



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## WEEKLY UPDATE

December 02, 2020

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 48

### Advent 2 - The Sunday of Peace

### Women's Fellowship Thanksgiving

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 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)

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.

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)



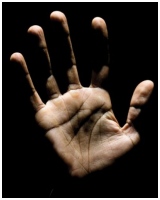
The **Women's Fellowship of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council** had its Annual Thanksgiving Service on November 29, 2020. The service was held at the East End United Church, with approximately fifty persons in attendance. Seven of the nine Congregations were represented in the service. Guest Preacher, the Rev. Mary Graham challenged the Congregation in a very moving sermon under the theme ' In Everything Give Thanks'. The Liturgist, Mrs. Jennifer Dilbert ably led the service, with Ms. Kathy Jackson providing the musical accompaniment. Mrs. Tesha Thomas, Vice-President read the scripture and the President, Mrs. Carol Ann Ebanks welcomed all persons and made a presentation to the Guest Preacher. The Chair of Council, Rev Rohan Forrester gave the Commissioning and Benediction. The Ladies of East End provided sumptuous refreshments after the service.



# A VOICE CRIES OUT

Advent Reflections 2020

Article by Rev. Dr. Peter Cruchley (CWM)



CWM offers these reflections for Advent at the close of a turbulent year. Advent is itself a time of turmoil and hope. We use it to prepare for the coming of the Christ-child into our realities and to attend to the prophetic voices indicating where this child will be born, for whom and what new worlds he will institute.

The theme also connects us to CWM's new mission theology which underlines the urgency of a confessing witness. A witness which speaks up and out for Jesus present in the injustices of our generation bringing forth change long prepared in the heart of God.

This is to read our world in the prophetic way of Isaiah who so often accompanies us in Advent. These reflections come modelled on and mindful of these words from Isaiah 40: 3-6:

3 *A voice of one calling:*

*"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.*

4 *Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.*

5 *And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.*

*For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

6 *A voice says, "Cry out."*

*And I said, "What shall I cry?"*

The voices who cry out here name how and where Christ is coming to work again for the transformation of a world of mountainous inequalities, grounded in the upheavals of violence and repression. Voices from India, Taiwan, the Philippines, Europe and indeed the earth and the body are joining with Zechariah and if their voices are heeded: 'By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1: 78-79)

So, we sit with these speakers who respond to Isaiah's question: What shall I cry? and are challenged to raise our own voices in the same way for the kind of peace which makes angels sing.

*(The booklet is available as a free pdf file from the CWM website.)*

their resources of money, people, skills and insights globally to carry out God's mission locally. The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is a member of the CWM.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 04. (Friday)

**Post-Covid Link Up Council Youth Event** – 7:00pm  
Elmslie Hall

December 05. (Saturday)

**Men's Fell. Breakfast** – 7:30am – Elmslie church hall

**December 06. (Sunday) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (PEACE)**

Also **Union Sunday** and **Cayman Thanksgiving**



on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

**December 06, 2020**  
Right Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans

**POST COVID  
YOUTH LINK UP**

**FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 4, 2020**

Youth Leaders' National Executive

At Elmslie Memorial  
Church Hall

@  
7:00pm



- 1 *God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.*
- 2 *Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,*
- 3 *though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.*
- 10 *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."*
- 11 *The Lord Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

*Psalms 46:1-3, 10-11*



**The Council for World Mission** (CWM) is a worldwide partnership of Christian churches. The 32 members are committed to sharing

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