

*The Trinidad* est. 1904  
**PRESBYTERIAN**

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DECEMBER 2021 | \$4.00



*Merry  
Christmas*

**MODERATOR  
SPEAKS** P. 2

**THE ADVENT  
CANDLES** P. 12

**OLE TIME  
CHRISTMAS** P. 18

# Moderator *speaks*

## Christmas THE CRIB OF LIFE

It is ironic that as we are preparing to celebrate the Birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we are witnessing a disgusting trend of sexual abuse of innocent children in our society. It is a trend that pains all of us, and one that needs to be reversed urgently.

In recent years, the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) has partnered with several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), including the Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CADV) and the Rapid Fire Kidz Foundation, to mitigate or even eliminate abuse against women and children. We are also participating in the 16 Days of Activism to Stop Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which began on 25 November and ends on 10 December.

We commend all efforts taken to arrest the abuse of vulnerable victims – particularly women and children. It is noteworthy that several Presbyterians serve on these NGOs as they engage in mission beyond the walls of the Church.

As our lives continue to be disrupted by COVID-19, we seem to be going around in circles in our approach in dealing with the problem. Truth be told, policies and mechanisms to offer justice and a safer environment for women and children have been implemented. There is a Child Protection Unit in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and a

functioning Children's

Authority in the Public Service. In addition, there are at least a dozen civil society watchdog groups, apart from the religious organisations, focusing on the problem. Where, then, are we failing?

The statistics show that there is a breach in the armoury. The Child Protection Unit revealed there were 1,800 cases of child sex-abuse reported within 21 months. Each month, the Children's Authority receives an average of 353 complaints of child abuse.

A child's entire future can be destroyed because of one loathsome incident which has the effect of seriously damaging or even ruining a young life and taking away the innocence of a child. Protecting children and giving them every opportunity to grow and reach their full potential without the burden or emotional and physical trauma and abuse, ought to be the concern of every citizen, especially the Church and religious bodies.

It is evident that our children, the "gems of our nation", are under attack. We cannot take the issue of child abuse lightly because they will be tomorrow's adults and leaders. We must do all we can. At every level of the society. To protect our children. We must not only raise

awareness, but provide training



THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

and build communities around the empowerment of children as part of prevention.

We are reminded that Christmas brings us back to the crib of life, to learn what it takes to live meaningful and worthwhile lives. The earthly parents of Jesus protected him when his life and the lives of children were threatened by King Herod. We are called to dismantle the 'palaces of tyranny' and bring the 'Herods' of the 21st century to justice.

As we celebrate the Birth of Christ our Saviour, and prepare to enter the New Year 2022, we need to deepen our care for one another. To do what is just and necessary for the fulfilment and preservation of human life. God is calling us as Christians to go beyond the pew and pulpit to change the heart of an unscrupulous society.

On behalf of the Officers of Synod and our families, I extend to all God's Blessings, and best wishes for a Peaceful Christmas 2021, a Wholesome and Worthwhile New Year 2022.



# ADVENT

**A**dvent is upon us, and many churches will be sharing in the traditional lighting of Advent candles.

The first Advent candle is the Hope candle. It signifies the Hope of Advent and assures us of the coming fulfilment of the prophecies, regarding the birth of the Messiah.

The importance of hope cannot be underestimated. Hope is the belief that something better will come. Hope does not discount loss or adversity but instead acknowledges that even in difficult circumstances there is still the possibility of positive outcomes. The ability to see hope through all the doom and gloom around us is what keeps us going.

After almost 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic, many will be hoping for much better in

the months ahead. As we light the candle of hope marking the beginning of the Advent season, let it set the tone for the rest of the season. It is important for us to have hope in our lives, and for us to look positively into the future. Hope is a major factor in preventing dangerous ideas and intrusive thoughts. Those who hold on to hope are always handsomely rewarded.

In our journey through Advent this year, let us hold on to the promises of God's Word, as stated in Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV), "*The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*" and in Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV), "*For I know the plans I have for you,*" declares the Lord, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*"

Let us remember to be the Hope that lights up someone else's life. Let us remember that we are undeservedly saved by God's freely given gift of Grace. Let us also do likewise this Advent. Let us unreservedly and freely give to someone, so that our Father in Heaven may be glorified.

Matthew 5:16 (NIV) states, "*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*"

And of course let us not forget the reason for the season –

*"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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6 NIV).*

# children's expectations *FOR CHRISTMAS*



COUNSELLING COLUMN WITH BERNADETTE GYAN-MANICKCHAND

Q

How do we as parents/guardians manage our children's expectations during a COVID Christmas?



"Christmas is for children" is a very common phrase confirmed by the words of the song 'Laughing Children tug at Mr. Santa...' The love of the Baby Jesus radiates on the faces of our dear children every-time Christmas season comes around. What do we, as parents, do as we once again attempt to make the season special during the Covid pandemic? How do we ensure that the gifts of the season bring about the love, joy, peace, and hope instead of the doldrums?

No parties, no family gatherings, no shopping trips, no carolling, no sitting on Santa's lap, no Sunday School treat, no Christmas Concert at Church... This can be very depressing. Already, many adults have thrown hands up in the air claiming, "Another year with no feeling of Christmas." Parenting during a pandemic is tough enough. Now, the added pressure of no treasured traditions can be daunting, indeed.

Kadijah Booth Watkins, psychiatrist at The Clay Centre for Healthy

Young Minds at Massachusetts General Hospital, confirms that children are feeling a lot of incredible sadness and grief due to the losses experienced since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. In light of this daunting fact, as adults thrust with the responsibility of rearing valuable lives, we cannot afford to become dejected as well.

What is important is that our children know that we care how they are feeling, let them know that we are present, and we are holding it together. They need to be reassured that whatever they present to us, in terms of feelings, we can handle it and become stronger in the end.

Our children's greatest need is to know they belong and are connected. This will require getting creative with holiday fun activities. We can do the similar things – but differently – while still experiencing the Christmas Spirit. There is still kitchen fun; baking and packaging cookies for friends and relatives; decorating the Christmas tree and stringing lights; shopping online; virtual hanging out with cousins; Zoom Christmas carolling and virtual concerts. Try brainstorming and doing some research. You would be surprised what lovely ideas can result in a perfect pandemic Christmas.

# KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES



## WHY WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

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**I**n the midst of the current circumstances of death and destruction, can we celebrate Christmas? Should we celebrate anything at all? Yes. We can and should celebrate Christmas. When we think about the message, meaning, and mystery of Christmas, we would realise that we NEED to celebrate Christmas especially if and when we do not feel like celebrating anything at all. Here are reasons why we celebrate Christmas:

**1. IT IS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.** It is good to celebrate Jesus Christ anytime, anywhere. From the year 336, the Church chose December 25th as the day when the birth of Jesus would be celebrated. The Eastern Church opted to celebrate Christmas on the 12th day following December 25th, January 6th. Whatever day we

choose, the point is to worship in spirit and in truth, and to focus on the reality of the Incarnation. God is with us.

**2. A TRUE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS SPEAKS TO US ABOUT ETERNAL FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.** The fact that the Son of God comes to us is an amazing indication that with God, nothing is impossible. Christ is born so that we would never die. The birth of Jesus brings joy to the simple people but is a threat to those in power. These facts are always powerful and always relevant.

**3. CHRISTMAS IN THE NORTHERN**

**HEMISPHERE IS WHEN WINTER DARKNESS BEGINS TO BE ALLEVIATED.** St. Augustine of Hippo pointed out that Christmas shows us the humility of Christ who comes to exalt us and is born for us when light begins to increase.

What is the message, meaning and mystery of Christmas for you this year? It may be the Lord speaking to you about heavenly wisdom, strength and grace. The power of the Lord will prevail- in an unexpected, quiet and effective way. The birth of a baby in a manger shows us that.

