



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

June 8, 2022

**TRINITY SUNDAY**

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 23

UCJCI 42<sup>nd</sup> SYNOD THEME – **Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE** (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)

## **‘God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity’**

*By Rev. Otto Menko*

In the Church’s Liturgical Calendar, Pentecost Sunday is followed by Trinity Sunday, inviting us to celebrate the mystery of the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and to consider the relevance of this mystery in our life.

We all are familiar with the tenet of our Christian faith that there is one God only and that this One God has been revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One divine being, and yet three distinct and identifiable divine persons.

To some of us, this may seem to be a contradiction. How is it possible that God is one and three at the same time? What are we supposed to make of this?

Well, this mystery – in a way- reminds us that when it comes to knowing and understanding God, we must acknowledge our limitations and boundaries. Our human intellect and language are completely inadequate to fully understand and express who God is. God is a mystery we cannot ever fathom or comprehend.

Understanding and knowing God to a certain degree is possible only because of God’s self-revelation. With infinite love and mercy, God reached out to us and partially lifted the veil, so to speak, so that we might have a glimpse of the One who is beyond our human comprehension. Most of what we know and understand of God is coming from the Holy Scriptures, from the records of God’s self-revelation through events and persons, but in its fulness, through Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are the primary sources for gaining some degree of knowledge of who God is.

Unfortunately, the Scriptures don’t offer a clear explanation of the Trinity. All that we know can be traced back to references here and there pointing to the presence and actions of God as Father, God as Son, and God as Holy Spirit. In the past, efforts have been made to use analogies to shed light on this mystery. The best known analogy is of water with its three different states (in the form of solid ice, liquid, and steam). Analogies, however, have their limitations (unlike the Holy Trinity). For example, water doesn’t exist in three different states, all at the

same time. It is either solid ice or liquid, or steam. But God as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit, all co-exist simultaneously.

Perhaps the best way to deal with the reality of the Holy Trinity is to give up on trying to explain the unexplainable and instead try to understand in what ways the Trinity can be relevant to our faith, life, and service.

In the Gospel of John 14:16-17, Jesus says, “...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth.” Here we see clearly a distinction made between the members of the Trinity, as Jesus (the Son) refers to the Father and the Holy Spirit. They all are one, perfect and equal, yet distinct from each other, and although they engage us in different ways, they are still perfectly united. Indeed, this suggests that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit interact and act in unison and perfect harmony. They live and act as one God, in a profound and deep unity.

Let us consider in two points the relevance of the mystery of the Holy Trinity to our faith, life, and service.

**1.** Through the sacrifice of God, the Son, the mercy of God, the Father, and the indwelling and guidance of God the Holy Spirit we are called to be in ‘communion’ with one another, to be attuned to each other, to live and act in harmony, as one.

The Church, the Body of Christ, is called to be the earthly manifestation of this oneness, harmony, and unity expressed through the distinct gifts, roles, and expressions of her ‘members.’ As unique individuals who are gathered into the Church from all racial, ethnic, cultural, social, economic, and educational backgrounds, representing all genders, age groups, and personal characteristics, we, who have been saved by the sacrifice of the Son, embraced by the grace of the Father, and filled by the Holy Spirit are to live and display the unity and harmony of the Holy Trinity.

This is also a call to come to terms with the widespread malady of modern-day Christianity with its hyper-individualistic ‘Me, myself and God’ mentality, its perception and expectation of the Church as a ‘Spiritual-Feel-Good’ Centre, and the free-for-all, non-committed, undemanding ‘Internet-Christianity’. The mystery of the Trinity teaches us about personal relationships which are complete and complementary. As members of one body, the Body of Christ, we can exist and function only together, in personal relationships, interacting, and working in harmony and unity.

As believers, we are insufficient and inefficient on our own. Left to our own devices we inevitably deteriorate and decline. When we look after only ourselves and see others (persons and institutions) as resources for our self-fulfillment and self-enrichment, we degenerate. God created us as social beings, and consequently, we can truly grow and flourish as individuals in communion with others, in complementary and harmonious relationships. This is true when it comes to our spiritual life. The call we received through Jesus Christ was a call to enter into a relationship with God and into the family of God.

**2.** The other lesson we may consider from the mystery of the Holy Trinity is that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were and are givers and not takers. They reached out to humankind and us personally with the intention of giving and sharing their love, grace, truth, forgiveness, promise, and purpose with us. God gave us the Son, the Son gave for us His life, and the Holy Spirit gives us clarity, guidance, and spiritual gifts.

