

THE VOICE OF ZION

A Monthly Communication of the Zion Moravian Church
Celebrating 10 years (November 2008 to November 2018)



Zion Moravian Church
Established 1777
241 years of Christian Witness
Rev'd Hilton J. Joseph - Pastor

December 2018
Volume 10
Issue 12

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Rev Hilton J Joseph

Dr. Raquel St Clair Lettsome, one of the writers of the lectionary said in a commentary:

As I have matured As A Christian and as an adult, I find that it is no longer enough to approach this season solely expecting God. God is a given – God will show up. The question I now ask myself: Will I show up in ways, in places and for people as God expects?

In this Advent season and in all seasons, God is a given –

God will show up. The question is: **Will we?**



O Come, O Come Immanuel
This translation of an anonymous Latin hymn doubles as a prayer for the first and second coming of Christ. It takes us into the mind of old Israel, longing for the first coming of the Messiah. And it goes beyond that longing by voicing the yearning of the church of Christ for the Messiah, Jesus Christ, to consummate the history of redemption.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we put ourselves in the shoes of Zechariah, Elizabeth, Simeon, and all the pre-Christian saints. We ponder the promises. We strain to see the dawn of salvation. But we know that when it comes, the waiting will not be over.

“This refrain reaches down

into our weak hearts and pulls us up, in faith, to see the certainty of the end.” Tweet Share on Facebook

When Immanuel arrives – when the Dayspring rises – we learn that redemption has only begun. To be sure, it is a magnificent only. The final blood is shed. The debt is paid. Forgiveness is purchased. God’s wrath is removed. Adoption is secured. The down payment is in the bank. The first fruits of harvest are in the barn. The future is sure. The joy is great. But the end is not yet.

Death still snatches away. Disease still makes us miserable. Calamity still strikes. Satan still prowls. Flesh still wars against the Spirit. Sin still indwells. And we still “groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies” (Romans 8:23). We still “wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:7). We still wait for final deliverance “from the

Provincial Theme
“Advance the Kingdom:

Thematic Focus
Live as Kingdom Citizens”

Conference Theme
*“Pursuing the Blessing:
Empowered to do Ministry”*

Motto:

**In Essentials
Unity**

**In Non Essentials
Liberty**

**In All Things
Charity**

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONT'D

wrath to come" (1 Thessalonians 1:10). We still "wait for the hope of righteousness" (Galatians 5:5). The longing continues.

Still Longing at Christmas

The common tune, linked with these lyrics in 1851 by Thomas Helmore, captures the plaintive mood of longing. It is not the same as the exuberant "Joy to the world, the Lord has come," or the vigorous and bounding, "Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King." It is an excellent musical match to the mood of the song. Longing. Aching. Yearning. Hoping.

The Christian life oscillates between these two poles: the overflowing joy of the "already" redeemed (Ephesians 1:7) and the tearful yearning of the "not-yet" redeemed (Ephesians 4:30). Not that we ever leave the one or the other in this life. We are "sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" (2 Corinthians 6:10).

It is good to have Christmas carols that capture both dimensions of life.

My guess is that, as we move toward Christmas, most Christians experience sadness and excitement. We must never let the sadness ruin the simple joy of the children. Most of them have not lived long enough to suffer. Let them see as much brightness as they can in Jesus. But let's not think that Advent must be all jolly and jingle bells.

The Serious Sorrow in Our Joy

"It is a wonderful thing that there are Christmas carols that are written for the real world of sorrowful joy." Tweet Share on Facebook.

About 3.7 million people will die during Advent worldwide, half a million of them children. About 105 persons every minute. Most of them without hope. A tiny fraction of these make the news — like some victims of terrorism. The vast majority groan and die unknown except to a few close at hand. Such sorrows touch every Christian. We know someone who is dying, not to mention the hundred miseries that make living hard.

It is a wonderful thing that there are Christmas carols that are written for the real world of sorrowful joy, as well as the real world of exuberant joy. "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" is one of them. You can hear it in the "O" that begins every verse: "O come, Immanuel." "O come, Rod of Jesse." "O come, Dayspring." "O come, Key of David." "O come, Desire of nations." This is the "O" of longing.

Immanuel's Names

And every name for Jesus is full of hope.

- As Immanuel (Isaiah 8:8) – "God with us" – he will pay the ransom that only a God-man can pay.
- As Rod of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1), springing from a dead stump, he will free his people, by death and resurrection, from Satan's tyranny, and make them free forever.
- As the Day-spring (Luke 1:78) – the dawn of God's kingdom – he will be the light of the world, and banish the hopelessness of darkness.
- As the Key of David (Isaiah 22:22), he rescues us from hell, locks the door behind us, unlocks the door of heaven, and brings us home.
- And as the Desire of nations (Haggai 2:7), he will draw the ransomed from every people and make them a kingdom of peace.

