



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## WEEKLY UPDATE

April 6, 2022

Season of Lent - Palm Sunday

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 14

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

## The Divine Choices of Lent

By Rev. L. Christopher Mason

The temptations of Jesus take us on a spiritual journey into the wilderness and end on a Friday in Jerusalem, where the old, rugged cross is standing on a hillside. During this time, we have an opportunity to recall the details of that treacherous journey. Satan tried to trip Him up at every turn, yet Jesus experienced protection for the journey by choosing good over evil.

Lent - what does it mean? What does it mean for you personally?

It can mean a variety of things. It can be a time of reflection and self-examination and a time for inner healing. We can look back to the times we have fallen into the snares and traps that Satan set for us along the way. We can examine our attitudes and responses and root out such things as unforgiveness and bitterness. The Lenten season is a time to allow the spotlight of the Holy Spirit to bring to the surface those areas that have brought failure and disappointment. It is a time of hope for us, as well. No matter how far we have strayed away from God's plan for us, God is there to lead us back to safety. God's protection for our spiritual journey is there for us each day.

We know that living the Christian life is far from easy. There are many stumbling blocks and potholes along the way. The decisions life asks of us too often overwhelm us. We often have to choose between almost equal choices, not being sure which would be the better of the two.

During the period of temptation, Jesus made divine choices. He said...

**1. No to self-reliance and yes to faith.** Jesus is weak and hungry from fasting. Just at that point, when His stomach is growling from hunger and food is what He needs most, Satan arrives with the words, "If you are the Son of God, turn this stone into bread. You cannot minister and meet people's needs if you are weak from hunger. Take the easy way and feed yourself first. Don't wait for God to fulfill His promises. You've got to take care of yourself. Go ahead, take the shortcut, take the easy way. What will it hurt?"

Jesus answers from Deut. 8:3, telling Satan, "Feeding on God's word to satisfy a spiritual hunger is more important than my physical needs."

When we are confronted by the temptation to put ourselves first, we must realize that we are dependent on God's word and will. Woodrow Wilson said, "No one has ever risen to the real stature of spiritual adulthood until they have found that it is finer to serve somebody else than it is to serve themselves."

**2. No to self-glory and yes to hope.** Jesus has spent 40 days fasting and praying for God to direct Him and His ministry. Satan then says, "Look at what you can have if you do things my way. God's way will take too long and cost you too much. My way will be much easier. Take this shortcut to have the world at your feet. You'll accomplish the same thing, only faster. The end justifies the means. Don't work for it; let me give it to you. Don't set your standards so high. Strike a bargain with me, and people will follow you."

Jesus answers from Deut. 6:13 *"Worship the Lord your God and worship only Him."* There is no compromise possible. Either you follow God's plan and teachings fully, or you don't. You can't be a part-time Christian.

**3. No to self-preservation and yes to love.** In His wilderness experience, God has promised Jesus that even in the difficult, trying places in His future, God will be there to protect and sustain Jesus.

Jesus answers Satan with Deut. 6:16. Demanding miraculous protection as proof of God's love and care is wrong. Our attitude toward God is to be one of trust and obedience. We cannot treat God like a dog, who, when we snap our fingers and whistle, will roll over, bark, and wag his tail because he's glad to see us. We cannot force God to act on our behalf. Nor can we blame God when suffering occurs. We are to follow God's leading and answer God's call.

Temptation is a universal human experience. The call of Christ Jesus is not to adhere to a list of rules and regulations, but rather, in our temptations, we are expected to be faithful to the call and purposes of God.

### JESUS said

**NO**

to self-reliance

to self-glory

to self-preservation

**YES**

to **FAITH**

to **HOPE**

to **LOVE**

What do YOU say?

# A Palm Sunday Thought

By Rev. L. Christopher Mason



What was it they saw in that figure riding up to the Temple on a working beast? Was His entry into Jerusalem a triumphant procession? An act of political rebellion? Maybe a forgettable sideshow among the multitudes who made their way to the city for the week of Passover?

