



CAYMAN ISLANDS
REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE!

DECEMBER 4, 2019

SEASON OF Advent

December 1, 2019 – December 24, 2019

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2nd Sunday of Advent: PEACE

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.

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.

On this 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)

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.

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 can not 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.

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GIRLS' BRIGADE CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



WHAT CAN WE GIVE?

Over one hundred girls and officers of the Girls' Brigade in the Cayman Islands gathered at the Savannah United Church for their Christmas Carol Service on Sunday, December 1, 2019.

All five Companies were represented and participated in response to the theme for the Service 'What can we give?'

Deputy Chair of the National Girls' Brigade Council, Officer Wendy Stenning warmly welcomed all present which included the Girls' Brigade President – Mrs. Iva Good, Vice President -Mrs. Marisa Crawford and Chair of Girls' Brigade National Council, Ms. Debbie McLaughlin.



The Companies in rapt attention during the service

Narrator, Captain Melanie Ebanks-Jackson and the National Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble- Bloomfield invited each girl and the Companies to consider what they could give to the Baby Jesus.

North Side Company offered the gift of **HOPE** – using the cross to symbolize their gift. George Town Company did an excellent recitation of 'Let there be Peace on earth' as they offered the gift of **PEACE** symbolized by a giant dove.

The bells of Christmas resounded from the Bodden Town Company as they offered the gift of **JOY** and they were accompanied on the organ by Mr. Denver Bloomfield as they led the congregation in the singing of 'Joy to the World'.

Savannah Company gave each girl a heart to symbolize their gift of **LOVE**. A special offering for the Bahamas Girls' Brigade as relief following the passage of Hurricane Dorian in the summer was received during the singing of 'Love Came Down at Christmas'.

The girls were then invited by the National Chaplain to write their name and the name of Jesus on the heart and to elevate the hearts during the blessing of the offering.

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.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6 (Friday)

YLNE Youth Christmas Dinner – 7 pm NS Civic Centre
Men’s Fellowship Breakfast -7:30 am Elmslie

Dec. 8. (Sunday)

2nd Sunday of Advent (PEACE)

Christmas Cantata – 10 am Savannah
Male Voice Choir Christmas Cantata – 7 pm Elmslie
Christmas Cantata – 7 pm East End (by Savannah choir)

December 9 (Monday)

Council Executive Meeting 5:00 pm Council Office
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SASEP Children’s Christmas - 6 pm Savannah

December 10 (Tuesday)

Cayman National Choir concert - 7 pm Elmslie



December 08: Rev. Louis Sully
December 15: Ms. Angela Martins
December 22: Rev. Donovan Myers
December 29: Rev. Rohan Forrester

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The congregation presenting their hearts to God during the blessing of the offering.

SELF was the gift offered by the West Bay Company. This gift was symbolized by hands which were handed out to each girl. Rozalyn Thompson-Ebanks costumed as Mary beautifully read the Magnificat from Luke 1:46-55.

‘I give myself away’ was the song of dedication as the service closed. The girls, officers and parents enjoyed a time of fellowship in the hall after the service.



Fellowship in the Church Hall following the service

Prayer

*Heavenly
Father,
we thank you*



for the wonder and true meaning of Christmas. May joy fill our hearts and souls as we celebrate your love incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Help us to look with expectation to what You will do in our life and fill us with Your joy! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.