



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

February 23, 2022.

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 08

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

The Transfiguration

By Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield (RDGS-CIRMC)

Please read Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]

In this passage, we read of God's affirming presence and voice as Jesus entered the final phase of His life on earth. The affirmation of Jesus as the chosen Son of God, deserving of our attention can be heard in the words, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

This same voice of God affirmed Jesus at His Baptism. The Baptism marked the beginning of His ministry, and the words were almost similar, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17.)

The glory of God at the Baptism descended in the form of the dove, alighting on the shoulder of Jesus. It was witnessed by John the Baptizer and those who gathered to hear his preaching. At the Transfiguration, Jesus was glorified. His entire being appeared to have undergone a metamorphosis, which resulted in the change of His face and his clothes became dazzling white. Indeed, this glorification provided further proof that Jesus was the Son of God, and the inner circle of Disciples, as sleepy as they were, became the witnesses of the Christophany.

At both the Baptism and Transfiguration, Jesus remained passive and obedient as God's glory and affirmation surrounded Him.

The appearance of Moses and Elijah recalled the history and journey of God with God's people recorded in the Old Testament. On Mount Sinai, God sealed the Covenant with Israel, and here on the Mount of Transfiguration God sealed the Covenant with Jesus for the redemption of all of humanity.

Both figures embodied how God communicated and kept the covenant with God's people through the giving of the Law and the proclamation of the Prophets. The law and the prophets were the mainstay institutions in the life of Israel. They provided order in society and hope, wisdom, and direction in times of uncertainty and crisis.

Moses and Elijah, as representatives of God in the past, provided the witness to Jesus as the fulfilment of the law and the prophets when they appeared with Him on the mountain. Jesus was now the chosen One whom God wanted humanity to

obey and follow as the work of Moses and Elijah would now be superseded by Jesus' redeeming action on the cross.

Peter misunderstood their presence and wanted to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Booths, during which Israel recalled the times when God led the people in the wilderness by the cloud and the fire. (Leviticus 23:39-43).

We note that the Transfiguration has been recognized as one of the five key markers in the life of Jesus; the others being Jesus' Baptism, Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension. The Transfiguration occurred just before the Crucifixion and provided for the Disciples and us a glimpse into eternity.

There were five distinct phases in the transfiguration, namely, Jesus' posture of prayer, the change in the appearance of Jesus' face and clothing, the appearance of Moses and Elijah and their conversation with Jesus, the cloud, and eventually the voice from heaven acclaiming Jesus as the beloved, chosen Son who should be listened to by all of humanity.

Each phase must be recognized for its meaning and purpose.

The posture of prayer was a common one for Jesus. So often in the Gospels, we read of Jesus withdrawing to pray either before or immediately following a powerful moment in His ministry.

Here on the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus knew that the hour was at hand when the purpose for His life would be fulfilled. He also knew that the Disciples could not grasp the magnitude or meaning of His life on earth. Jesus had to seek the presence of God and hence the glory of God changed His face and dazzled His clothing. These apparent external changes reflected the internal actions of obedience and willingness to accept the burden of the sin of humanity.

This must become a point of consideration for us as Christians. Do we spend sufficient time in prayer so that our lives can be transformed? When others see us, do they know that we have been with Jesus? Not because we have to tell them with words or with shining faces but because our very lives reflect a new glory. Are we willing to accept the burden of our faith, especially when faced with the temptations of our day? Or do we succumb to the pressure and walk away from the very moment when God would wish to be most active and present in our lives?

Do we leave the place and posture of prayer and return to the world unchanged and just as conflicted and perplexed as before we prayed?

Let us be reminded that the posture of prayer must be a lifestyle and not an event. The people in Ukraine who we witness kneeling in the snow amid the reality of danger and warfare are not attending a prayer event, they are manifesting deep faith in God to be their help in a time of trouble. Our prayers ought to enable us to come to the place of deep-rooted faith amid the perplexities of life so much so that our witness bring help and hope to others.