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THE FAMILY CAN: A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE THE FAMILY | HILTON R SIBOO | 788-2685

*Is there peace and goodwill to all persons in your family?*

**A**t Christmas time, family members in some way look forward and towards a season and celebration where there is peace and goodwill. The 'Angelic Herald' or Good News was 'Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all men' (Lk 2:14).

I daresay, if there is no peace and goodwill in the family, there is no peace and goodwill to all people on earth, be they in the village, society and nations of the world. This may seem impossible and difficult to accept but when we behave as Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, the sons of David, the children of Jacob/ Israel and the Prodigal Sons, then who are we?

Across the world and within the family referred to as the basic social unit, conflicts arise from dislikes, suspicion, distrust and escalate to resentment, hatred, animosity, acrimony, battles, wars,

abuses and violence. There is no goodwill, or peace. Then, wherever greed, religion and ideology, economics, and politics drive the human hunger, and desire and lust exist, there is no peace, no goodwill among tribes, nations and the family. We want more than our share to extend our boundaries of space and influence, we gather and divide, proportioning the goodwill or ill-will; and what results, little or no peace.

Where love and kindness, truth and justice, peace and goodwill are present, there God is and he wants his people. But no, as individuals and family it is self-serving, deceit, malice, outsmarting, revenge, false witnessing, undermining and destroying the other, so 'I' could be honoured and glorified, and inherit.

All such are regular, frequent and even daily dynamics within the family and in our relationships as siblings, parents, couples, parent-child and within the extended families, step-families and families

even of separation and divorce.

Annually, as the Angel's Herald is recalled, we may spare a moment to glorify God but are unwilling to extend peace and goodwill to all people, least of all to the members of our family whether it is the family of origin or the family with whom we reside.

Peace and goodwill, you ask ... 'over my dead body', or maybe yours, you say. Then comes the condolences, the regrets and the rest in peace. Where was the peace, the goodwill during life?

Remember, the family is not just a group or gathering without a common purpose. Never let it ever be that the family can NOT adjust and adapt as changes occur.

Say, let there be peace and goodwill in my family, this begins with me.

*Don't lose faith. Hold strong. Believe, The Family Can.*

# A Foiled Plan

*If we only knew LOVE was the only intention,  
for Human life since the Dawn of Creation.*

*Adam fell and blamed The Eve,  
such a majestic and perfect Paradise they had to leave.  
Family systems gone awry from inception,  
only Satan's happy, his scheme came to fruition.*

*Through toil and sweat and blood and tears,  
group dysfunction evolved over the years.  
Farther and farther from The Saviour they ran,  
though kingdoms grew, it was the Fall of Man –  
into a deeper pit of evil.*

*No resistance, no wise decision made – just follow the devil.  
Offspring gave birth to the children of insolence,  
life on earth has become the plaything of violence.  
Prophets, and Judges, and kings are called –  
laws made and given only to be broken,  
human hearts – icy, hateful, cruel, and hardened.  
Abuse of every kind to man, woman, and child,  
where is Jesus so gentle, meek, and mild?*

*Respect for persons no longer a norm,  
from leader to follower no one to conform.  
As greed for wealth and power rears its ugly head,  
subjects are scarred and left for dead.*

*Stand up God's people! Snuff out the darkness  
that blankets our land in pain and sadness.  
Shine your beacons to show the path  
to hurting souls in the Gender-Based Violence scene.  
Stuck in the rut, as they live with the wicked and mean.  
Moment by moment, victims of beating,  
curses and insults and crimes so demeaning.*

*Broken spirits cry out as they pass us by,  
and what do we do? In ignorance turn a blind eye.  
Rise up my sister, brother, and friend,  
let's battle this plague and choose to condemn,  
so common a sin in so many places,*

*Support the victims, unmask their faces.  
lend an ear, rub some salve, return one's dignity,  
Save our families' craving safety and some sanity.  
No matter how insignificant but merciful a need.  
Against Gender-Based Violence, sow a healing seed.*



# The Birth of Jesus

*And it came to pass in those days, Caesar Augustus ordered taxes to be paid.  
Everyone went to his own city, so Joseph went up from Galilee.*

*Out of the city of Nazareth into Judaea, Joseph and Mary would go.  
Then onto David's city called Bethlehem to pay Caesar his dough.*

*Joseph went to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, who was having a child.  
But while in Bethlehem, her time became due; and O, how the couple smiled.*

*Mary brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes.  
She laid him in a manger as the inn was full; this is the venue God chose.*

*In the same country, there were shepherds abiding in the field;  
keeping watch over their flock by night to stop those who wanted to steal.*

*The Lord's angel appeared, and the Lord's glory shone and made the shepherds afraid.  
"Fear not, good tidings of great joy to all people!" A divine message the angel conveyed.*

*"For this day is born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."  
The Shepherds were first to hear this news; so, it played a magnificent chord.*

*"Ye shall find the babe in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."  
The shepherds were now in a transport of joy at the birth of Jesus, their Saviour.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host,  
singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and toward men: peace on earth!"*

*As the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds stood up on the grass,  
They said, "Let us now go to Bethlehem, to see this thing which is come to pass."*

*And they came with haste and found Mary, Joseph and the babe lying in a manger.  
And when they had seen it, they made known abroad, this was a glorious game changer.*

*And all who had heard from the shepherds began to think and wonder.  
But Mary kept all these things in her heart, and on them Mary would ponder.*

*The shepherds returned praising God, for all they had heard and seen.  
It was the greatest night of their life by far. It was the best there has ever been!*







**STUDENT MINISTER, MS. JESSICA S. MAHADEO**

# Breast Cancer and Mental Health Awareness in Chaguanas

**W**ith so many unfortunate events making the headlines, with many of our congregants losing hope due to the ongoing pandemic, the five points of the Chaguanas Pastoral Region joined together to raise awareness for two main causes during the month of October. In-person gatherings were prohibited at the time of these projects so awareness was raised virtually on our social media pages.

The first issue targeted was Mental Health. We created videos which addressed the different categories found in our communities and our churches. These videos can be found on the PCTT's Facebook page and on Reverend Errol Ragnauth's YouTube channel.

1. Tuesday 19th: Men's Mental Health by the Felicity Presbyterian Church
2. Wednesday 20th: Children's Mental Health by the Las Lomas Presbyterian Church
3. Thursday 21st: Women's Mental

Health by the St. Charles Presbyterian Church

4. Friday 22nd: Teachers' Mental Health by the Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church
5. Saturday 23rd: Clergy's Mental Health by the Cunupia Presbyterian Church

The second issue targeted was Breast Cancer. Each church dedicated time during their services throughout the month to light a candle and offer special prayers. Other churches dedicated parts of their Reformation Youth Sunday Service to raise awareness in their own way. Many wore pink – the colour associated with Breast Cancer Awareness.

It is extremely easy for us to become so wrapped up with the happenings within our churches and our lives, that we forget that we are also called to help meet the needs of those outside of the church. This project of awareness was intended not only to reassure the world that we welcome them with opened arms amid struggles and battles mentally

and even physically, but to also remind ourselves and one another that realities like Mental Health and Breast Cancer are also ours - and we are to care for each person affected, or at least be God's hands and feet to them, so that hope is restored in their hearts.

Through this project, some members felt comfortable enough to share the physical and mental challenges they have undergone throughout the years, and we were able to be a listening ear to them, praising God that they have emerged triumphantly from their trials.

This project was spearheaded by Minister, Reverend Errol Ragnauth, and Student Minister, Ms. Jessica S. Mahadeo. All age groups of each individual church were eager and willing to participate. It certainly was successful! All glory to God!

