



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

ADVENT: The Centrality of Christ in the Season

December 08, 2021

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UCJCI 42nd SYNOD THEME 2021 – Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)

Advent 3 - The Sunday of Joy



Coming Sunday's focus:
Energy and Clarity

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 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 3rd 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, the recognition and appreciation of God's presence in our lives, 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 it 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 – and do so in a sensitive and meaningful way.

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



The energy, passion and clarity which characterized the message of John must be emulated by all of us. At the very center of our call is the obligation to defend the gospel. The demand is to bear not only good fruits, but good fruits that impact other people's lives in significant ways must be fostered during this Advent Season.

Ethel Marie Farrington (nee Ebanks)

18th August 1927 – 30th November 2021



From birth and baptism, Ethel was raised in the Presbyterian (now United) Church. She became an avid Christian and faithful member, becoming a staunch and full communicant member on 7 July 1946 and remaining so until her death.

In her youth, she attended Sunday School and attended and led Christian Endeavour, sang in the choir, played the organ, then taught Sunday School. When the Girls' Guildry (now the Girls' Brigade) was founded in 1946 she trained and became an assistant to Miss Beulah Smith. The Company was formally recognized by the Mission Board in Jamaica in 1947. Vacation Bible School was first instituted in the sixties and Ethel was there to help. When the Church started the Afterschool programme she volunteered again, helping with tutoring and contributing refreshments.

When the Women's Guild (now Women's Fellowship) was formed, Ethel became a founding member and served in every sphere. In West Bay, throughout the Island and internationally

she served: as an ordinary member, Secretary, Treasurer, and President. Whatever the Fellowship was doing, Ethel was there, if at all possible: meetings, visitations, concerts, dinner sales, bake sales, garden parties, cleaning the Church. She lived true to their motto "By Love Serve".

In 1966, the then United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman welcomed women as Elders and Ethel was one of the first at John Gray Memorial United Church (West Bay), along with Mrs. Burdell Jackson, to be ordained. In 1972 the Church's regime for Eldership was changed from ordination (for life) to consecration for three-year terms, and with Ethel's passing now closes that chapter in the Church's history, she being the last Life Elder on the Island. Eldership brought additional responsibilities, but Ethel willingly shouldered them along with everything else she was doing.

Ethel took seriously the Biblical command to "love your neighbor as yourself". She encouraged commitment and service to Christ, visited those who were sick or bereaved, took relief for the needy, transported those who did not have their own means, and telephoned the lonely.

Most teachers would shudder at the thought of doing their job with no training, while driving the bus and running the canteen, all without pay. But Ethel did it! She was among those who started the project now known as the Lighthouse School. Not only did she teach those first youngsters, but she also transported them to and from 'school' in her own car and provided refreshments for them. Even today some of those same persons remember "Miss Ethel" fondly and ask after her wellbeing. One of her favourite sayings regarding those experiencing less fortunate circumstances was "there but for the grace of God go I".

Ethel was never one to hold back when she thought she was right. Thus, in March 1957 hers was one of the signatures on the ground-breaking petition presented to the then Administrator requesting the right of women to vote, in which the Women's Guild played a pivotal role. When the election was held in 1959, she was among the first women to vote. While never having run for or held political office, she was a pioneer in the political life of this country, helping to pave the way for the women of today to become Members of Parliament, Speaker of the House, and Cabinet Ministers.

We say goodbye to a frugal, strong, faithful, caring Christian who will be missed by her family, Church family, and many friends.

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission expresses sincere condolences to the family of the late Mrs Ethel Marie Farrington. May her soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her.

John Gray Memorial United Church

On December 5th, 2021, John Gray Memorial Church celebrated the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Union Sunday, and

Cayman Thanksgiving with a special focus on those serving in the community. In the week leading up to the service, members of the Congregation delivered fruit baskets to the West Bay Health Centre, the West Bay Fire Station, and the West Bay Police Station, as signs of appreciation for their hard work, especially in these challenging times. The special prayers offered during the service were an expression of the Congregation's commitment to lift up the members of these essential services at a time when their work is more difficult and more important than ever. It was a true blessing to have representatives of the Health Centre led by the Team Lead, Public Health Nurse Faith Campbell-Rowe, in attendance of the worship service.

Savannah After School Christmas

The Savannah United After School (SASEP) held their annual Christmas Programme on Monday December 5. Despite several limitations brought on by the pandemic, the students rose to the occasion and gave a stellar performance of the Nativity Story.



The Angel visits the Shepherds



The Shepherds rejoice after seeing Mary and Joseph with the Christ Child



The Magi visits Mary and Joseph and worship bringing gifts



The Cast takes the Curtain Call

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 12. (Sunday) 3rd Sunday of Advent (JOY)

Christmas Production - South Sound UC - 9:00am

Christmas Cantata - Savannah UC - 10:00am

December 18. (Saturday)

Community Christmas Meal - John Gray Memorial UC
11:00am

December 19. (Sunday) 4th Sunday of Advent (LOVE)

Youth Christmas Programme – Savannah UC – 10:00am

Christmas Production - Elmslie Memorial -6:00pm - in the Courtyard



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

December 12, 2021
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

**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



The **John Gray Memorial United Church (West Bay)** is seeking to fill the position of Youth Minister and invites dynamic, highly motivated and qualified candidates to tender their applications.

For more details (job description and remuneration) please contact jgmcminister@gmail.com

If you are sensing a call to this ministry, we invite you to submit your letter of application, curriculum vitae and a brief statement of your faith journey to jgmcminister@gmail.com

WE NEED YOU!!!



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



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