This is who Jesus is. This is what he already achieved and will complete. And so with every verse, the refrain reaches down musically into our weak hearts and pulls us up, in faith, to see the certainty of the end.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Artistically, the rhythm of plaintive longing in the verses, punctuated with powerful bursts of joy in the refrain, are, to my mind, just about perfect. The mystery and the wonder of Christian living are captured. Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing. Already. But not yet. Fulfillment of glorious promises – yes! But consummation in the new earth with new bodies and no sin – not yet. We are left confident, but still crying out: "O come, O come, Immanuel."

John Piper



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Ministries Within The Church

Leadership

Board of Elders
Board of Stewards

Zion Youth Ministry

Youth Fellowship
Sunday School
Girls' Brigade
ZMC Dancers
Feed My Lambs

Ministry In Music

Zion Junior Choir
Zion Youth Choir
Zion Senior Choir
Zion Combined Choir
Zion Gospel Singers
Praise & Worship Team
Youth Praise Team
ZMC Steel Band

Other Church Ministries

Women's Fellowship
Dorcas Ministry
Zion Outreach Ministry
Bus Ministry
Bible Study
Health Care Team
New Believers Class
Moravian Senior Club
Zion Ushers Ministry
Zion Missions' Team
Multimedia Team





CONGRATULATIONS

2018 CXC Regional Merit List

The 2018 Regional Merit list based on the May/June examinations has been released by Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC). Two (2) of the top ten (10) Federation's students making the regional list are Zion members.



The performance of **Daria James** from the Washington Archibald High School was recorded under The Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) in the area of Office Administration.

Kadeema Blanchette of the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College was selected for her performance in Performing Arts in the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE).



The Leadership and the members of Zion wish through this medium to congratulate these two students, their parents and teachers for their outstanding performance. As they move up the academic ladder may they continue to use God as their guiding light.

Sis Jamilla Connor

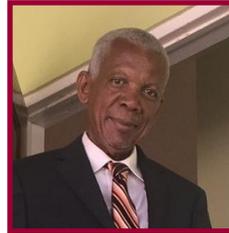
Sis Jamilla Connor was the only female among a five-member team of the University of the Virgin Islands (USVI) (*four from the Federation*) which captured the first place in the Hewlett Packard (HP) Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) Business competition in 2018. The competition was hosted and sponsored by the multi-national enterprise information technology company, HP.



Each of the five students will be presented with a HP laptop and printer; the students also have the option to apply for one or more of the open internship positions at the HP company in California in 2019.

The Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship, Dr Glenn Metts, had high praise for the team, indicating that they **'represent the quality our students and the importance of USVI's entrepreneurship initiatives which provide them with a stage to exercise their talent'**.

The Leadership and members of Zion extend congratulations to Sis Jamilla and the other team members. May God continue to guide them to further excel in their studies and return to the Federation to make a meaningful impact in their communities.



Dr Jerome Thomas

The celebration of 2018 International Men's day on 19 November 2018 was special for **Dr. Jerome Thomas**, as he was the recipient of an award from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services in recognition of his contribution to agriculture in the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis. Dr. Thomas has over thirty (30) years of experience in Agriculture Production, Research and Extension, as well as in Administration and Management.

He served as Director of Agriculture in St. Kitts from 1994 to 2007, during which period he made several significant contributions, including introduction of the Annual Agricultural Open Day and the Annual Review and Planning Meeting. Following his national contribution, Dr. Thomas worked as a Food and Agriculture Organization Project Coordinator of the United Nations (FAO) in Barbados for two years from 2008 to 2010, where he managed a diversification project in the Windward Islands. In September 2010 he was appointed as FAO Representative in Jamaica with responsibility for Jamaica, The Bahamas and Belize. As FAO Representative, his main responsibility was the coordination of technical assistance from FAO to the three named countries. In December 2016 he retired from the FAO.

The Leadership and members of Zion wish to congratulate Bro Jerome for the contribution he has made to his home country and several of the CARICOM countries. Although retired, may God give him the strength and guidance to lend of his expertise when and wherever he is called upon to do so.

Infant Baptism

Psalm 127:3, *Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is his reward.*

On Sunday 4th November, baby **Reign Astella Rimeeka Ellis** was accepted into the Church's membership through Infant Baptism.



The Leadership and members of Zion welcome this infant, who was brought by the parents, Mystik Taylor and Reiko Ellis and godparents, for membership into the Church.