By birth, we are naturally inclined to be takers and as we grow into adulthood, our propensity for taking becomes a major driving force in our lives, both on a personal and collective level. Even as born-again Christians, we are inclined to look at and judge the Church, our Congregation, based on what it can give to us and what we can gain from it. That is one of the main reasons people become ‘church-hoppers’ and ‘church-shoppers’. The mystery of the Holy Trinity invites us to recalibrate our thinking and learn to become givers and not takers. We are called to adjust our attitude and intentions so that our perception of the Church, and our Congregation, would be dominated by the questions, like ‘What can I give to my Church, how can I make a difference, how can I contribute to the life and ministry of the Body of Christ?’ Just imagine if our Congregations would be populated with people asking these questions!

The strangest thing is, when we give, we begin to receive, too! We begin to grow spiritually; we begin to experience the riches and abundance of blessings without chasing them. This is how things work according to God’s design.

The mystery of the Holy Trinity – as much as we can understand it - serves as a model for a relationship characterized by unity and harmony, while maintaining distinct qualities and features. It also models for us the attitude of giving, as the fundamental approach to live in this relationship.

As we celebrate Trinity Sunday, let us reflect on the relationships God has called us and our perceptions of and attitude towards each other and the Church. If we fall short of what God desires from us, let us commit to making the necessary adjustments and pray for God’s mercy and help.

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## Answering the Call

The UCJCI-CIRMC would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Thomas Mason on his ordination at the Calvin Presbyterian Church, North Bay, Ontario, Canada. Rev. Mason, with his wife, Terry, was an active member of the former George Town Charge for several years, serving as commissioned Lay Pastor at the South Sound United Church and participating in the 2019 Synod of the UCJCI in that capacity.



Originally from Scotland, Rev. Mason made his home and resided in Grand Cayman with his family for many years, working in a managerial position in the hospitality industry. It was during those years that he embarked on pursuing a degree in Theology. In 2018 he received a Master's in Theology and Master's in Divinity in 2020 from Knox College, University of Toronto. Pursuing such goals was never a self-serving, intellectual enterprise for Rev. Tom, as he intended to put to good use his qualifications and seek full-time pastoral ministry wherever God would call him to serve.

Rev. Mason will begin pastoral ministry in the two-point Pastoral Charge of Elmvale and Knox Flos Presbyterian Churches, Ontario, Canada on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2022. We wish God's richest blessings on him and Terry as they embark on this new chapter in their life and ministry.



Elmvale  
Presbyterian  
Church



Knox Flos  
Presbyterian  
Church

## Be Prepared!



Forecasters at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center are predicting above-average hurricane activity for 2022 — which would make it the seventh consecutive above-average hurricane season. It is our hope and prayer that we will be spared again from the devastation of a storm. Nevertheless, it is time for all of us and our congregations to make the necessary steps and ready ourselves for all eventualities.

In addition to the annual, government-issued hurricane preparedness guidelines to aid us, we also have the 'Crisis Preparedness and Response Capability Guidelines for Congregations and Council' document prepared by the UCJCI to assist us in this process. The leadership and membership of the CIRMC are strongly encouraged to make every effort necessary in their local context to satisfy the requirements outlined in the document. It is also advisable to take the necessary precautionary steps and prepare our households by stocking up on the basics to avoid getting caught up in the typical pre-storm rush on the supermarkets and hardware stores.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 11 (Saturday)  
**Lay Leaders Certificate Course Training**– 9:00 am-2:00 pm via Zoom  
**Women's Fellowship Retreat** (see flyer above)

June 12. (Sunday) Trinity Sunday

June 16 (Thursday)  
**Lay Leaders Certificate Course Training**– 6:00 pm-8:00 pm via Zoom

June 19 (Sunday) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
**FATHER'S DAY**



on Radio Cayman 89.9  
 every Sunday at 7:45 am  
**June 12, 2022**  
 Rev. Otto Menko

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Cayman  
Church Sports  
Outreach  
C.C.S.O

# FCA Cayman Sports Symposium



Are you a COACH who is motivated to take your athletes to another level? Are you a PASTOR, a Youth leader, Ministry leader, longing to see eternal change in your communities?

This event is for you! See you there!

COME  
see and learn

EVERY Coach and Athlete  
EVERY Family  
EVERY Community

GO  
reach EVERY one



**Date:** June 25

**Time:** 4pm. - 6pm.

**Cost:** FREE

**Location:** First Assembly of God  
195 Old Crewe Road

George Town, Grand Cayman

**Contact:** Yolanda Whitaker  
ywhitaker@360globalsport.com

345-917-4832



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