*IN PHOTO: Dexter Ali, Andre Thompson, Amita Gangar, Joan Sookallo, Suzanne Goalan, Kaitlin Latchu-Rampersad, Davina Sooknanan, Cheryl Kalicharan, Dawn Salick, Shelley Ramsaroop, Mohan Bhagan, Andre Salick, Oral Nagessar*



# CUREPE/ST. JOSEPH PRESBYTERIAN CREDIT UNION

TERRENCE WARDE – ST. JOSEPH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**T**he Ministry of Labour and Co-operatives recently granted approval and registration for the Curepe/St. Joseph Presbyterian Credit Union to officially start operation. This is a welcome initiative which started in 2018 when the Session of the Curepe/St. Joseph Pastoral Region, then under Reverend Damien Sieunarine, approved the formation of a Steering Committee to start the process of the formation of a Credit Union.

The Committee comprised members of all 5 churches in the Curepe/St. Joseph Pastoral Region and created the necessary byelaws and other documentation for same. The approval was delayed by the effects of the pandemic (for 18 months) and finally came through in October 2021.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee comprises:

1. Mrs. Judy Kalloo – Jubilee Presbyterian Church
2. Mr. Robert Sagar – Jubilee Presbyterian Church
3. Mrs. Sherry-Ann Seemunta – Latchu Memorial Presbyterian Church
4. Ms. Rosanna Beharry – Latchu Memorial Presbyterian Church
5. Mr. Naresh Ragoonath – Maracas Presbyterian Church
6. Ms. Nadia Mitchell – Curepe Presbyterian Church
7. Mr. Vinodatt Lutchman – St. Joseph Presbyterian Church
8. Mr. Terrence Warde – St. Joseph Presbyterian Church

Mr. Peter Sammy (deceased) was

also a member of this committee from its inception. His contribution will always be treasured.

## 1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1st Annual General Meeting of the Credit Union will be held on 15th January 2022. This will be a hybrid meeting, with some members being accommodated virtually. The Ministry of Labour will oversee this meeting and all necessary legal and health protocols will be observed. The Ministry will also be assisting with the accounting and auditing processes of the Credit Union, for the next two years.

The Steering Committee, in considering that the pandemic now dictates limitations on certain activities, made the decision to develop a website to recruit members, and to facilitate online deposits of membership dues and

share contributions. The website is [csjprescu.com](http://csjprescu.com) and the email address is [www.csjprescu.com](mailto:www.csjprescu.com) and the email address is [csjprescu@gmail.com](mailto:csjprescu@gmail.com). Our Credit Union may be the very first in our country to start as an Almost-Virtual Digital Credit Union. There will also be a physical office at Austin Street, St. Augustine.

Persons interested in becoming members of this Credit Union can just log in to the website and fill out the Application for Membership form. The process is seamless and virtual, very simple and practical.

Enrolment to the Credit Union is open to ALL members of Presbyterian Churches throughout our twin-island republic, Teachers and Workers of all Presbyterian schools and Students over the age of 16 attending Presbyterian Schools.

Hard-copy membership application forms will be available at ALL Presbyterian Churches within the coming months in addition to the online option.

## WHAT IS A CREDIT UNION?

Many persons may not be aware of what a Credit Union is, particularly our younger members. It is a legal Financial Institution, which offers members the benefit of a co-operative society and is an alternative to a bank in many ways. Many of our Presbyterian businesses have made credit unions their source of financing for their small and medium-sized businesses.

At the Curepe/St. Joseph Presbyterian Credit Union, there will be financial products for Churches and Schools within our Presbyterian

system for savings and investment, and short-term and long-term growth. These products will be fashioned to suit the needs of our Churches and Schools. Credit Unions are a definite option, and the Curepe/St. Joseph Presbyterian Credit Union should be a consideration.

For the benefit of members also, a health and life insurance coverage will be planned and specific products for young persons and small businesses.

When it comes to Financial institutions, Credit Unions are the best kept secret!! Come share in that secret by joining the Curepe/St. Joseph Presbyterian Credit Union. Credit Unions are not solely profit-driven but historically provide service to members. Credit Union members are the OWNERS so there is no conflict of interest. The Credit Union's interest is its members' interest.

On the other hand, Banks and other Financial Institutions seek their Stockholders' interest and this is always for-profit. The client is the means through which the "for-profit institution" makes its money.

Mark Twain – "A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining, but wants it back the minute it begins to rain."

## THE CREDIT UNION WAY

When you open an account with the Curepe/St. Joseph Presbyterian Credit Union, you become a member and owner of the Credit Union. The Credit Union does not have Stockholders.

Banks are NOT the only option when you wish to open an account

– consider a Credit Union. Consider the Curepe/St. Joseph Presbyterian Credit Union.

The shift from a "for-profit" to "non-profit" business model changes the focus from generating the most profits possible to creating the best customer service and member-service possible.

Fees associated with most Credit Unions tend to be lower than those of Banks.

Credit Unions have higher savings rates and much lower interest rates on loans.

Credit Unions are more likely to have policies that are more forgiving than Banks do.

Dividends are paid by most Credit Unions to their members at the end of the financial year. This is a form of profit-sharing. Members' interests are paramount.

## CREDIT UNION LANDSCAPE

Globally there are over 86,000 Credit Unions, and in Trinidad and Tobago, there are over 200 registered Credit Unions in operation, with membership ranging from large to small. Credit Unions are a viable option for Savings and Investment.

**TO JOIN** the Curepe/St. Joseph Presbyterian Credit Union, Austin Street, St. Augustine.

Go to the website at [csjprescu.com](http://csjprescu.com) OR send an email to [csjprescu@gmail.com](mailto:csjprescu@gmail.com) or phone – 771-7085





# Lighting of the Advent Candles

THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

Many Presbyterian Reformed Congregations are following the tradition of having an Advent Wreath and the Lighting of Advent Candles to prepare themselves for the coming of Jesus Christ. The liturgy for the lighting of the candles may take a variety of forms. Albeit it is customary to associate each candle with one theme, such as Hope, Peace, Joy and Love (represented by different colours). A white candle, the Christ candle, stands in the centre of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day. As we participate in these Advent activities, let us be cognisant that the symbols used in this tradition are not the important factors here, but the *meaning behind the symbols*.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT: THEME: HOPE  
(PURPLE CANDLE)

LEADER: Today is the beginning of Advent – the preparation time for celebrating the Birth of Christ. We are here because God's promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born. God's promise is kept whenever we worship, because Christ is in our midst. God will keep the promise to come in glory and majesty.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 60: 1-3

LIGHTING THE CANDLE: We light this Candle to proclaim the coming of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. With the coming of this "Light", there is HOPE. It is because of Jesus Christ, we not only have HOPE, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. God wants us to work for good in this world.

PRAYER: Almighty God, we thank You that Jesus Christ brought HOPE into this world. The good news of the Bible is that You are still bringing HOPE to all people. Help us to be ready to welcome Your Son, Jesus Christ, so that we may be a people of HOPE in our world. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT: THEME:  
PEACE (GREEN CANDLE)

LEADER: Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we recognize Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace. The one who gives us true PEACE – a peace of mind and soul – a peace that passes all understanding. In a world plagued by hatred, violence, and crime, we look forward to a day when wars shall end and nations shall dwell together in unity.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 9: 6-7

LIGHTING THE CANDLE: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, into this world. With the coming of Jesus Christ, whose name is also Emmanuel, "God with us", may His presence give way to wholeness and PEACE.

PRAYER: Eternal God, we thank You that through the ages You have given true PEACE to Your people. Help us to have PEACE in our lives – a PEACE the world cannot give and a PEACE the world cannot take away. We pray that, in this season of Advent, we may by what we say and do, inspire, and promote true PEACE. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT: THEME:  
JOY (YELLOW CANDLE)

LEADER: Today is the third Sunday in Advent, and very soon we will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We worship God with JOY in our hearts as we are reminded of the words of the Angels: "Behold, I bring you good news of great JOY, which will come to all people."