We ask for God's guidance for the parents and godparents who are expected to bring up these children according to God's Holy Word as stated in Proverbs 22:6, *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*





PEC REPORTS

The PEC makes the following announcements:

There has been a reorganization of Staff and Congregations in the St. Kitts Conference which will take effect on 20 January 2019. The reorganization is as follows: -

- The Rev. Hilton Joseph who is presently serving as Superintendent of the St. Kitts Conference and Pastor of the Zion Moravian Church, has accepted a call to serve as Senior Pastor of the new Pastorate of the Zion and Bethel Moravian Congregations in the St. Kitts Conference. He will continue to serve as the Superintendent of the St. Kitts Conference.
- The Rev. Onita Samuel who is presently serving as Pastor of the Bon Accord and Black Rock Congregations in the Tobago Conference, has accepted a call to serve as the Associate Pastor of the Zion and Bethel Moravian Congregations in the St. Kitts Conference.
- The Rev. Adelyn Mgonela who is presently serving as Pastor of the Estridge and Bethel Moravian Congregations, has accepted a call to continue to serve as Pastor of the Estridge Moravian Congregation in the St. Kitts Conference.
- Pastor Daniel Mark, who is presently serving as Associate Pastor of the Spring Gardens Moravian Congregation in the Antigua Conference, has accepted a call to serve as the Pastor of the Bon Accord and Black Rock Moravian Congregations in the Tobago Conference, with effect from 20 January 2019.

Let us remember our Brothers and Sisters in prayer as they prepare to assume their new responsibilities.



Hymn of the Month – November 2018

The hymn for the month of November is # 437 – *We praise you God for what you did.*

The text was written in 2008 by Sis. Joan Smith from the Jamaica Province. The name of the tune, *Cheer*, was scored by Bro. Ulston Smith in 2016.

Below are the words and music for the hymn of the month for November:

*We praise You God for what You did
For those you chose to lead.
Who spread God's message near and far,
Planting the Gospel's seed.*

*2 We thank you for their well-done work
They laboured long and hard.
Fought many battles, many won,
Declaring Christ is Lord!*

*3 Lord of all times we honour you,
Give us the strength like them
To boldly speak Your Word today,
So souls won't be condemned.*

*4 Help us O Lord to not lose heart,
For you still lead the way.*

*We shall go on from strength to strength
Till faith shall win the day.*

*5 All of life's times are gifts to us;
That we receive from you.*

*Lord of all times please make us strong;
Remaining always true.*

2008. Joan A. Smith.

Moravian Church EWIP Provincial Theme 2019

The Provincial theme for 2019 will be: Advance the Kingdom - The thematic focus is "Live as Kingdom Citizens." It is a challenge for us to live out our faith in our daily lives.

Provincial Theme 2019: Advance the Kingdom: Live as Kingdom Citizens

Introduction

Over the past three years as a province we have been exploring "Advance the Kingdom" of God by way of thematic focus. This came out of the awareness that the Kingdom of God is not stagnant it is dynamic, and it must and will grow. The Kingdom of God, because of its core values and governing principles is constantly under attack. As a result of this, kingdom citizens are frequently in war-fare against "principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places". It is incumbent upon citizens of the kingdom to sharpen and commit to memory knowledge and understanding of the kingdom as tools for spiritual warfare. As we stand in allegiance to the Lamb the ultimate aim is to expand the kingdom principles through discipleship.

All disciples of Jesus the Christ should engage in **aggressive** evangelism. Many of us think evangelism is a complex phenomenon, which is reserved only for ministers of the Gospel of Christ. Not so, it does not require theological training.

Continued on Page 5





PEC REPORTS

Evangelism is one disciple telling a nonbeliever about Jesus the Christ and all who comes under the blood-stained banner of Jesus the Christ can and should do this. In doing so we contribute to the advancement of the Kingdom of God by eventually leading others to follow Jesus the Christ as Lord and Saviour by cancelling myths and misconceptions regarding citizenship of this kingdom. Citizenship comes with responsibility!