We note again the figures of Moses and Elijah, that although Jesus superseded them, their role in the journey of humanity can still apply to us today. Society still needs to abide by the laws for good order to be maintained. The ministry of the prophets still has place and meaning in our lives as God can still choose to reveal God's will and intention through those who are selected and empowered by the Spirit to fulfil that purpose.

The cloud recalled what we read in Exodus 24:16, 'The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai for six days and on the seventh day, God called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. In this conversation with Moses God revealed the law. Moses however did not recognize that he was dazzling following the conversation because he was not transfigured. Jesus on the other hand knew of the transformation that had taken place within Him. Jesus was changed from the inside out.

Sometimes in our own life, God can show up in extraordinary ways to not only get our attention but to provide us with well-needed instructions for living. When we have those encounters, our lives must be changed. The things we used to do, we ought to do them no more.

The voice of affirmation indicated the joy God had in Jesus because of the obedience and willingness to fulfil God's purpose to save humanity. Jesus had spoken of the coming of His death and resurrection eight days before the Transfiguration (Luke 9:22) and He had surrendered to God's will for His life. We need to embrace the attitude of surrendering our will and our way to God and to allow God to guide our steps and our lives, not so much to bring glory to ourselves but to bring glory to God.

In the world today, there are so many persons who seek only for their glory and power, resulting in the neglect of God and the destruction of other people's lives.

Amid the chaos and confusion, let us seek after God in a posture of prayer and let God affirm us so that our transformed life may be a blessing to others and bring glory to God.



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am
February 27, 2022
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

'We pray for peace'

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillett
(to the tune of 'Be still my soul')

We pray for peace, O God of love and justice,
as once again, we face a time of war.
The meek and humble try— amid the crisis—
to love and build, to nurture and restore.
May leaders hear the truth the prophets teach us—
that gifts of peace are worth the struggle for.

We pray for peace, O Christ who calmed the waters—
who stilled the storm, who stilled disciples' fear.
You spoke with love and with amazing power
be with us now when trouble is so near.
May leaders see the miracle you offer—
that words and deeds can calm the nations here.

We pray for peace, O Spirit here among us;
your love emboldens, judges and restrains.
Take any hate and acts of impulse from us;
make leaders wise, amid competing claims.
May we seek peace, O God of love and justice;
may love and mercy be our highest aims.

Anniversary Celebrations Launched

*Used with permission from the George Town Charge
Family News*

The official Launch of Elmslie's Anniversary Celebrations commemorating the building of the church's sanctuary 100 years ago took place on Sunday, 6th February, with a good number of people in attendance.

To kick off the launch, a short history of the church was narrated by **Kimberly Ecclston** in a slideshow which featured vintage photos of the church, followed by the unveiling of the beautiful anniversary logo by one of Elmslie's most senior members, **Nicky Godfrey**, and Elmslie's youngest member, **Zaine Guardado**.



A few of the events which everyone can look forward to in the coming months were highlighted by **Terri Merren**. These events are also printed on bookmarks which were distributed following the service. **Harriet Vassell** read the scripture and **Rev. Chris Mason** delivered a message on building on a *Sure Foundation*. The morning ended with a short fellowship after the service during which Cayman's traditional Swanky drink prepared by **Evelyn Rockett** was enjoyed by all.



‘A New Season’



On February 20, 2022, the John Gray Memorial Church hosted the first of what it hopes will become its second worship service. Dubbed “Fresh Expressions”, the aim is to provide an alternate space for worshippers which is more relaxed, unrestricted and that offers contemporary music.



Over forty worshippers gathered at 4pm on Sunday afternoon and were welcomed into the worship experience with the theme “When God does a New Thing!” based on Isaiah 43. The musicians and worship team skilfully led the gathered people of God to focus on the God who makes all things new. The spoken word was a call to trust the God who not only makes a garden out of an arid place, but a God who can make something out of nothing! With a successful ‘pilot’ behind us, the plan is to host two services in March (13th & 27th) and then, prayerfully, it will become a weekly service on Sundays 4-5 pm as of April!



Congregants and visitors gather following the Anniversary Celebrations Launch on February 6, 2022.

