



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

December 01, 2022

SEASON OF ADVENT

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 48

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

Advent 2 – PEACE

Just Jesus – God's Anointed Hope

The Season of Advent reminds us of the importance of spiritual preparedness, of the readying of our hearts and minds for the life transforming presence of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Rev. Euthman Wray

On the 1st Sunday in Advent, we lit the candle of Hope in our churches as a reminder that as followers of Jesus Christ we are the people of hope.

Please read: Isaiah 11:1-10 & Luke 4:14-22a

On the 2nd Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of Peace. Jesus' birth was announced by a great company of angels saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14)

The familiar lines from one of our favorite carols (O Holy Night!), exclaim: "A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!!" Finally, the fulfilment of a hope that was long expressed, for the Promised Messiah who was expected to come and offer liberation and salvation to God's chosen. This was the sign of His birth and the fulfilment of hope!! Israel had been waiting for a weary world to rejoice. And then, over yonder, breaks a new and glorious morn. Many of the early witnesses and participants responded with much anticipation. He of whom the prophets spoke was here! It was a thrilling hope!

But knowing all too well our sinful nature we may wonder if peace is possible at all. Wars, fights, conflicts, anxieties and stresses of all kinds mar our human existence on every possible level and there seems to be no respite from their destructive force.

One Gospel writer, much earlier, echoed similar sentiments in reference to this Jesus as the fulfilment of that hope:

Today we are reminded that there is peace that transcends all understanding and that it is available to all of us through faith in Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:7). It is the kind of peace that the world cannot give, a peace that is more than simply the absence of conflict, worry and stress. It is God's peace that brings a sense of contentment and gratitude; a sense of clarity and purpose; a sense of responsibility and mission even in the worst of circumstances.

"14 Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region... 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." ...21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4: 14 & 18 – 19, 21)

Let us open ourselves today for Jesus and for the peace He offers to us. Let us do this for our own sake and for those around us who need it so desperately.

Here, the text points out that Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One. The Greek word Christ is the same as the Hebrew word Messiah, the Anointed One.

"And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:7)

Luke later indicated that the Holy Spirit came on Jesus for a purpose: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." (Acts 10:38)



Isaiah the prophet had foretold, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9: 6)

Our faith expression is not just about rehearsing the story; nor is it about commemorating the advent; it is not even about

singing the heralds; It is about encountering the anointed Jesus! In fact, the many encounters with this anointed Jesus in His various expressions affirmed that He was and still is the Anointed Hope. From the Lukan text we observe some encounters with Jesus and the difference He made:

This Jesus is anointed to Preach Good News to the poor: And who might be the poor? The meek the humble? Elsewhere He had said, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* (Mt. 5:3). Those rich in possessions, property, and pride, yet display an inner lack, and unquenchable need, to them the fulness of the Good News of the Gospel as presented by the anointed Jesus, brings fulfilment and satisfaction. Are you poor today? Do you lack? The anointed Jesus fulfils!

The anointed Jesus Heals the broken-hearted. And who are the broken-hearted? Those who are disappointed, dislocated, destitute, diseased and dis-eased!!

In Mark 5:24–34, Jesus encountered a woman destitute with a despairing disease that dislocated her socially, and financially, maybe family-impacting, and left her lonely even within a crowd. Yet just by an encounter with the anointed Jesus – what a transforming difference she experienced, To be called daughter (v. 34) signifies acceptance, restoration and much hope. Are you distressed, or brokenhearted? Come to Jesus. He will give you rest. Note too, Jesus heals broken hearts, but He also heals broken bodies, even broken lives as well!

Jesus is anointed to proclaim liberty to the captives. And who might the captives be? To be captive is to exist devoid and denied of one’s freedom. It is beyond the physical prison doors; but includes one’s limitedness to soar, to achieve, to fulfil a purpose; simply to be!! This anointed Jesus bursts every and any kind of chain which belittles and stymies any growth, development, and fulfilment of purpose. He liberates and emancipates!! *“The prisoner leaps to lose his chains...!”*

Jesus is anointed to comfort those who mourn: And who are the mourners? Maybe it is more, *“Wow, how many are the mourners!!”* Luke 7: 11 – 16 accounts for Jesus’ intervention in the life of a widow who lost her only son. To have lost both husband and then son does have the capacity to delve one into serious mourning, perhaps a sense of hopelessness. After all, all breadwinners and later, hope, through her son...were gone! Forever! Jesus made a tremendous difference!! Are you grieving or mourning? Jesus wants to comfort you! He wants to give beauty for ashes if you feel you are in the quagmire of life! (Isaiah 61:3 entreats, *“To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair.”*)

Friends, there is a need for hope today. In these and differently difficult times, hope has been placed in persons, leaderships, predictions, governments, institutions and possessions. At times even in self and self-actualizations. My friend, these have a track- record of failure. Hope that is real, long-lasting and eternally enduring, is found in the Jesus, of which this season reminds us: the Anointed Hope!