OVERVIEW

A. About the Kingdom of God: A Basic Review

- The Kingdom of God and the Old Testament
 - ◊ The Sovereignty of God (1 Chronicles 28:5)
 - ◊ The sphere of the Kingdom of God (Daniel; Psalm 24:1; Isaiah 47:1-15; 48:14-15)
 - ◊ The Kingdom of God and the New Testament
- Jesus talked about and demonstrated the Kingdom (Matthew: 6:10 and 33; Acts 1:3)
- The apostles and others spoke about the Kingdom (Acts 14:22; 28:23)
- Present and future aspects of the Kingdom of God (Revelations 11:15-18; 12:7-12; 20:1-10)
- Two Kingdoms (Colossians. 1:13; Matthew 12:25)

B. Becoming A Citizen of The Kingdom of God

Definition of the word CITIZENSHIP

- According to vocabulary.com “The word Citizenship comes from the Latin word for city, because in the earlier days of human governments, people identified themselves as belonging to cities more than countries”. Additionally, dictionary.com defines citizenship as the state of being vested with the rights, privileges, and duties of a citizen. The character of an individual viewed as a member of society; behaviour in terms of the duties, obligations, and functions of a citizen. “In the Christian context a citizen is a representative of the Kingdom of God. This individual is characterized by a state of being, which reflects biblical principles manifested in a lifestyle of consistency. Where ever a citizen of the Kingdom of God finds him/herself, the Kingdom is present, active and live. The citizen then is a diplomat/ambassador of the Kingdom of God (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

How does one become a citizen?

Citizen of The World

- Birth and Adoption
- Citizen by investment
- Naturalization and Marriage
- Descent
- Default

Kingdom Citizen

Birth and Adoption
(Conversion) (Eph. 1:5)

C. Myths and Misconception of Kingdom Citizenship

- One can accept the Kingdom of God by investment
- One can get into the Kingdom of God by ancestral faith
- Baptism equals salvation (John 3:5)

D. Laws of The Kingdom

- Government through the Bible as the Constitution
- The Law by heart (Matthew 4:4, Hebrew 8:10; Jeremiah 31:33; Psalm 119:11)
- The laws are built on love (Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 13:9-10; 1 John 4:8)

E. Manifestation of The Kingdom of God

- Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23)
- Language of the Kingdom of God
- Impact
- Enlist in the army of the Kingdom
- Combat the confession of ignorance with the Word of God

F. Application for The Kingdom of God

- Present yourself (Romans. 12:1-2)
- Interview - Testimony, Prayer, Precept, and Example
- Diplomatic Privileges & Promises (Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 91, Matthew 28:20b)
- Calling Other Family Members into the Kingdom of God (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts, Acts 16:25-40)
- Family life Education/Evangelism (Being your brother’s keeper)

G. Citizenship Is Not Indefinite

- It can be revoked
- Treason - Backsliding
- Long Absences
- Renunciation (Dual citizenship one cannot serve God and man)
- Association (alignment with none citizens)

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this period of study, members should:–

- Understand what it means to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God.
- Learn and utilize the guidelines given to attain and maintain kingdom citizenship.
- Become citizen and lead others to become citizens as well.
- Use the biblical and practical insights given to serve God as a citizen of the Kingdom of God.





SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS



Whether your need is small or great, you are welcome to use God's direct 24-hour hotline — prayer!

His promise is, “*Call to me and I will answer you.*” (Jeremiah 33:3) **This month, let us remember in prayer** the following persons listed below and be reminded that “*you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.*” (Matthew 21:22)

Sisters Laverne Huggins, Gloria James, Carmen Powell (USVI) and Veronica Stevens; Bro Whitley Williams (USA) and Brother Tonito Lee (UK). Sisters Ellenitta Nathaniel, Eileen Mills, Sylvia Samuel, Urlie DeSilva, Dorette Rawlins, Doris Adams, Lydia Roberts, Shirley Douglas, Beverly James, Heather Demming and Eileen Robinson; Brothers Ernest Christopher, Pedro Douglas, Hashim Bertie, Alphonso Archibald and Mr. Walter B Simmonds (St. Kitts).

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

Please remember in prayer our Zion Shut-Ins. Their names are as follows:

Sisters Connie Smith, Brenda Manners, Iris Mc Donald, Eugenie Belgrove-Gumbs, Shirley Phipps, Anita Hobson, and Mavis Deosaw (Overseas).

Brothers Vernon Connor and Peter Byron.