**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** John 15: 9-11

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE:** We light this candle to proclaim the JOY of the Lord which is our strength. With the coming of Jesus Christ this JOY is ours not only at Christmas, but all year through.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, help us to have the JOY that does not depend on earthly happiness, but on You - our stronghold in this earthly life. Help us to be filled with Your JOY so that we may share it with a joyless world. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT: THEME:**  
LOVE (RED CANDLE)

**LEADER:** Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent, and Christmas is upon us. Christmas happens when God comes to us in LOVE through Jesus Christ and fills us with LOVE for all humankind, not because of anything we have done but what God has done in and through Jesus Christ.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** 1 JOHN 4:7-11

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE:** We light this candle to proclaim that God showed the greatest LOVE by sending His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to die so that we may have fullness of life. This LOVE helps us to LOVE God and LOVE one another.

**PRAYER:** Loving God, we thank You that Jesus showed Your LOVE for every person, regardless of colour, creed, race, age or gender. Come to us in this Advent Season and give us a LOVE that is patience, kind, compassionate and caring. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

**CHRISTMAS DAY** (All the candles remain unlit)

**LEADER:** The time has come! On this Christmas day we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Saviour and Lord.

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:** Isaiah 9:6 | Luke 2:10, 14 | Roman 5:5

**LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES:** (Each candle is lit while each word is said – HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE)

Today we re-light the four Advent Candles - HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE and recall what the good news means. Jesus Christ is the greatest gift who makes all these other gifts possible.

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:** We light the Christ Candle, as we reflect on the meaning of Christ's birth. Christ is born. The light of this holy birth has shattered the power of darkness forever. May the flame of the Christ candle burn long after Christmas is packed away for another year.

**PRAYER:** We thank You God for Your gift of Jesus Christ. Be born in our hearts so that we may reflect the HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE in all we do and speak. Encourage us to do our part to bring good will and peace to our families, churches, our nation and world. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

**PURPLE:** Purple can symbolise pain, suffering, and therefore mourning and penitence. It is the liturgical colour for the Season of Lent. It is also the colour of royalty, so traditionally has also been used for Advent and is still used in most Protestant churches

**GREEN:** Green symbolises the renewal of vegetation and generally of living things and the promise of new life. It is used for the Season of Epiphany between Transfiguration Sunday and the beginning of Lent, and between Trinity Sunday (first Sunday after Pentecost) and the beginning of Advent. In some traditions green is used to symbolise Peace.

**YELLOW:** Yellow symbolises light which, in turn, is a symbol of the presence of God. It is also symbolic of joy and hope,

especially in the resurrection of Jesus. It is often used as an alternate colour for gold when white is used as a sanctuary colour. It is sometimes used with white for Easter.

**RED:** Red is the colour of fire and so symbolises the presence of God. It is the liturgical colour for Pentecost. It is considered the colour of the Church, since red can also symbolise the blood of martyrs. It is sometimes used for Maundy Thursday and during Eastertide. In Roman Catholic tradition it is used for Palm Sunday, in anticipation of the death of Jesus. In some traditions it is used to commemorate special days for martyrs or saints, or for the ordination of priests/ministers. In some traditions Red is used to symbolise love.

**WHITE:** White symbolises purity, holiness, and virtue, as well as respect and reverence. White is used for all high Holy Days and festival days of the Church Year, especially the seasons of Christmas and Easter, as well as for baptism, marriage, dedications, and in some traditions for the ordination of ministers. It is also used for funerals as a symbol of the resurrection.

**BLUE VIOLET:** Blue Violet is the colour of royalty, to welcome the coming of a King. It also evokes pain and suffering. It is sometimes used as the traditional purple for Advent to symbolise both the impending birth of Jesus, yet also foreshadowing his death.

**PINK:** Pink symbolises joy and happiness. In various churches it is used either for the Third or Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy at the impending birth of Jesus.

**ROSE:** Rose also is used to symbolise joy and happiness and is an alternate colour for the Third or Fourth Sunday of Advent.



**The Vice Chairman, Mr. Dion Gayah, presenting a token to the Moderator of Synod**



**Ms. Jacqueline Lou Hing presenting the Minister, Rev. Winston Ramkissoon with a token.**

# St. John Presbyterian Church, 17th Anniversary Service Chase Village Pastoral Region

## GARY SAMAI, ST JOHN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On Sunday 17th October 2021, the humble congregation of the St. John Presbyterian Church celebrated its 17th year of re-opening and reestablishment (Established 1958 and Re-Commissioned 2004). The elated congregation was able to experience, in a COVID-19 safe environment, the dynamism of the Moderator of the Synod of the PCTT the Rt. Reverend Joy Evelyn Abdul-Mohan.

This year's theme was: *'Faith in a Time of Crisis'*. Families were pleased, as this message focused on the current pandemic that continues to ravage the nation, lives and livelihoods, resulting in despair and sadness. The Moderator expounded on the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic

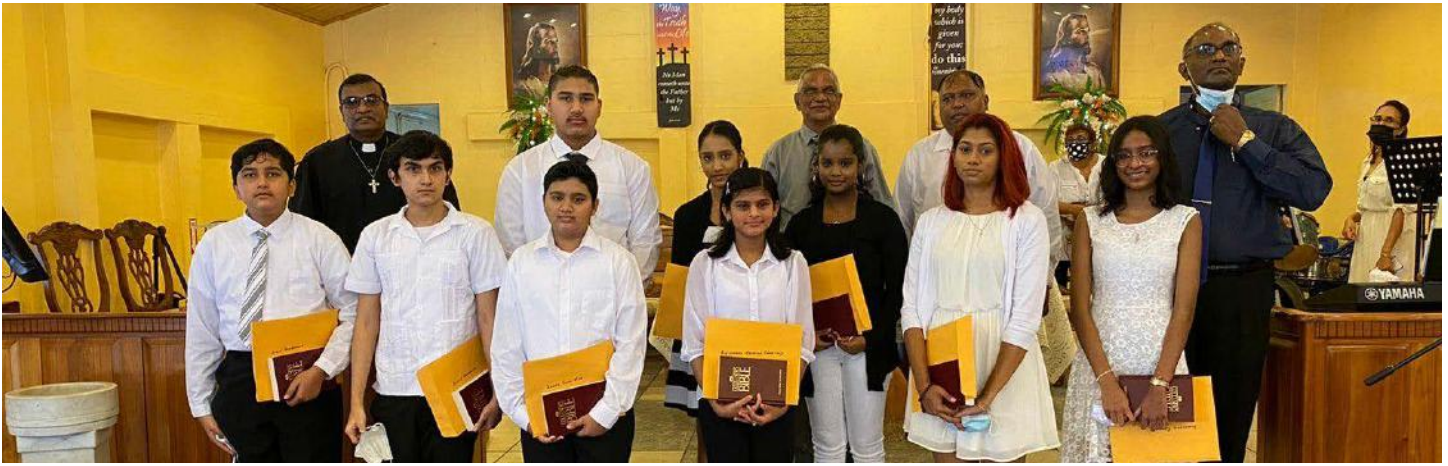
has – and continues to have – on individual finances, health, and faith. She summarised her God inspired sermon with a sign of hope to all, informing worshippers that God continues to be in control, this pandemic and suffering are lessons for the soul to grasp.

Beloved Minister of the Chase Village Pastoral Region, Reverend Winston Ramkissoon, provided support as the Leader of Worship, with Members of the Local Board actively participating. The team of dedicated Elders included: Samantha Deolal, Bernadette Beharry, Marilyn Boodoo-Lowtan and Roopnarine Sankar who presented their talents to God's glory, while Mr. Collin Lezama, a long-standing well-wisher of the church, brought his gift of song to bless those within the

sanctuary. Mr. Samuel Doolarsingh, the church's organist, added his musical flare to a limited-edition service..

