



UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE UNITED CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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OUR VISION: "Touching
lives, Nurturing Disciples,
Seeking Transformation
through Christ."

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ADVENT



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PRAY FOR:



The families of:

**Rev. Dr. Gordon
Cowans; whose aunt,
Mrs. Joyce Temple has
died;**

**Rev. I. Wayne Silvera,
whose father,
Mr. Michael Silvera
has passed on.**

This year, the four
Sundays preced-
ing Christmas
day, are all in Decem-
ber, and are traditional-
ly celebrated as the
Season of Advent, as a
means of preparing our
hearts for the miracu-
lous birth of our **Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ!**

**There are traditions as-
sociated with the cele-
bration of Advent, but
did you know that these
have changed over the**

years?

The word 'Advent' is de-
rived from the Latin
'*adventus*', which means
'*coming*' or '*arrival*'.

Celebrating Advent goes
back at least as far as the
fifth century when it was
marked as a period of
fasting and penance and
prayer. It has been vari-
ously marked as this sea-
son was one of prepara-
tion, when Christians
would spend 40 days in

**penance, prayer, and fast-
ing** to prepare for the bap-
tism of new Christians at
the January feast of **Epiph-
any**.

Some stories also state that
it was a time when Israel
looked back to God's past
gracious actions on their
behalf in leading them out
of Egypt in the Exodus, and
on this basis, they called
for God once again to act
for them.

(More over-page)



To:-

Rev. Rohan Kong
December 4.

Remember,

Sunday, December 3 is also
'Union Sunday!'

-A special Liturgy is available for use as we celebrate
25 years!

WANTED

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

MEMORABILIA

A team of researchers is seeking Disciples for Christ items for donation or loan for an exhibition on the DOC's work and contribution to Jamaica's development.



Articles may be sent to or left at the National Library of Jamaica, 12 East Street, Kingston, or Email contact:

docexhibition 2017@gmail.com

THE ADVENT WREATH



So, originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. Although even then, the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's **first** coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but **his second** coming in the clouds as the judge of the world!

It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's **first** coming at Christmas.

THE WREATH & THE CANDLES

The two most common practices around the world, which are used in many Churches today, include the use of the **Advent wreath and candles**.

The wreath, is usually of evergreen leaves; encircling candles which tend to have a symbolism that has remained basically unchanged.

Nestled inside the wreath of evergreens are **five candles**, each representing a significant aspect of the Christmas story. The **Advent Wreaths** are mainly made with evergreens to symbolize **everlasting life**. The wreath is a **circle**, representing **God's continuous love as well as soul's immortality**.

Similarly, each candle also has an individual meaning.

Traditionally, a family from the congregation is usually chosen to light the candles on successive Sundays. On the **first Sunday** of advent, the candle of **prophecy** and **preparation** is lit.

On the **second Sunday**, family members light the candle of **proclamation**, remembering the angels who announced the Saviour.

On the third week, we emphasize **anticipation**. For hundreds of years, godly men and women awaited the presence of the King. And what a joy it was for the lowly shepherds who first experienced the joyous news of Christ's birth.

After the three weeks of **preparation**, on the **fourth Sunday**, the joy of the coming Saviour is celebrated with a **pink candle**. On this Sunday, we remember the **expectation** Mary felt as she had Emmanuel, God with us, pressing at her womb.

On Christmas Eve, one last candle, the **white candle**, is lit. Often the largest of the five candles and centred in the middle of the wreath; **this Christ candle marks the culmination of the promise of a coming Saviour**.

Have a meaningful Advent Season!