CELEBRATION CORNER



December Birthday Celebrants

2nd - Bro Heinz Gumbs, Sis Tanya Belle-James; 03rd - Bro Zeon Sargeant (USA); 4th - Sis Frances Williams, Sis Sonia Daly-Finley, Sis Agnola Rogers and Sis Lysandra Hook; 5th - Sis Emileta Warner-Paul, Sis Najee' Warner, and Bro Trovaun Henry; 6th - Sis Kiana Merritt, Sis Irma Bailey and Sis Sharon Kelly; 7th - Bro Ernest Christopher, Sis Dorette Rawlins; 8th - Sis Josephine Christmas and Sis Beverly Freeman; 11th - Sis Albertha Brotherson, and Sis Joycelyn Mitcham; 12th - Bro Antonio Dandressol; 13th - Bro Steven Casey, Sis Urline DeSilva, Sis Shirley Phillip, Sis Tamia Martin; 15th - Bro Alester Thomas and Sis Adeola Wiggins; 16th - Sis Rebecca Skeene, Sis Rasheda Matthew, Sis Michelle Taylor, Sis TeJunique Davis; 17th - Sis Iditha BonCamper; Bro Julian Pennyfeather Jr, 18th - Rev Hilton Joseph; 23rd - Sis Ilynda Henry; 24th - Sis Vincelle BonCamper (USA), Sis Larida Payen; 25th - Sis Mathilda Stevens, Bro Christian Nathaniel and Bro Noel Nicholas; 26th - Sis Charlesia Blake; 27th - Sis Rasheda Payen; 28th - Bro Sherwin James and Sis Adelyn Warner; 30th - Sis Pearl Lewis; 31st - Sis Connie Smith



COLLEGE PRAYER WATCH

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him (James 1:12 (NIV)). Studying abroad and being away from family and loved ones is a stressful time for many students. Hence, this is why the Zion Community is asking members of the Congregation to bear up in prayer our student members studying overseas. Their names are as follows:-

UNITED STATES

*Sis Ycole BonCamper
Sis Evah Liburd-Barzey
Sis Akila Moore
Sis Tarhia Slack
Bro Christian Nathaniel
Bro Glassil DeSilva
Sis Daria James
Sis Xarielle Blanchette*

CANADA

Bro Hassanni Lapsey

ST. THOMAS, USVI

Sis Jamilla Connor

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Sis Junika Berry

JAMAICA

*Bro Kyle Bradshaw
Sis Tonya DeSuza*





**FOR YOUR
CALENDAR
DECEMBER 2018**



Shut-in Communion will be held on **Wednesday 12 December 2018** from **09:30 am to 12:00 noon**.

All are invited to our **Watchnight Service** on **31 December 2018** at **10:30 pm**.

Church Ministries

- **Confirmation Class** will resume on Monday 03 December 2018 at 4:00 pm.
- **Moravian Senior Club** meets on Tuesdays at the Methodist Church Hall, Seaton Street, Basseterre from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.
- **Women's Fellowship** meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:00 pm.
- **Mid-week Sunrise Devotions** continue on Wednesdays at 6 am.
- **Junior Choir** meets on Fridays at 5:00 pm.
- **Youth Fellowship** meets on Friday at 7:15 pm. All youth are invited.

The **Moravians** will be responsible for ministering at the **St. Kitts Outreach Centre** during the period **03 to 07 December 2018**. Members are asked to assist wherever possible.

Zion Missionary 2018

The colour of the offering that will be taken during the Services in December is **'orange'**.

The St. Kitts Christian Council invites everyone to a **Service of Celebration** to end the **2018 Hurricane Season** on **Sunday 02 December 2018** at the **Zion Moravian Church** at **4:00 pm**. Come out as we give thanks to our Sustaining God.

Conference Bible Study continues on Wednesdays at the Bethesda Moravian Church at 7:00 pm.

Christmas Day Outreach will be held at the Independence Square on 25 December from 12 noon.

Daily Texts 2019 are here in limited quantity so place your orders now.

- * Large print—\$45.00
- * Small print—\$40.00

Our annual **Church Council** is scheduled on **22 January 2019** at 6:00 pm. All reports are to be typed and e-mailed to **zionmoravian1777@sisterisles.kn** no later than Friday 21 December 2018. Financial reports may be submitted on or before 31 December 2018.

All Joint Board members and leaders of groups are expected to be in attendance. This meeting is open to every member of the Zion Moravian Church.

Realignment of Conference

As of 20 January 2019, there will be a realignment of the congregations within the Conference: the congregations of **Zion and Bethel** will be joined to form one **Pastorate**, with **Rev. Hilton J. Joseph** as **Senior Pastor** and **Rev. Onita Samuel** as the **Associate Pastor**.

The **Installation Service** for the staff will be held on **Sunday 20 January 2019** at the Zion Moravian Church. All are invited as we gather to welcome our new addition to staff – **Rev. Onita Samuel** – and affirm the ministry of the new pastorates.

A **Service of Confession of Faith and Thanksgiving** (Confirmation) will be held on **Sunday 27 January 2019**. Come, witness our youth and one adult share their testimonies of faith in Jesus Christ.

Congratulations

As a congregation, we extend heartfelt congratulations to **Rev Erwin Warner**, who will be united in holy matrimony to **Rev. Onita Samuel** of Antigua on **Wednesday 19 December 2018**. We declare God's blessings over their union.

