



### SEASON OF ADVENT

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: JOY

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent we lit the candle of Peace as a reminder that we are the people of a special kind of peace, one that transcends all understanding.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> candle today reminds us that we are also the people of joy. Joy is fundamentally different from happiness. Happiness is a temporary feeling dependent on favorable circumstances and events that seldom last and can change quickly.

Joy, on the contrary, is a choice, a decision of our inner being, a recognition and appreciation of God's personal presence in our life, the treasuring of our relationship with God. In addition to this it is also the recognition of God's many favors to us, the celebration of God's goodness and love, forgiveness and mercy, God's gifts, promises and countless blessings.

In our fallen world almost everything is about chasing the promise of happiness in some way or another and many lives are ruined directly or indirectly in its relentless pursuit. Let us remember not to fall into the same trap.

Let us also remember those who find difficult to experience this joy because of their loss, suffering or circumstances. Ours is the sacred duty not only to have but also to share this joy – in sensitive and meaningful ways.

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"*  
(Philippians 4:4)



*The candles of Hope, Peace and Joy.*

### Youth Leaders National Executive Youth Christmas Dinner

On December 6, 2019 over 60 young people from our congregations in the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council gathered for a formal Christmas Dinner at the Craddock Ebanks Civic Centre in North Side to celebrate Christmas together. Leaders of the National Executive and other volunteers beautifully decorated the venue and planned the programme for the evening. Rev. Euthman Wray, Vice-Chair of Children and Youth MAT encouraged all those present to keep the true meaning of Christmas in focus in our lives.



*A game of Christmas Carols Trivia*

## BRIEF COUNCIL REPORT

COUNCIL MEETING – held on December 9, 2019

Council approved the 2020 budget but with the following goals and realities:

### GOALS:

- i. **Radical Evangelism**
- ii. **Encourage Missional and Healthy Congregations in Council**
- iii. **Equipping the Lay Leaders**
- iv. **Ministering to Children and Youth**
- v. **Training Youth Peer Leader**
- vi. **Advocacy**

### REALITIES:

- I. The financial contribution from Congregations has remained the same for the past five years
- II. Congregations have indicated that they are unable to increase their contributions to Council
- III. The budget has a slight surplus due to the fact that there will be no Convocation in Jamaica or in the Cayman Islands in 2020
- IV. There is an increase in the cost of leadership training based on the UCJCI new Lay Leadership training mandate
- V. The work on the Prospect Youth Centre is 70% complete –electrical, air-conditioning, plumbing and fencing still need to be done
- VI. Forecasting the hosting of the UCJCI 2021 Synod - savings from 2020 are non-existent

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>CI \$ 652,196.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>CI \$ 650,682.00</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>CI \$ 1,514.00</b>

### *Preparing for Christmas with song and music*

The Savannah United Church Choir directed by Mr. Noel Wallace, Music Minister presented their annual Christmas Cantata entitled "A Christmas Celebration". This was a collection of works ranging from 12 century Latin Hymns to Traditional and Contemporary arrangements of favourite carols. The presentation culminated with an arrangement of "Joy to the World", which celebrates its 200th anniversary (1719-2019). The melodious singing by the augmented choir drew tremendous applause (even encore) from the packed out congregation.



Continuing a tradition of many years the Cayman Islands Male Voice Choir presented their annual Christmas concert on December 8, 2019 at Elmslie Memorial Church which included instrumental and voice solos beside the choir pieces.



*The Cayman Islands Male Voice Choir*

### WORSHIP THE LORD

-Radio Program-

**December 15:** Ms. Angela Martins  
**December 22:** Rev. Donovan Myers  
**December 29:** Moderator-Right Rev. Dr. Cowans

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 12 (Thursday)

**Cayman National Choir concert** - 7 pm Elmslie

December 14 (Saturday)

**Candlelight Service** – 6 pm Robert Young

Dec. 15. (Sunday)

**3rd Sunday of Advent (JOY)**

**Children's Programme** – 10 am John Gray

**Youth Christmas** – 10 am Savannah

**Children's Christmas** – 11 am Webster

**Children's Christmas** – 5 pm South Sound

**Children's Christmas** – 6 pm William Pouchie

**Children's Christmas** – 6:30 pm Elmslie

**Cantata at the Crighton's** – 7:30 pm (by Savannah choir)

December 16 (Monday)

**After School Christmas** – 6 pm John Gray