



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

December 14, 2022

SEASON OF ADVENT

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 50

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

Advent 4 – LOVE

During the first three Sundays, -and weeks- of Advent, Christians around the world focused on the themes of Hope, Peace, and Joy as essential aspects of our faith. Now that we have arrived at the final week of this season, we complete our spiritual journey and preparation for Christmas by focusing on Love.

The miracle of Christmas is the wonderful love of God which was poured out into this world and into every heart that is ready to receive Jesus. He is the love of God in human form, the Love Incarnate, the embodiment of God's love.

The love of God, Jesus, breathes life into the deepest part of our broken and wayward hearts. It changes and transforms us into a new being, a new creation.

How comforting and empowering to know, embrace, and be embraced by this amazing love. Amid our loneliness, confusion, pain, grief, hopelessness, and disillusionment He comes and in Him, we find acceptance, understanding, healing, hope, peace, and joy. Jesus is, indeed, the greatest gift of all! The priceless gift, the gift that is freely given, the gift that is so much needed!

Indeed, for these reasons, we celebrate! We celebrate His coming. We celebrate His rich, abundant, and unconditional love not only on Christmas day but every day of our lives.

*“For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish
but have eternal life.”
(John 3:16)*



4th Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022

Emmanuel – Our Visible Hope

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7
Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

During times of crises, to whom do we turn? God's sign to Ahaz was fulfilled despite Ahaz' fear and apparent disobedience. Joseph's faith in the long ago promise allowed him to stick with Mary when it seemed she had forsaken him.

- What are the visible signs of God's promise being fulfilled in our lives?
- Will we trust God when life (seems to) fail us?

Emmanuel – God with us

The angel of the Lord instructed Joseph in a dream to name the newborn child Emmanuel, which Matthew explains as meaning “God with us”. Jesus was the very presence of God the Father in our world. As John says in his Prologue: “And the Word became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14). God appeared in human form! This is a rather shocking message of the Gospel.

God is still with us. God's presence did not end with the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. According to Matthew 28:20, Jesus' last words were: “I am with you always – to the very end of time”. Over two thousand years, right down to the present, Jesus continues to be Emmanuel.

He is with us through His Holy Spirit. Where we are, what we encounter, Jesus is there; He is with us! His presence is a caring, forgiving, correcting, comforting, encouraging, and empowering presence.

His presence is also all-inclusive! He is also with others. Yes, with those ‘others’. Furthermore, He wants to be with ‘others’ through us. But can He be? Do we let Him clothe Himself in our body, listen through our ears, speak through our voice, touch through our hands, give and love from our hearts?

Through you and me, through us who are the Spiritual Body of Christ, the Church, and the community of Believers, Jesus intends to be visibly present. The effectiveness of His presence depends on our conscious walking with Him in the details of our daily lives. Emmanuel, “God with us”. With me, with you, with ‘others’, with all.

WCC Christmas Message

Source: WCC (oikoumene.org)



In a special Christmas message, the World Council of Churches (WCC) reflects on the love of Christ—a love that is for all.

“The joyful message of the first Christmas states that the love of God in Christ is meant indeed for all people, for the whole of creation,” states the message. This good news is especially poignant in our time characterized with fear.

Fear of climate emergency, food shortages, military conflicts and the threat of nuclear disasters are weighing heavily on the minds and hearts of many around the world these days.

According to WCC Acting General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr. Ioan Sauca, fear is behind the increase of hate speech, the proliferation of conspiracy theories, violations of human rights, and the threats to democracy.

In the midst of this current global upheaval we hear the encouraging words of the angel, announcing “Do not be afraid.” These words, says Dr. Sauca, “reflect the ancient Christian teaching that faith and love drive out fear.” We are called “to have faith in the divine promise of peace on earth and God’s goodwill towards humanity.”

He then asks, “Who are people of goodwill? As Christians we are aware and confess that our very call and vocation as Christ’s disciples are to be people of goodwill, agents of reconciliation, and peacemakers, living out Christ’s love for the world.”

As such, we are journeying with people of other faiths, cultures, backgrounds, and especially the vulnerable, seeking the promise of peace, justice, reconciliation and unity.

“At the first Christmas, God came to us in Jesus of Nazareth that we may be reconciled with God and become servants of reconciliation,” writes Dr. Sauca.

The WCC is a fellowship of 350 member churches in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 500 million Christians and including most of the world’s Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches.

The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize Him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.

(Henry Nouwen)

Pray for the
Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of
Jesus Christ
in the
hearts, homes, nations, and
the World of Humankind



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15. (Thursday)

Cayman National Choir Concert – 7:00 pm Elmslie MUC

December 17. (Saturday)

Christmas Community Meal – 10:30 am JGMC

December 18. (Sunday) **4th Sunday of Advent (LOVE)**

Christmas Musical – 10:30 am Elmslie MUC

Children’s Christmas Programme – 9:00 am SAV UC

Christmas Cantata – 9:00 am William Pouchie UC

December 24. (Saturday)

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service - 6:30 pm Elmslie UC

December 25. (Sunday) **Christmas Day Services**

8:30 am – South Sound UC

8:45 am – Robert Young UC

9:00 am – Savannah UC

9:00 am – William Pouchie Memorial UC

9:30 am – Gun Bay UC (**Christmas Youth Production**)

10:30 am – Elmslie UC

11:00 am – John Gray MUC

11:00 am – Webster Memorial UC (**Christmas Cantata**)

11:00 am – East End UC (**Children/Adult Production**)



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

December 18, 2022
Savannah UC-Mr. Noel Wallace

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