December Wedding Anniversary Celebrants



- 07th Bro James & Sis Allison Archibald
- 09th Sis Josephine Christmas
- 15th Bro Vernon & Sis Olivia Taylor
- 17th Sis Agnola Rogers
- 21st Bro Nigel & Sis Seana Mack
- 22nd Bro Errol & Sis Joycelyn Connor
- 26th Bro James and Sis Aslyn Warner
- 27th Bro Rudolph and Sis Janice Wattlely
- 29th Rev Hilton & Sis Sharon Joseph
- 30th Bro Frank & Sis Diane Sargeant

The Leadership and Membership of the Zion Moravian Church express condolences to: -



Rev. Erwin Warner and family on the passing of:-
Mr. Shawn Warner (Brother)
(Antigua)

Sisters Cynthia and Julie Charles and family on the passing of:-
Ms. Emily Hanley (Sister & Aunt)

Sis. Sonia Hector and family on the passing of:-
Ms. Millicent Sutton (Great aunt)

Sisters Josephine and Delyth Christmas, Domina Christmas-Brisport and family on the passing of:-
Mr. Ishmael Hodge (Brother & Uncle)

Sis Diane and Bro Frank Sargeant on the passing of:-
Mrs. Stacy Waddell (daughter & step-daughter)
(Texas)

Bro. Lloyd Matthew, Sis. Linet Matthew and family on the passing of:-
Ms. Vallrica Matthew (Mother & Sister)
(St. Maarten)

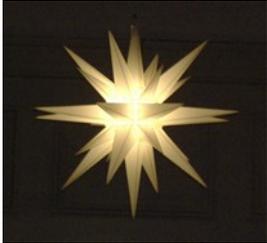
"The Lord is your rock, your fortress and your stronghold."

Brothers and Sisters, may the Lord grant you peace in these trying times.





THE MORAVIAN STAR



It is said that Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the headquarters of the Moravian Church Northern Province, is known as Christmas city. One other person describes it as the city of lights, for at least one Star is to be seen not only on the inside, but on the outside of almost every house. This is part of the Moravians faith journey and seems to point one back to Bethlehem of Judea, where Jesus the Christ was born according to scripture.

The Moravian star is an illuminated star-shaped lantern, most commonly having 26-points. It is an emblem for the Moravian Protestant faith and is used for Advent and Christmas decorations. It is popular in Old Salem (Winston-Salem, NC) and throughout Moravian settlements and in Germany & Europe where there are Moravian congregations.

The star was widely believed to have originated at the Moravian Boy's School in Niesky, Germany in the 1830's as a geometry lesson. However, recent discoveries in the diary of George F. Bahnson, who attended the school and later served as minister in the North Carolina Moravian settlements of Bethania and (Old) Salem, where he died, cited that Christian Madsen, a former student of the Moravian Boy's School, constructed the first Moravian star for the school's 50th anniversary and Christmas celebration in 1820.

With the approach of Christmas, this Star is brought out and hung in the Sanctuary, where it remains lit until Epiphany, that is, 6th January. Sometimes it is referred to as an Advent Star, or a Christmas Star, or the Moravian Star. Whatever name it is referred to as, the Moravians have made it a very important part of its faith journey. Always, it is a lighted Star, shining to proclaim its message.

When in time to come our children ask, what is the significance of the Moravian Star? Why it is hung or placed in the Sanctuary? When visitors come to our places of worship and see the lighted Star, we must be able to tell the story. We must be able to tell them that the Moravian Star has a three-fold message.

Firstly, it testifies to the greatness of the Creator who made the stars on the fourth day of Creation. "And **God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the**

night and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars." (Genesis 1:14 & 16). He made them numberless and differing in glory and praising the might that laid the foundations of the world. "**The sun has one kind of splendour, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendour**". (1Corinthians 15:41).

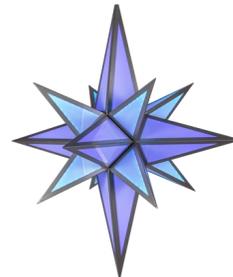
Secondly, it is a reminder of the Star that once led the Wise Men from their distant homes until it stopped over the place where the young child was and they fell down before Him and worshipped Him. "**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." (Matthew 2: 1- 2, 9-10).

Thirdly, it points to the Divine Star, which was foretold by the Prophet Balaam who said, "**A Star shall come out of Jacob**" (Numbers 24:17). This was fulfilled in the one who said of himself, "**I am the root and descendant of David, the bright and morning star**" (Revelations 22:16). May Jesus, the Christ, the bright and morning Star, shine brightly in our lives and in the process point others to the cross, our hope and expectation.