LOVE IS...



The Elmslie Memorial Church’s Annual Valentine Celebration was held on February 18, 2022, under the Theme LOVE IS...

Children and Leaders were given the opportunity to explore love as it is written in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 through the arts, music, scavenger hunt and other games.

In Other News

Two laypersons from our Regional Mission Council - Ms. Angela Martins (Savannah) and Mr. Clive Hinds (South Sound United) - were honored during the 42nd Synod of the UCJCI held in April 2021, for having gone beyond the call of duty and having sacrificed much in contributing to the advancement of the work and witness of the Church. On February 20, 2022, they were presented with their well-deserved awards during the morning worship services of their home Congregations, Savannah United Church and South Sound United Church, respectively.



CWM WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

4th March 2022 Friday @ 18:00pm (SGT)



Calling churches to pray and stand
IN SOLIDARITY WITH
MYANMAR

Kingston 05:00am New York 05:00am London 10:00am Johannesburg 12:00pm Auckland 23:00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 26. (Saturday)

Women's Fellowship Annual Breakfast – 8:00 am at Morritt's Resort (see flyer on the last page)

Training for Lay Leaders Module 1 (Topic 3) – 9:00 am - 2:00pm - via zoom

YLNE Sports Day Planning Meeting – 11am Council Office

February 27. (Sunday) Transfiguration Sunday

March 02. (Wednesday) Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Virtual Gathering – 9:00 am - via Elmslie Memorial Church YouTube Channel

March 03. (Thursday)

Training for Lay Leaders Module 1 (Topic 3) – 6:00 pm - 8:00pm - via zoom

March 04. (Friday) World Day of Prayer (see flyer below)

March 06. (Sunday) 1st Sunday of Lent

Fellowship Breakfast



February 26, 2022

at 8 AM

Morritt's Resort

Queen's Highway, East End

Theme: An Ordered Life

Guest Speaker

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble- Bloomfield

Deputy General Secretary

The United Church in Jamaica and the

Cayman Islands

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council


Cost : \$25.00

All are invited




Cayman Council Women's Fellowship

March 6
First
Baptist
Church


**Cayman
Keswick**
2 0 2 2
'All One In Christ'

6:00 pm




**The United Church in Jamaica
and the Cayman Islands**

Men's Fellowship National Convention 2022

MEN FILLED WITH HOPE

Responding to the Crisis

Speaker:
Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott
Moderator of the United Church



26th February, 2022 10 a.m.

Join the live stream on YouTube:
UCJCI'S CHANNEL




BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW LOST A LOVED ONE TO SUICIDE?

The APF's Bereavement Support Group provides free, private, and confidential grief support, in a safe place for adults to heal from their loss and to be equipped with the tools for moving forward.

JOIN THE APF'S BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
24 FEB - 31 MAR | BETHESDA COUNSELLING CENTRE



Location: Bethesda Counselling Centre, Unit 4, 68 Mary St, George Town
Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Frequency: Every Thursday for 6 weeks
Dates Active: Thursday, 24 February - Thursday, 31 March
Contact: edu@alexpantonfoundation.ky

About the Facilitator:



April Lewis is a licensed Mental Health Counsellor with over 20 years of experience in therapy and counselling. Ms Lewis holds a Master of Arts degree in Christian Counselling and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She has worked with the Cayman Islands Government as a Counsellor, for the Employee Assistance Program as Director, and installed one of the first online therapy programmes in the Cayman Islands.

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL





Ash Wednesday Virtual Gathering

March 2, 2022
9:00 am

Guest speaker: Rev. Norbert Stephens
Tune in to Elmslie Church YouTube channel

Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE
In the Spirit of Transition



FISH FRY

MARCH 19, 2022
8am - 2pm

ELMSLIE CHURCH HALL
108B Seafarers Way, George Town

\$12 whole fish plate
\$15 filleted fish plate



Build on Jesus Christ the new foundation

Tickets available upon request. Walk-ins welcome.
Call 926-2909 or 949-7923 or email elmslie100anniversary@gmail.com to enquire.

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