This service touched the hearts of the growing membership. As a church family, we continue to genuinely pray for one another's health and well-being. Even though the pandemic has placed challenges and grief in our lives, we have grown as a people of faith, understanding that these trials and sufferings are willed by God for a reason, sometimes greater than our understanding. Have faith, serve God and pray incessantly.

As a PCTT congregation, we extend our love to the readership of the Trinidad Presbyterian and pray that all are inspired and blessed by faith and unity.



# Confirmation at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

**GARRY SOOMARAH, EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The name Emmanuel which means 'God is with us' reminds us at the aforementioned church that God is truly with us even during this pandemic. The church welcomed new communicant members on Sunday 14th November, 2021, at its regular communion service. Leading in worship was Intern Minister Bjorn Warde and dispensing Holy Communion was our Minister,

Reverend Stephen Harripersad. Reverend Harripersad issued the oath to which the communicant members promised, they were then confirmed and welcomed as full members of the Presbyterian Church. Each communicant was given a Bible and a Certificate of Confirmation by the church.

This exercise was done with the assistance of the Presiding Elder, Mr. Timothy Beepath and Elder, Mr. Garry Soomarah, who assisted the Minister in conducting the confirmation classes. As a community in Christ, we, the members of the Local Board and the congregation, promise to assist our new confirmed members in building their faith and relationship with God.

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# Dedication of Siparia Union Presbyterian School

**GEETA K. MAHARAJ**

**T**he Dedication Service of the Siparia Union Presbyterian School took place on Thursday 14th October 2021 and was organised by the South-Central Presbytery. The ceremony was streamlined according to the Ministry of Health Regulations and COVID-19 restrictions.

Reverend Brenda Bullock, Minister of the Siparia Pastoral Region, was Leader of Worship and Preacher for the ceremony. The Right Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, blessed the gathering with an Opening Prayer and also pronounced the Benediction. Ms. Marlene Shah, Secretary of South-Central Presbytery, welcomed

all present. Ms. Stephanie Mohan, Vice Principal, read the Scripture passage. The Act of Dedication was done by Reverend Stephen Harripersad, Chairman, South-Central Presbytery. Mr. Jerome Ramlakhan, Principal, expressed warm words of appreciation to all present. Guests can be seen in an accompanying photo.

Greetings were brought on behalf of the Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education by Ms. Geeta K. Maharaj, General Secretary of the Board. Greetings from the Ministry of Education were expressed by Schools' Supervisor 11 of the St. Patrick Education District, Mr. Anthony Ramjit. General Secretary of Synod, Mr. Terrence Warde, brought

greetings on behalf of the Synod of The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago. Guests can be seen in the accompanying photo above.

The Board is grateful to the Ministry of Education for this twenty-seven-million-dollar state-of-the-art facility and thanks the South-Central Presbytery for planning and accomplishing its dedication. This new building symbolically honours the past, embodies hope for the youth of Siparia and environs, and for generations to come, will offer a bright future through its mission of focusing on educating hearts and minds through healthy teaching and learning practices.



# Answering the Call: Two elevated as Presiding Elders at St. Charles

MOHAN BHAGAN

**R**everend Errol Ragnauth, in his sermon on Sunday 17th October 2021, referred to scripture passage: Jeremiah 1: 4-10 as inspirational: a starting point to answer God's call to service.

Jeremiah 1: 6 & 7: *"I answered: 'Sovereign Lord, I don't know how to speak, I am too young.' 'Do not say that you are too young but go to the people I send you to and tell them everything I command you to say. Do not be afraid for I will be with you to protect you.'"*

Prophets: Moses, Isaiah, and Jonah of the Old Testament, at first, were quite timid and hesitant to preach the WORD. They felt a sense of inadequacy, but the Lord provided the tools, the confidence and the right attitude to preach, to convince their hearers to turn to God for guidance and salvation.

Reverend Ragnauth emphasised the point that no one is too young or too old to render service to God. "Don't make excuses when the Master calls, trust in Him and His Word, be simple in your approach, but stand firm on what is right, the Lord will not give you more than you can handle," he said. Reverend Ragnauth further exhorted the congregation to trust in the Lord and serve Him with all their heart, soul and might.

Earlier in the programme, Mr. Selvon Budri read Psalm selection 31: 1-5, while Mr. Robert Sagar read from Jeremiah 1:4-10. Student Minister, Ms. Jessica Mahadeo, consecrated the offering.



Recording Secretary of Northern Presbytery, Ms. Roann Mahabalsingh, presented both Mrs. Dianne Phillip-Ramjattan and Mr. Ralph Ramjattan for Elevation to the Order of Presiding Eldership of PCTT, and brought greetings on behalf of the Northern Presbytery. Vice Chairman of Northern Presbytery, Reverend Errol Ragnauth, performed the act of Elevation. Both candidates presented for Elevation had successfully completed the prescribed course of study and preparation, including a period of internship. They were evaluated both by SATC and Northern Presbytery.

Mrs. Dianne Phillip-Ramjattan has given 26 years of service as an Elder, while Mr. Ralph Ramjattan has given more than 20 years, both serving efficiently, effectively and with deep devotion in various administrative positions at the St. Charles Presbyterian Church, in the Session of the Chaguanas Pastoral Region and other Boards and Courts of PCTT. Prior to his Elevation to the Order of Presiding Elder, Mr. Ralph Ramjattan graduated with the Licentiate in Theology from SATC. Both candidates are members of the St. Charles Presbyterian Church.

Greetings were brought by the Clerk of Session of the Chaguanas Pastoral Region, Mrs. Elizabeth Hart,

and General Secretary of Synod of PCTT, Mr. Terrence Warde, on behalf of himself and the Moderator. The service of hope, loyalty and devotion was underscored by both speakers who spoke in glowing terms of the candidates presented.

In their responses, both elevated Presiding Elders expressed gratitude to Almighty God and deepest appreciation to those who touched their lives, and for the opportunity to serve the Local, Regional and the wider PCTT.

PE Mrs. Dianne Phillip-Ramjattan has been assigned to the San Juan/ Santa Cruz/ Woodbrook Pastoral Region, while PE Mr. Ralph Ramjattan will serve in the Chaguanas Pastoral Region.

Vice Chairman of Northern Presbytery, Reverend Errol Ragnauth, presented each newly Elevated Presiding Elder with a Study Bible. Tokens were also presented to them by the Las Lomas Presbyterian Church.

To conclude the well organised and quite inspirational Elevation Service – done all despite and well within the COVID-19 restrictions – the hymn, "Be Thou my vision" was sung, after which, Presiding Elder, Mr. Orlando Nagessar pronounced the Benediction.

# OLE TIME Christmas

TREASURED CHRISTMAS CHILDHOOD MEMORIES | COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, DECEMBER, 2021

## THE PARRANDEROS

"Sereno, Sereno, Sereno Sera" were the fore-day morning sounds that woke up the village before the cock would even crow. The young children would excitedly follow on the heels of the adults to the verandah to 'abreme la puerta'. The paranderos heralding the Christmas Spirit had arrived. They sang sweetly to the accompaniment of cuatros, maracas, mandolin, toc-toc, box-bass and scratcher. By the time they climbed the newly scrubbed and painted stairs, my uncles and my dad joined in with bottle and spoon. The group was male dominated, I guess the womenfolk still had much to do as the day unfolded.