The quoted text concludes with an indication that: the anointed Jesus came to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. What does that mean? In the book of Leviticus, the Lord prescribed a special year, a Jubilee, in which debts would be forgiven, lands restored to their original owners, and the liberation of slaves. (Lev. 25). Jesus’ coming is this renewed and reinterpreted declaration, as characterized by God’s grace, redemption, and deliverance (Rom. 8:2; Gal 5:1; 3:22; Col. 2:13-14; Heb 4:9-10) Not just a year but a time, His time, any time, every time. It is now! – to experience all that the anointed Jesus offers to a weary world, life and heart.

Will you receive Him this year? This season? Today? A new and glorious morn has been every believer who encountered this Anointed hope. It too can be yours. Amen.



The Annual Thanksgiving Service of the Cayman Council Women’s Fellowship was held on Sunday afternoon, November 27, 2022, at the William Pouchie Memorial Church in North Side, with forty-two (42) persons in attendance.

In his sermon based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 Rev. Euthman Wray emphasized the importance of ‘thanks-living’ as the daily attitude of the People of God. Thanks-living is more than casual thanksgiving, as it permeates the very being, the existence and all the activities of the Children of God. Thanks-living is not determined by circumstances, situations, or feelings but by a fundamental acknowledgement of God’s constant, free-flowing love and grace received and passed on freely and joyfully.

In celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Cayman Council Women’s Fellowship, the following persons received special recognition:



Mrs. Francine Jackson, for her selfless contribution over 60 years, serving as President General of the National Council Women’s Fellowship, also as President of the Cayman Council Women’s Fellowship, and President at Branch Level.

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, for over 20 years of dedicated service to the Executive Council of the Cayman Council Women’s Fellowship, as spiritual guide, leader, and teacher.





Mrs. Ernestine Powell, for over 20 years of committed and dedicated service to the Cayman Council Women's Fellowship. She served as Treasurer and Secretary at Council level and President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer at Branch Level.



Rev. Rohan Forrester, for over 10 years of dedicated service to the Executive Council of the Cayman Council Women's Fellowship, especially for his insights and encouragements.

Current President of the Cayman Council Women's Fellowship, Mrs. Jacynthia Anderson, expressed gratitude to the members of the Women's Fellowship for their selfless and tireless service, encouraging them to continue living up to the Women's Fellowship motto, 'By Love Serve'.

The tokens of Appreciation were presented by Mrs. Carol Ann Ebanks, Immediate Past President of the Cayman Council Women's Fellowship.



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Union Sunday

Union Sunday is the celebration of the formation of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. On December 1, 1965, Congregationalists and Presbyterians joined and formed the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman. In December 1992, the Disciples of Christ followed suit, and the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands was born. Union Sunday is observed annually on the first Sunday in December.



December 6, 2021

Cayman Thanksgiving is a weekend-long national celebration honoring Caymanian heritage, culture, way of life and everything Caymanian. Observed annually on the first Sunday in December -marking the end of hurricane season- it is also an opportunity to stop and express gratitude.

2nd Sunday in Advent

December 04, 2022

Just Jesus – God's Anointed Hope

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

This Shoot from Jesse's line is a fulfilment of many a prophetic promise – from as early as Adam. A stump is usually the dead portion (non-living) remaining after a tree has been felled. But by God's Spirit, that which was cut down brought new life, a life infused with Hope in God's mercy.

- We who are non-Jews also have hope for redemption through Jesus, God's anointed Son. Jesus brings Justice for all.



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presents an

Inaugural Lecture

TOPIC:
**THE ROLE OF LAY PERSONS IN
MINISTERIAL FORMATION**



Thur. Dec. 1, 2022
4:30 p.m.
UTCWI Chapel and Zoom

Meeting ID: 821 5769 5838
Passcode: 728986

Presenter:
Mrs. Karen Francis
UCJCI Associate Warden/Tutor

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 04. (Sunday) 2nd Sunday of Advent (PEACE)
Also Union Sunday and Cayman Thanksgiving
Girl's Brigade Carol Service – 4:30 pm Savannah UC

December 05. (Monday)
SASEP Christmas Programme – 6:00 pm Savannah UC

December 11. (Sunday) 3rd Sunday of Advent (JOY)



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

December 04, 2022
Rev. Euthman Wray

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