Be a Star for the Master.

- *Reprinted from: The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province website.*
- *Moravian Moment #195- The Moravian Star – © December 2010*
- *Kristi Marion "History of the Moravian Star" © September 2013*

Sourced by Sis Blondell Franks





MISSIONS IN ACTION





YOUTH CONNECTION

BE PREPARED FOR CHRIST'S COMING

Theme: Advent (1st Sunday), Being prepared for Christ's coming.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

Memory Verse: "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming". Matthew 24:42

Bible Sermon

Who can tell me what this picture represents? It is the Scout emblem. Does anyone know what is the Scout's motto? The worldwide Scouting motto is, "Be Prepared". The Girl Scout and Boy scout motto means that a good scout must always "Be prepared". That is also the subject for our Bible lesson today.

Today is a very special day. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, this also means that we have started the countdown to Christmas. There are many things that people do to get ready for Christmas. Let us see, what are some of the things that we do to prepare for Christmas? We have to put up our Christmas tree, lights, and decorations. We have to get our Christmas cards addressed and mailed. We have a lot of shopping to do to buy gifts for our family and friends. There is a lot of cooking that must be done... Christmas cookies and candy and, of course, we must buy all of the food for Christmas lunch.

While we are getting ready for Christmas, there is something else that we must be prepared for as well. Jesus promised that He would come again, and the Bible tells us that we must be watching and be prepared for His return. We all know when Christmas is coming, but when will Jesus come again? The Bible says that no one knows the hour of His return. Not even the angels who announced His birth know when He will come again.

If we do not know when He is coming, how can we be prepared? If we want to be prepared for Jesus' coming, we must always be busy doing the things that He told us to do. We must be loving God and loving one another.

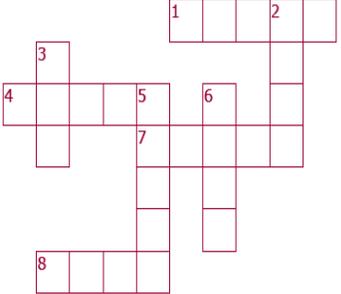
It is fun and exciting to prepare for Christmas, but we must also be prepared for that day when Jesus comes again.

Prayer

Dear Father, we love this season of the year. We love the preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Help us also remember that he is coming again and that you have told us.

Extracted from www.sermons4kids.com

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. The time of day when it is dark
4. To keep an eye on; to guard
7. The person who has something such as property
8. A particular moment in the day, such as eight o'clock

DOWN

2. A period of sixty minutes
3. A period of 24 hours
5. The place where a person or family lives
6. To have information about something; to be aware of something

TIME	OWNER	WATCH	HOUR
KNOW	HOUSE	DAY	NIGHT

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	Q	X	D	N	K	F	O	U	W	R	T	C	G	E	M	Y	S	J	P	H	A	V	L	B	I

1. 10-22-12-13-21 _____
2. 12-21-26-15-7 _____
3. 5-26-14-21-12 _____
4. 11-15-22-4-17 _____
5. 6-5-8-10 _____
6. 24-8-11-4 _____
7. 13-8-16-15 _____
8. 4-22-17 _____

READY	COME	THIEF	LORD
WATCH	NIGHT	DAY	KNOW





INSTRUMENT OF PEACE

“JOY TO THE WORLD” BY ISAAC WATTS

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.*

“Joy to the World” is perhaps an unlikely popular Christmas hymn. First of all, it is based on a psalm, and, second, it celebrates Christ’s second coming much more than the first. This favourite Christmas hymn is the result of a collaboration of at least three people and draws its initial inspiration not from the Christmas narrative in Luke 2, but from Psalm 98.

The first collaborator was the English poet and dissenting clergyman, Isaac Watts (1674-1748). He paraphrased the entire Psalm 98 in two parts, and it first appeared in his famous collection, *The Psalms of David, Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* (1719).

“Joy to the world” was taken from the second part of the paraphrase (Psalm 98:4-9), entitled “The Messiah’s Coming and Kingdom.” Watts, commenting on his paraphrase of the psalm, notes: “In these two hymns I have formed out of the 98th Psalm I have fully expressed what I esteem to be the first and chief Sense of the Holy Scriptures . . .” For Watts, the psalms were not to be viewed as biblical material in their own right but had value only inasmuch as they pointed toward the New Testament.