They would begin with the Seneral or Aguinaldo, "greetings to the home" then the Annunciacion, followed by a Nacimiento. My father later told us they were singing the entire nativity story in Spanish and a bit of Patois. Of course, there were frequent intervals where they sweetened their voices and quenched their thirst with the Charlie's Red Spanish Wine which my grandfather would buy especially for them. There was also Cydrax and Peardrax by Whiteways and Wimple for anyone teetotaler among the band. As children, we hoped they would drink

the wine as we loved the Cydrax and Peardrax ourselves.

They did eat as there would be more homes to grace with their gift of parang. As they ended their entertaining visit, they would descend the stairs with the Despidida or their "thank you and farewell" song until next year same time. It was now our chore to collect the glasses for washing, while my grandmother and mother headed for the mop and water-bucket to restore the now foot-printed, newly varnished floor. The spirit of the season had come to my grandparents' home.

It would be one of my Christmas wishes would come true if every child, can just for once, experience the truly Christmassy event of the Paranderos visit to their homes, arousing them from sleep and setting the tone for Christmas Day celebrations.

## THE HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS TREE

Another ole time tradition is the home-made Christmas tree.



The homemade Christmas tree was a reality many decades ago in Trinidad and Tobago when purchasing a store-bought Christmas tree was financially impossible for many families. Procuring and decorating the homemade Christmas tree was a family activity.

What I can talk first-hand about is the dry and hardy guava branch that was used at our home. We would retrieve it from the guava trees growing in an empty lot opposite our home. By the way, there are still guava trees there, though not as many. Choosing the branch was a precise search according to height, thickness, spread of branches, among other characteristics. Once chosen and cut, it would be carefully taken home and wiped gently after being pruned so the branches would be proportionate. Then, the pot or pan in which to stand it upright would be filled with sand and rocks. The pan or pot would be covered with Christmas paper from gifts previously received.

The entire branch would be covered by wrapping cotton on the branches. Decorating the "tree" would commence with everybody choosing what to hang. Homemade decorations would be made or chosen creatively from whatever was at hand. Old Christmas cards would be cut out in any shape and because of their glittery façade and colours would be used to adorn the tree. At night, these decorations would catch the house lights and would shine intermittently and brilliantly as they swung with whatever caused them to move. Without fail, Mom would make popcorn and we would use needle

and thread to make strings which we hung loosely around the tree. There was nothing more beautiful than our guava branch Christmas tree!

At the end of it all, the family would enjoy this spectacle and the joy of sharing this activity brought a closeness and warmth which I still remember today.

## THE OUTSIDE DRUM OVEN

Further morning the fowl cock ah crow. De village wake up to the cool air.

The excitement starts in the carat shed with Baap, the Sadhu, chanting and praying.

Bharka in the sugar bag hammock rocking and kneading the dough. Dada sitting on the peerah turning the butter and sugar. Mama cracking the eggs and Chokie dancing to the sound of the dhantal and sifting the flour. Bharkee pour everything in the galvanised bucket. Cake ready to bake.

Mamoo under the mango tree heating up the barrel oven with the firewood and coal-pot. Cake and dough in the oven, everybody laughing and singing and the dhantal man playing.

Pooknie blowing to keep the fire going. All is great. The bread and cake done bake.

## BARREL/DRUM OVEN

The aroma of bread, fruit and sponge cake and sweet bread being baked in the outside Drum Oven filters through the entire neighbourhood. Baking in the outside Steel Drum Oven was one of the signature events on

Christmas Eve. In many backyards, one would see this invention at the top of which would be a wooden fire, ablaze on a thin metal sheet, and a lit coal pot on the bottom of the oven and the bread and cakes stacked on racks made from iron rods in the centre of the oven. This oven was the forerunner of the modern kitchen stove and served many communities where persons had no access to kitchen stoves.

More so, it represented a tradition where friends and family would gather around the oven and engage in light-hearted conversation, fun and laughter. This oven not only served as an alternative to modern stoves but created a central point for bringing persons of the community together.



These ovens are long gone, the fragrance no longer fills the air, the community gathering is something of the past but the modern stoves can never duplicate the taste of cakes and bread baked in this

simple appliance.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS ON A STRING

Long before Hallmark displayed Christmas cards on racks in the stores, households were already decorating the walls of their homes with Christmas and greetings cards, hung on a curved string attached to the wall. With its origin in England and transported to the Caribbean, this practice of displaying Christmas and greetings cards this way became commonplace and in style for both Christian and non-Christian alike. Generally, the cards were displayed on a conspicuous wall of the home, particularly in the living rooms, which provided a talking point for friends and guests.

The purpose here was two-fold – to reflect the spirit of Christmas and for guests and friends to visually take notice of the array of greetings cards sent by those close to you. It told the story of friendship, adoration by loved ones, greetings from far away countries, and the tenderness of romance, couched in a Christmas card. As the way of all traditions, the string and greetings cards are now far and few giving way to greetings by technology, which sadly, cannot be displayed on a wall.

## THE 'HANGING' OF CURTAINS ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

It was not too long ago that the practice of hanging new curtains on Christmas Eve was a central part to the Christmas culture. Christmas would generate frenzied buying of curtain material to be sewn and hung at the correct time. It was not uncommon to see curtains hanging for a year being replaced by new curtains in the twinkling of an eye

on Christmas Eve. The culture was such that neighbours would be competing with one another to see who would be the last to hang the new Christmas curtains.

The Christmas curtains were kept a secret until windows were opened on Christmas morning and they were displayed in all their beauty heralding the Christmas spirit and eliciting comments from neighbours as to who had the prettiest curtains.

Change has brought a new dispensation and the era of curtain excitement has largely been a thing of the past. However, for those who can remember the excitement and the coming together of families on those occasions will never fade away. Today, many who remember those days, include at least one new set of curtains in one area of the house.

## HAM BOILED IN THE "PITCH OIL" TIN

The "pitch oil" tin referred to the oil tin or the large 'Crix' tin in which the ham was boiled – in reality, a "pitch oil tin" was not actually used. These tins were often bought at the village's Chinese shop.

Boiling the Christmas ham was another Christmas Eve tradition undertaken by many families. The family would buy the ham – a leg of the pig - which was cured in brine. After lunch on Christmas Eve, families would begin the procedure of boiling the ham. They would have gathered three huge stones to form the fireside and firewood, consisting of dried branches and twigs, prior to this. When it was time to boil the ham, the fire would be lit. The outer case or wrapping in which the ham came would be

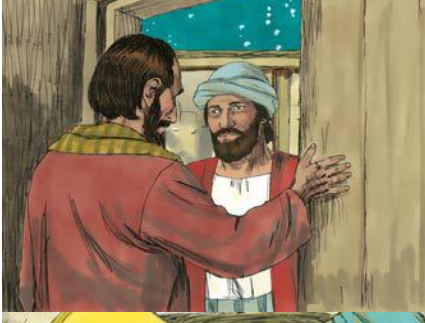
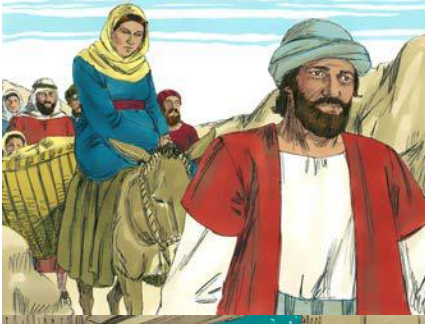
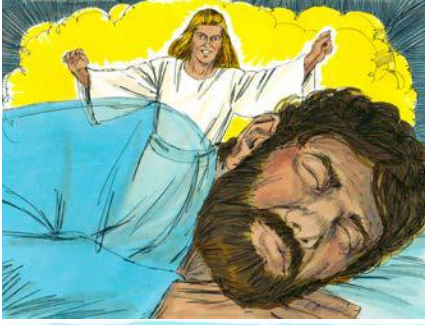
peeled away and the ham would be placed into the tin, which would be filled with water. If one bought a heavily salted ham, this would be soaked overnight, the water discarded and fresh water would be used to boil the ham. Depending on the size of the ham, it would be boiled from anywhere from forty-five minutes to one and a half hours.