Palm Sunday, which looks back to that scene, is a significant liturgical observance for Christian churches, but what is its significance? If it's a celebration, it is conducted in a minor key because it stands at the beginning of the drama and suffering of Holy Week. And those palm leaves and branches that we wave as we sing and shout "Hosanna!" — for whom are we waving them?

Perhaps we think we know how to speak of Jesus now, after the events of that week all played out. We know now, better than those who watched Him that day, who He is and what His kingdom looks like. We assume this.

It is very easy for us to cast Jesus into a role that we choose, however. We still would like to see Him come to champion our hopes and expectations and to disrupt and frustrate the designs of our enemies. Jesus leads us to the Temple and points us to a God who sees all our notions of power and rule. Jesus' kingdom operates with different priorities and to a different end. He is there among the people, teaching His followers the way of humility, offering sight to the blind, overturning tables, and removing every obstacle that would keep us from the living God. And if you can see the King in these actions, Palm Sunday has come.

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## Service of De-Linking, Linking and Induction of Minister of the John Gray Memorial – South Sound Charge

The gathering of Council for the Service of De-Linking, Linking and Induction of Minister was constituted at 3:58 pm by the Chair of Council, Rev. Rohan Forrester.

All three (3) Congregations were represented by their members on this special occasion (Elmslie Memorial for the De-linking, John Gray Memorial, and South Sound United for the Linking).

The Worship Service began with the procession of the Bible and the Platform Party as the choir sang the Gathering Song, 'Refiner's Fire'. Liturgist of the Service Mrs. Juliet De Feu (South Sound United) led the Congregation in Worship.



Following the Prayer of Adoration and Confession by Mr. Clive Hinds (Deputy Board Chair, South Sound United), Congregational Secretaries, Mrs. Jennifer Smith (South Sound United) and Mrs. Jennifer Dilbert (John Gray Memorial) shared a brief history of their Congregations.

David Gordon (John Gray Memorial) read the Scripture from Jeremiah 1:1-10. Mrs. Katherine Jackson (John Gray Memorial) and Mr. Bradshaw Taylor (South Sound United) provided musical accompaniment.

In his Sermon, Rev. Rohan Forrester issued a call to the believers and the Church to be radical in their Christian faith and ministry under the authority and guidance of the Holy Scriptures. Mrs. Debra Humphreys (Deputy Board Chair, John Gray Memorial) offered the Prayer of Intercession after the Message.

The Liturgy of De-Linking, Linking and the Induction of Rev. Donovan Myers, Minister of the newly formed John Gray – South Sound Charge of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC), was officiated by Rev. Rohan Forrester (Chair of CIRMC). Before the Induction Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, Regional Deputy General Secretary (RDGS), offered the Narrative. At the end of the Induction, Rev. Forrester presented Rev. Myers with a Bible.



After Rev. Myers' Response and the Benediction, the Worship Service ended at 5:40 pm. with the Recessional Hymn, 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky'. Following the Worship Service, everyone was invited to the Church Hall for refreshments and a time of fellowship.



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**Congratulations!**

*By Mrs. Itza Bodden*

On Sunday, April 3, 2022, the Gun Bay United Church Youth Fellowship Group surprised Mrs Alice Ann Kirchman for her 50 years of service with the Land and Survey Registry of the Cayman Islands Government.



*Mrs. Kirchman in the company of Mrs. Bodden and some of the Youth Group members*

Mrs. Kirchman is faithful member of the Gun Bay United Church and has been actively involved throughout her life in the life of the Church and the community, especially in youth ministry. We pray for God's continued blessings on her life and ministry.

