wise men or “Magi,” while some of us would be cast as either Joseph or shepherds. Little children eventually are added to the play, to share in the fun as angels.

While I cherish these memories, they laid a somewhat flawed understanding of the Magi’s role in the first advent of Christ. Here is what we know about the Magi, and why they are so significant their arrival was included in Matthew’s gospel.

What the Bible Tell Us About the Magi

Matthew 2:1-12 is the only gospel text that mentions the Magi. Over time, Christian tradition added bits and pieces to the account, including certain details about who the wise men may have been. These bits of speculation have been passed down over time and are infused in many popular retellings of the Christmas story. However, these details about the Magi are not based on the biblical account.

- They were called Magi, which means “wise men” in Greek (Matthew 2:1). Extrapolating from the text, these men were probably astrologers as their study of the sky led them toward Jesus (Numbers 24:17, Matthew 2:9).
- They told King Herod they were seeking the new “king of the Jews” (Matthew 2:2). It’s assumed in the story that they did not realize what type of king Jesus would be.
- The Magi came from the East when they sought Jesus during the time of Herod, which means they likely came from somewhere in modern-day Iraq, Iran, or Saudi Arabia.
- They arrived during Herod’s reign, which helps to place this within the narrative of world history. He reigned from approximately 37 BC – 4 BC.
- They brought gifts fit for an earthly king and came to pay homage to him (Matthew 2:2,10-11).

What the Bible Does NOT Say About the Magi

Misconceptions and half-truths surround our cultural misunderstanding of the wise men and their part in the Nativity account as

recorded in the Bible. Over centuries, tradition has added details to the story, very few of which can be confirmed, and the biblical account confirms none.

Here are some popular misconceptions:

- They were present the night Jesus was born. Contrary to our Christmas nativity decorations, the Magi were NOT there for the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Matthew 2:1 tells us they arrived in Jerusalem AFTER Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- There were three wise men. Matthew never records how many wise men came to honor Jesus. We know there was more than one because of the plural use of “men.” Most people assume there are three because of the three gifts they gave, as recorded in Matthew (gold, frankincense, and myrrh).
- They were kings. Many people believe that the wise men were kings, which isn’t supported by what Matthew wrote. This idea is more related to the popular Christmas song We Three Kings than it is to the biblical account.
- We know their names. Traditionally, they have been named Balthasar, Caspar, and Melchior. In some cases, entire backstories have been told about them. Modern media hasn’t helped this misconception, as if it is a biblically established part of the Christmas story.

Why Do the Magi Matter?

THEY SOUGHT A KING THAT DIDN’T BELONG TO THEM. This group of foreign Gentiles set out on a considerable journey to meet and honor a king who was to be born.

THEY BOWED AND WORSHIPPED. Jesus was worshipped by the lowly (shepherds) and the prominent (Magi). Both came to celebrate and honor the newborn king.

THEY GAVE GENEROUSLY. They brought the rare and expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as gifts for Jesus.

THEY WERE OBEDIENT. These foreigners, who had their own king, obediently followed what they knew of the Torah and came to see the new king.

- Written By Bryan Barrineau
for youthpastortheologian.com

Kids' Corner

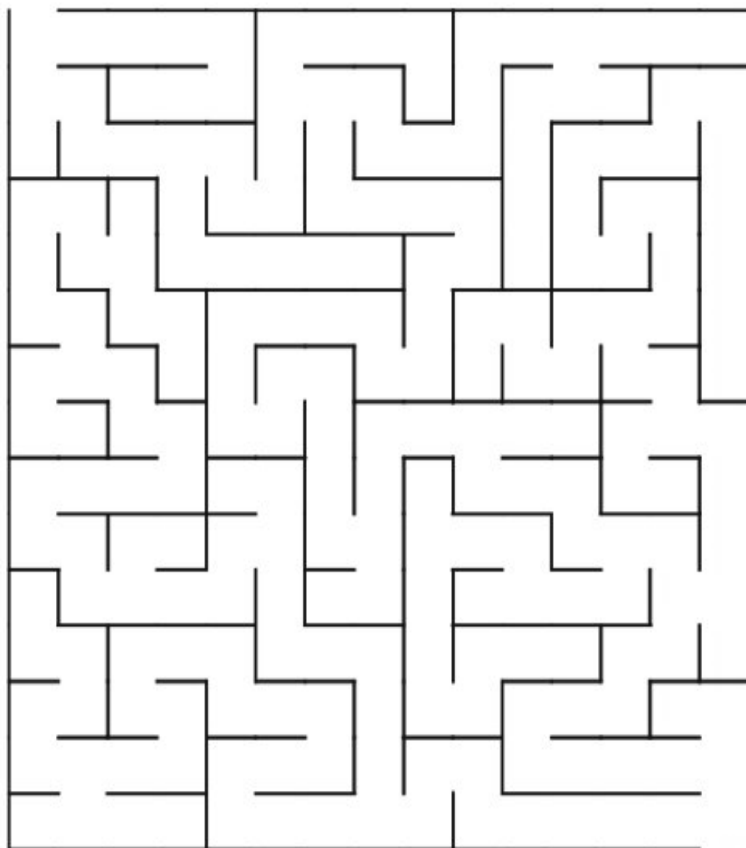


CHRISTMAS MAZE

Can you help Santa find bag full of gifts?



START



FINISH



***NOTES* | Week 1: CONTEXT OF GOOD TIDINGS**

***NOTES* | Week 2: JESUS' BIRTH AND CELEBRATION**

NOTES | Week 3: FOREWORD OF GOOD TIDINGS

NOTES | Week 4: REDISCOVERING THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

NOTES | CHRISTMAS: FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES

NOTES | Week 5: THE SONG OF HEAVENLY GHOST



SARJAPUR
ROAD
METHODIST
CHURCH

Christmas Fellowship Dinner

*An evening of fellowship, Carols
Singing, presentation of the
Christmas play by our Sunday
School Children and our Youth,
followed by sumptuous dinner!*

6 PM onwards
14 Dec '24

*Come join us, with family,
friends and neighbours!*



Beside St. Patrick's Academy, Kodathi, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore

www.srmcblr.org





REACH OUT DECEMBER 2024

GOOD TIDINGS
OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL

PULPIT CALENDAR

Date	Description	Speaker
1 Dec	CONTEXT OF GOOD TIDINGS (Holy Communion Sunday)	Rev. Hosea Mathew
8 Dec	JESUS' BIRTH & CELEBRATION (WCS Christmas)	Mrs. Beulah Sumitra
15 Dec	FOREWORD OF GOOD TIDINGS	Rev. Hosea Mathew
22 Dec	REDISCOVERING THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS	Rev. Alexander Augustine
29 Dec	THE SONG OF HEAVENLY HOST	Guest Speaker

SPECIAL SERVICES

Date	Description	Speaker
24 Dec	MESSAGE OF GOOD TIDINGS (Christmas Eve Worship Service)	Rev. Hosea Mathew
25 Dec	FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES (Christmas Worship Service)	Rev. Hosea Mathew
31 Dec*	TRUST IN THE NEW THING (New Year Covenant Renewal Worship Service)	Rev. Hosea Mathew
1 Jan '25*	NEVER BEEN THIS WAY BEFORE (New Year's Day Worship Service)	Rev. Hosea Mathew

* Holy Communion

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
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