A comparison between Watts’ psalm paraphrase and the original verses in the King James translation of Psalm 98:4-9 demonstrates considerable freedom: -

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King. Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together. Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.” (KJV)

Curiously, stanza three is the exception. It is not based on Psalm 98 and is sometimes omitted:

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.*

The “curse” is a reference to Genesis 3:17 when God says to Adam following the eating of the apple from the tree, “Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.” (KJV) As a part of “five-point Calvinism,” the “total depravity of man”, the curse is a significant

part of classic Reformed theology, Isaac Watts’ theological perspective.

The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) retains the original text, the hymnal of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom, *Rejoice and Sing* (1991), altered the stanza as follows: -

*No more let thorns infest the ground,
or sins and sorrows grow;
wherever pain and death are found
he makes his blessings flow.*

The second collaborator was an unwitting one, George Frederic Handel (1685-1759), the popular German-born composer residing in London. Though contemporaries in England, they did not collaborate on this hymn. Another pieced together portions of Handel’s *Messiah* to make up the tune that we sing in North America. The opening bars for the chorus, “Lift up your heads,” was adapted to the incipit “Joy to the World.” An instrumental portion of the opening tenor recitative, “Comfort ye,” provides a basis for the text “heaven and nature sing.” Such borrowings were common, the aesthetic notion being that the music of great musicians had in itself an innate beauty. Even a crude pastiche of “great music” implied that the result would also be of high quality. The third collaborator who assured that this tune and text would appear together in the United States was the Boston music educator, Lowell Mason (1792-1872). It was Mason, a musician with significant influence in his day, who published his own arrangement of Handel’s melodic fragments in *Occasional Psalms and Hymn Tunes* (1836) and named the tune Antioch. While this is not the only tune to which Watts’ text is sung, it is certainly the dominant one. Actually, this tune remains virtually unknown in Great Britain.

When sung to Antioch, the text is repeated in the second section, reflecting a particular early American treatment of the melody called a “fuging tune.” A fuging tune was a compositional device initiated by American-born composer William Billings (1746-1800) where voice parts enter one after the other in rapid succession, usually repeating the same words.

The result of the fuging tune section is quite effective for the first stanza—“heaven and nature sing”—and the second stanza—“repeat the sounding joy”—and the fourth stanza, “wonders of his love” For the third stanza, with the text “far as the curse is found” echoing of Genesis 3:17-18 and Romans 5:20, the fuging compositional device seems a bit rollicking.

The result is a favourite Christmas hymn based on an Old Testament psalm, set to musical fragments composed in England, and pieced together across the Atlantic in the United States!

Written by C. Michael Hawn and extracted from the United Methodist Church Website, www.umcdiscipleship.org





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*The Voice of Zion:
Empowered to do Ministry*



*Sunday 02 December 2018
First Sunday of Advent*



Watchword for the Week: - Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away". **Luke 21:33**

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:26-36

Thus says the Lord God: Repent and turn away from your idols. **Ezekiel 14:6.**

The scribe said to Jesus, "you are right, Teacher; you have said that 'He is one, and besides Him there is no other'; and 'to love Him with all the heart, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbour as oneself,' - this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices". **Matthew 12:32-33.**

Prayer: *Truest Love, our heart cannot express our praises for you. Lead us away from the idols we falsely love. Steer us toward your desire for our lives and fill us with the desire to love you and ourselves. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Sunday 2nd December 2018 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Pastor & Celebrant: Rev. Hilton J. Joseph

ORDER OF SERVICE

Pre-Service Songs

Call to Worship

Hymn #407..... *Hail To The Lord's Anointed*
The Lighting of the Advent Candle
Song.....*A Candle Is Burning*

Ministry of the Word

Old Testament: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Elder Sonia Hector
Canticle 7 (pg. 32) *The Hosanna Anthem*
New Testament: St. Luke 21:25-36...Steward Sidney Osborne
Solo/Hymn

The Spoken Word.....Rev. Hilton J. Joseph
Altar Encounter: Moments of Intercession
Hymn #143.....*O Come O Come Immanuel*

Welcome, Birthdays, Anniversaries
Notices

Worship in Giving

Prayer of Dedication and Blessings on those who leave



Sacrament of Holy Communion



Hymn of Preparation #150 *It May Be At Morn*
The Invitation
Prayer of Humble Access

Consecration and Distribution of Bread

Words of Consecration
Hymn #153..... *Jesus The Very Thought Of Thee*
Hymn #149.....*Thy Kingdom Come O God*

Consecration and Distribution of Wine

Words of Consecration
Hymn #158..... *My Song Is Love Unknown*
Hymn #162 *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*

Covenant Hymn
#185..... *Through The Love Of God Our Saviour*

The Blessing