



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

Easter Sunday

March 28, 2024

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 13

Rooted and Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit to Re-connect

HE IS RISEN!

The Message of Resurrection

Rev. Otto Menko

Please read John 20:1-18

The narrative of Mary Magdalene encountering the risen Jesus is a powerful example of how experiencing the resurrection firsthand can be transformative. Mary's encounter profoundly affected her, altering the course of her life. It is crucial that we, too, have a personal encounter with the risen Jesus rather than just believing in His resurrection. Mary's encounter was not only a historical event but also a deeply personal experience. Similarly, our faith in the resurrection should be rooted in a spiritual experience with the risen Lord. Just as Mary was shaken by her encounter, our encounter with Jesus can also transform our lives and faith, filling us with the promises and power of the resurrection.

Jesus' resurrection challenges us today. It calls us to examine our relationship with Jesus and understand the significance of His life, suffering, death, and victory over death. Let us, therefore, consider the message of Jesus' resurrection.

Firstly, Jesus' resurrection is a powerful proof of the truthfulness of His ministry, suffering, and death on the Cross. This is good news for us, as it means that through Jesus, we have access to the Father! God is eagerly waiting to welcome us with open arms, just like the prodigal son's father did in the parable. All we need to do is accept God's forgiveness by putting our faith in God's Son. The resurrection is the culmination of God's redemptive plan, demonstrating God's love for us all. It is a testament to the power of God's love, as we read in John 3:16-18a "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned." (NIV)

Secondly, Jesus' resurrection assures us of His continued and living presence. We do not believe in an abstract or higher truth; we are people of faith who experience the living presence of Jesus in our daily lives. Jesus promised that He would always be with us, and His resurrection fulfills this promise in a profound way. Through the Holy Spirit living within us, we experience the reality of Jesus' presence. This gives us comfort, strength, and guidance in our daily walk. It also helps us develop a closer relationship with God, as we recognize that Jesus is not just a historical figure but an active and present reality in our lives.

In John 14:15-19, Jesus says, "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live." (NIV)

Thirdly, the resurrection of Jesus provides comfort to us when we face the reality of death. Death is an unavoidable reality that often fills us with fear, grief, and uncertainty. However, the resurrection of Jesus offers hope and assurance in the face of death. Jesus' triumph over death demonstrates His power over the grave and assures us that death is not the end. Just as Jesus rose from the dead, we have faith in the promise of our resurrection. This assurance brings us comfort when we mourn and gives us the courage to face our own mortality with hope and confidence.

The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Fourthly, through His Resurrection, Jesus offers us the promise of eternal life—a hope that transcends the trials and tribulations of this world. In John 11:25, Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die." (GNT) The resurrection of Jesus gives us the assurance that we, too, will be raised and will have eternal life. This promise

encourages us to look beyond the temporary constraints of our earthly life and provides us with a glorious hope for the future.

Jesus says in John 14:1-3 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Considering the meanings and relevance of Jesus' resurrection we are called to reevaluate our priorities and perspective on life. We are invited to live with a renewed and eternal mindset. Jesus' resurrection empowers us to live with purpose, faith, and perseverance, to face the challenges of life with courage and resilience, knowing that our hope is anchored in Jesus Christ's victory over sin and death, in His continued presence in our lives and in recognizing that our ultimate destiny lies beyond the earthly reality of this world.

The resurrection of Jesus is also a call to each of us to share the good news of His victory over sin and death and the transformative power of His love. Just as the early disciples of Jesus were compelled to proclaim this message to the world, it is our responsibility and privilege to bear witness to the reality of salvation through our lives. By living in the light of Christ's victory over sin and death, we offer hope and redemption to those around us.

Let us be bold in sharing the good news with others and demonstrating the love of Christ in everything we do. Let us bear witness to His living presence and spread the message of hope for the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life as we live each day in the reality, power, and promises of His resurrection.

May the joy of the resurrection fill our hearts and transform our lives, now and always. Amen.



Elmslie Women's Prayer Breakfast



In conjunction with the CIRMC Women's Fellowship Council Executive, the women of the Elmslie Memorial United Church hosted the Elmslie Women's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the Elmslie Memorial Church Hall. The CIRMC Women's Fellowship Council Chair, Mrs. Jacynthia Anderson, welcomed the sixty-plus in attendance, followed by a time of praise and worship led by the Elmslie Praise Team. After Ms. Lorna Reid, Elder of the Congregational Board, blessed the meal, attendees enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast.

Guest speaker of the event, Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, in her address, focused on the theme, "Women as Agents of Peace" based on Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" and Isaiah 9:6, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." She pointed out that becoming an agent of peace begins with knowing the Peace-Giver, Jesus Christ, and accepting the peace He gives to us. Only then are we qualified to become agents of peace in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and wherever God may lead us.

During the event, prayers were offered for the children and youth, Ministers, and Church Leaders. Mrs. Ernestine Powell thanked everyone for participating and contributing to such a memorable time of fellowship.



(Photos courtesy of the Elmslie Church Facebook page)

Family Funday Held by JGMC

Mrs. Jusan Hamilton-Lewis
Youth Minister - JGMC

The **John Gray Memorial Church Youth Ministry** held a Family Funday at the West Bay Heritage Park on Saturday, March 23, 2024. Members of the community and the church spent the day together, enjoying food, fun, and fellowship. The participants were divided into 'family groups' and engaged in various games and competitions. The family group of Ruth emerged as the overall winner and was presented with a trophy during the Palm Sunday service.



Mrs. Jusan Hamilton-Lewis handing the trophy to the members of the Ruth family during the Palm Sunday Service.

TENEBRAE WORSHIP *Service of Fading Lights*

John Gray Memorial Church Hall
THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH, 6:30 PM

Easter Sunrise Services

Date: Sunday, March 31st

Time: 6 am

3 Locations:

- Seven Mile Public Beach
- Spotts Dock
- North Side (opposite Wesleyan Holiness Church)

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

A MUSICAL FOR EASTER

Webster Memorial United Church

Presents Easter Cantata

Sunday March 31st, 2024, at 11 AM

Featuring

Webster and Savannah Choirs

261 Bodden Town Road



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

March 31, 2024
Rev. Otto Menko

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
292 Prospect Point Road
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: 1 345 947-1963 Email: rdgs@cicucjci.com or cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: www.unitedchurch.ky/