There was great excitement as the village children and sometimes adults would hover around ready to poke the fire to ensure it did not die down. There were numerous warnings which came from all directions to be careful as sometimes the fire wood would let off sparks. Also, the children wanted to be on hand to stick the cloves into the ham as soon as it was taken off the fire and the water emptied so that the flavour of the clove would permeate the ham.

At times, while the ham was boiling, children would be engaged in shining the wooden floors using rags under their feet while dancing away.

As soon as the ham was cool enough, it would be sliced and ready to be eaten with freshly baked bread, baked in the outside oven. There was nothing sweeter than the taste of freshly baked ham sandwiched between freshly baked slices of bread. O, for a taste of the ole time days!





# KIDS CORNER

DEACONESS AMBER SEESAHAI-PAYNE, CLAXTON BAY PASTORAL REGION

## BIBLE STORY

Luke 2:1-20

## MESSAGE

**D**o you remember the story of how God created the world and made two special people, Adam and Eve, to live in the Garden of Eden with God forever and nothing bad would happen to them if they trusted God? Unfortunately, they disobeyed God by eating a forbidden fruit from the garden and they were separated from God. However, God had a plan to rescue us from all the bad things in the world so He could be close to us again!

For hundreds of years, God planned this rescue. He built a special family for the rescuer to be born into and

he told prophets how to recognise the rescuer when he came.

After many years, it was finally time for God to send his very own Son, Jesus, to be with us on Earth. God could have sent Jesus as a warrior, a mighty king or a superhero, but he sent Jesus the same way we all get to Earth, as a baby.

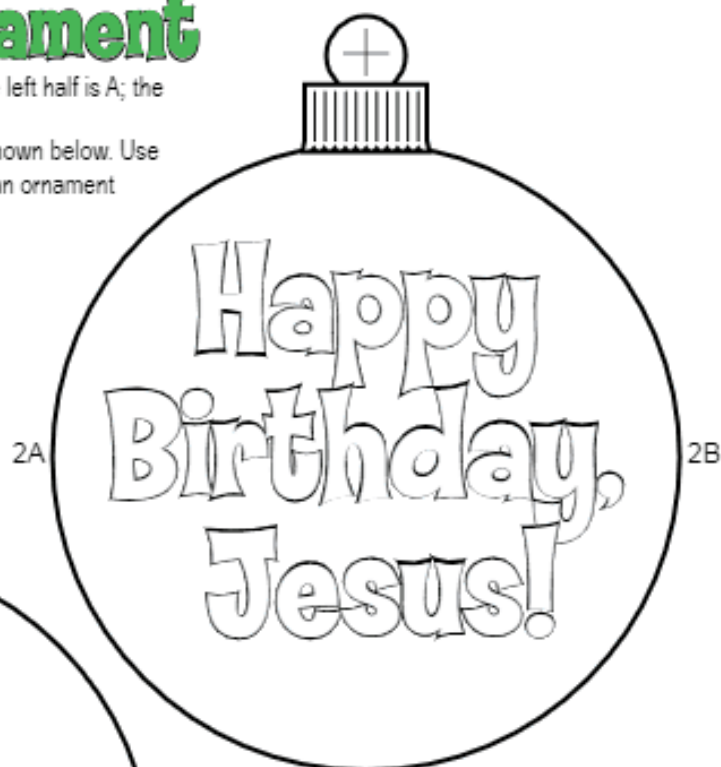
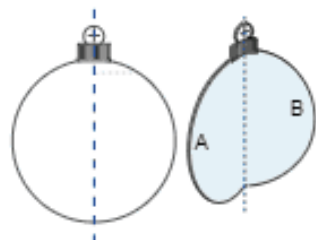
Christmas is when we celebrate the good news of Jesus being born – not just that he was born, but what he did later, which was the best news of all! He took the punishment for all the wrong choices that anyone has ever made by dying on the cross for us and then coming back to life three days later!

God loves us so much that he sent His only Son to die for us so we can be close to God again!

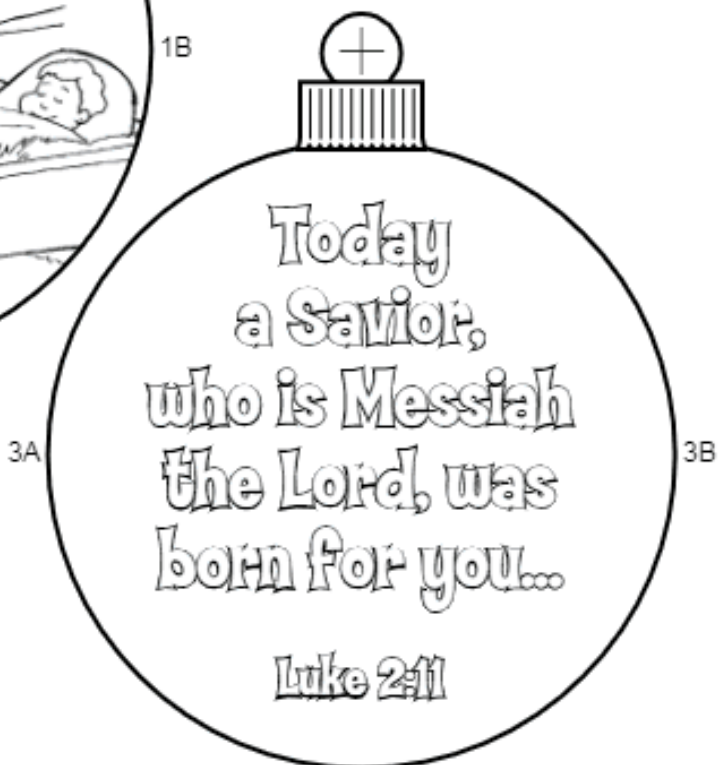
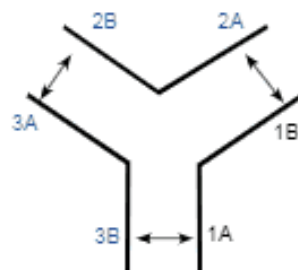
**MEMORY VERSE**  
“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”  
- John 3:16, (NIV)

# Christmas Ornament

1. Cut out the three pieces and fold each in half. The left half is A; the right half is B.
2. Glue the backs of the folded halves together as shown below. Use a hole punch to make a hole in the top ring. Use an ornament hanger or string to hang the ornament.



1. Glue the back of "1B" to the back of "2A."
2. Glue the back of "2B" to the back of "3A."
3. Glue the back of "3B" to the back of "1A."



