

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL WEEKLY UPDATE

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The Season of Advent

With the season of Advent, the Church begins another Liturgical Year. The Liturgical or Church Year is an annual cycle of seasons focusing on the fundamental tenets of our Christian faith through the usage of scriptural readings, colors and vestments.

The seasons of the Church year - in order - are:

- <u>Advent</u> the time of preparation for the birth of Jesus
- <u>Christmas</u> the celebration of the birth of Jesus
- <u>Epiphany</u> the baptism of Jesus and also his manifestation to the world
- <u>Lent</u> the time of preparation and fasting leading to Easter
- <u>Easter</u> the commemoration of Jesus' sacrifice and the celebration of his resurrection
- <u>Pentecost</u> the celebration of the presence and work of Jesus through the Holy Spirit

December signals the coming of Christmas and so our preparations begin. There are gifts to buy, cards to send, menus to plan for, people to see. The four Sundays – and weeks - of Advent remind us of the importance of the spiritual aspect of this preparation, the readying of our hearts and minds, not only for the celebration of Jesus' birth (1^{st} coming) but also for His future return in glory (2^{nd} coming) when He will set up His kingdom, judge His enemies, and reward the faithful, both living and dead.

Advent is full of symbolism and meaning, which is also reflected by the themes of the four Sundays/weeks.

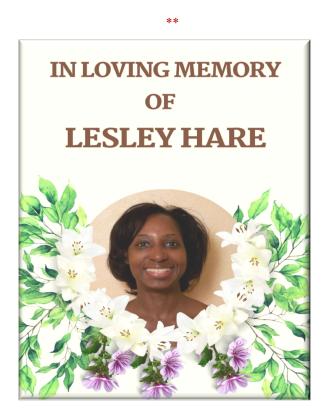
1st Sunday - HOPE 2nd Sunday - PEACE 3rd Sunday - JOY 4th Sunday - LOVE



Advent 1 – The Sunday of HOPE

On the 1st Sunday in Advent we light the candle of Hope in our churches as a reminder that as followers of Jesus Christ we are the people of hope who can boldly approach God's throne of grace with our needs (Heb. 4:16), who can overcome great obstacles (1 John 5:4) and who – because of God's promises - can look into the future with complete confidence.

"May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ms. Lesley Hare, Communication and Information Technology Coordinator who worked at the Synod Office (Kingston, Jamaica) since December 2017. One of her signature production was the UCJCI update that was distributed in our RMC every week. We give God thanks for her life and witness and pray for God's comforting presence on her immediate and extended family as well as on all those who worked closely with her in the past few years. May her soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her.