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## Elmslie Memorial's 100th Anniversary Celebrations

*From Elmslie's Family News (with permission)*

On March 19, 2022, the first event of Elmslie Memorial's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations - an old-fashioned Caymanian Fish Fry - was held at Elmslie Church. Many thanks to the organizers, especially Evelyn Rockett, (head of fundraising) and her team, as well as Brian Barnes and his team from the Lions' Club of Grand Cayman - who made this event such a great success.



Following an Easter Sunday Musical on 17th April, the next event will be one you don't want to miss - Jazz Under the Stars which is now set to be held 20th May 2022.

## News from Joan Page Bain

While Joan is officially retired as a missionary of the UCJCI, she still lives and ministers in her beloved Haiti with her husband Allemand.



She has recently returned from her bi-annual visit to Mandeville, Jamaica, which includes her regular medical check-ups and taking care of some business.

Her daughter Jirene, having completed college, was employed for a few months as a teacher at

Knox College, filling in for someone who was away. Jirene is looking for permanent employment, and Joan asks for our prayers.

Joan continues to be concerned for the needs of Haiti following the recent disasters that so adversely affected the country. Further, crime has increased, with violent, armed gangs ambushing buses and cars at will. She indicated that a bus trip to Port-au-Prince from Les Cayes has doubled in price as gangs await the buses halfway along the route and demand payment before allowing it to continue – and sometimes they take everything. As a result, Allemand is not able to travel that way to the city, and the only other way, - by a small mission plane - is unaffordable. He continues as principal of a school in the hills but has long reached retirement age. He also wants to spend more time helping the churches. However, the Government seems unable to pay him the pension funds owed him.

Joan meantime helps with women's and children's groups in various churches and still assists with the clinic at Guichard. **Please pray for Joan and her family during these difficult days.**

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## Ukraine Crisis Appeal

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC) of the UCJCI is still collecting donations in support of the people of Ukraine until the end of May. Contributions can be made during the Sunday morning Worship Services or can be dropped off at the church offices during the week or made online (please call your Church Office or speak with the Minister for instructions).

The CIRMC will transfer all the donations to the **Cayman Islands Red Cross** who, in turn will send it to the **Ukrainian Red Cross**.

### Your donation

- no matter how small it may be – counts!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9. (Saturday)

**Lay Leaders Certificate Course Training**– 9:00am-4:00pm via Zoom

April 10. (Sunday) Palm Sunday

April 11 – April 16 (Mon.-Sat.) **HOLY WEEK**

April 15 (Friday) **GOOD FRIDAY** – also Public Holiday

April 17. (Sunday) **Easter Sunday**

April 18. (Monday) **Easter Monday** – Public Holiday



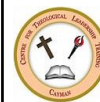
on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

**April 10, 2022**  
Rev. L. Christopher Mason

### Save the Dates - Upcoming SUC Easter Services

Easter Cantata	- April 10, 9am
Maundy Thursday Supper	- April 15, 7pm
Good Friday Service	- April 15, 8am (followed by Baptism at Spotts)
Easter Sunrise Service	- April 17, 6am
Easter Sunday Service	- April 17, 9am
Combined Easter Cantata	- April 17, 11am

@ Websters Memorial



CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING CTLT- CAYMAN ISLANDS

### A Survey of the History of Israel

(Biblical Israel to the present-day Nation of Israel)

Five Saturdays, two hours each session 10am to 12pm  
Starting from Saturday, April 9, 23, 30 and May 7 and 14, 2022 Via Zoom

Presenter: Rt Rev Dr David Nichols (Hebrew Scholar and Old Testament Professor, from UK.)

Cost \$150(one hundred fifty for all the five seminar)

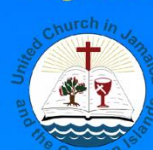
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## UCJCI Lay Training Institute



## TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS 2022

Offered in collaboration with The International University of the Caribbean

### Module 1 - 2022

**Saturday, April 9, 2022 – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

- Team Building and Conflict Management

For more information, please contact [cirmc.info@gmail.com](mailto:cirmc.info@gmail.com)

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