# TRADITIONAL TRINI CHRISTMAS CAKE

## YOU WILL NEED:

**1 lb. currants**

**1 lb. raisins**

**1 lb. sultanas**

**1 lb. cherries**

**¼ lb. mixed peel**

**1 tsp. mixed spices**

**2 oz. almonds nutmeg, cinnamon, spice**

**1 pt. cherry brandy**

**1 pt. rum**

**1 lb. sugar 1 lb. flour (plain)**

**4 tsp. baking powder 12 eggs**

**2 tsp. vanilla essence 1 lb. prunes**

**1 btl. browning**

**1 lb butter**

**½ lb. brown sugar,**

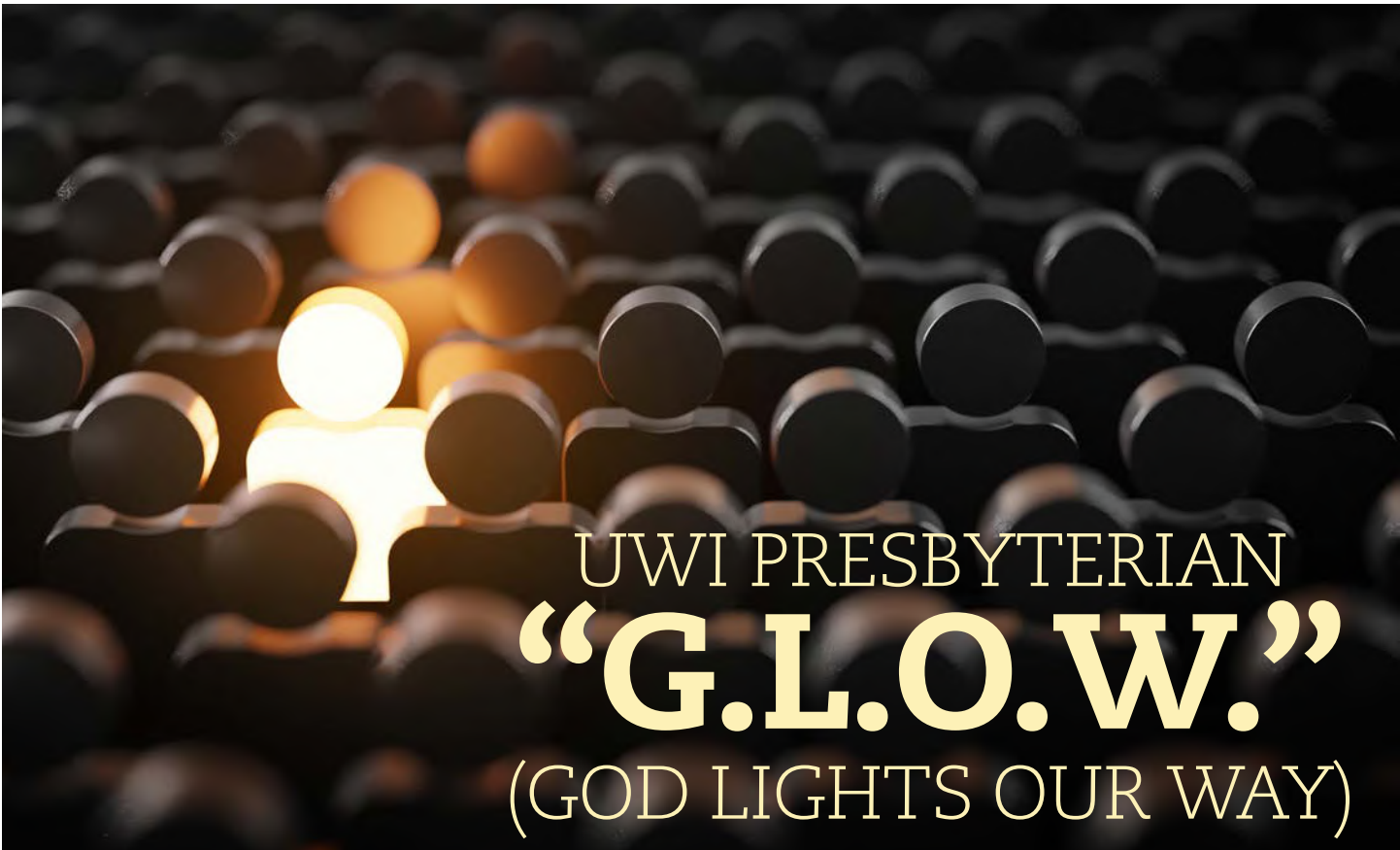
**½ cup cold water.**

## METHOD:

**Seed the prunes, minced (currants, raisins, sultanas), add cherries and mixed peel. Pour mixture of rum and brandy and spices and soak for at least 24 hours.**

**Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Break eggs and whip and add to butter mixture. Fold in fruit mixture. Add almonds and browning to your liking. Add flour, baking powder and stir well. Pour in prepared baking tins and bake at 250 ° C. Bake 2 - 9" tins around 2 to 2 ½ hours.**





# UWI PRESBYTERIAN “G.L.O.W.” (GOD LIGHTS OUR WAY)

STEPHANIE BALDEOSINGH (ARAMALAYA PASTORAL REGION)

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Jesus said in John 8:12, *“I am the light of the world.”*

**B**ut then, He also said, *“YOU are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in Heaven”* (Matthew 5:14, 16).

At our last meeting, our Minister, Reverend Anthony Rampersad, shared the significance of us being the lights of this world. He reminded us that even in the darkest of places, the tiniest bit of light will be noticed. *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it”* (John 1:5).

When we fix our eyes on Jesus as the only true source of Light, then we, in turn, *“will walk in light, and never walk in darkness again”*

(John 8:12). Our lives will then be reflections of Jesus' Light, and we will lead others to His Grace. Like plants gravitate towards the sun, others will gravitate towards reflections of the true Light source of Heaven. We point each other to Jesus' Love by reflecting His Light.

We can only be the lights of the world when Christ shines from within us. At The UWI PYC, it is our prayer to reflect Jesus' love, humility, and sacrifice for the rest of The UWI to see. We have the Light of Christ, and we must strive to never hide it among ourselves, but to place it on a lamppost for the entire campus to see it. *“A city built on a hill CANNOT be hidden”* (Matthew 5:14).

We encourage you to join us on our Mission to share the Light of Christ!





# Thirteen New Communicants Affirm their Faith at Curepe Presbyterian Church

**SHARMILA SINGH**

**I**n a landmark service during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Curepe Presbyterian Church welcomed thirteen new communicant members into its fold. Ready to be confirmed since Easter, the new communicants exercised great patience as COVID-19 restrictions delayed their confirmation until Sunday November 07, 2021.

At the service, adults and youths stood together as a group, physically distanced, to take their vows. With arms outstretched above the communicants' heads, Reverend Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan and Student Minister Stefan Wilson together blessed each communicant. Each communicant received a

Confirmation Certificate and a Good News Bible to continue his/her journey of faith.

The testimonies below demonstrate that the admission of communicants to the fellowship of the church is an emotional and deeply spiritual experience:

*"This was an accomplishment for me in my personal walk with my Lord. As I received my communion, I experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit upon me, like a baptism of renewal and completeness in Him."*

*"I have always impressed upon my children, that their spiritual life is a natural and critical part of being a Christian. I was happy when God, in His timing, made a way for my daughter to be confirmed. I was*

*proud that she made her decision to take this step while balancing her online school and home life."*

*"It gave my heart great joy to see this day as my first grandchild was confirmed. I was proud to hear her read a Scripture passage during the service."*

*"It was truly a momentous occasion to see my beloved wife donned in white, stirring deep feelings of pride and love, reminiscent of our wedding day, as she confirmed her faith in God as a Presbyterian. We will now enjoy the benefits of spiritual unity which strengthens our familial bonds, devotion to each other and in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."*

# IN LOVING MEMORY

## Jairam Sitahal Jagessar

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Always remembered by his Wife: Grace, Daughters: Ramona & Karen  
Grandchildren: Jada & Conner, Sons-in-law: Michael & Joel In-Laws, family and friends.

Past Chairman & Elder of the Trinity Presbyterian Church of the Marabella/Bonne Aventure Pastoral  
Region. He also served on Synod, Synodical Council and various Boards and Committees of the  
Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago



SUNRISE: 15 01 1942  
SUNSET: 29 12 2020



## Charmaine Alleyne - Budhoo

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

No farewell words were spoken, No time to say good bye. You were gone before we knew it  
And only God knows why, Our hearts still ache in sadness and secret tears still flow  
What it meant to lose you no one will ever know.

Charmaine is lovingly remembered as the daughter of Clyde Alleyne & Pamela Alleyne (dec),  
Wife of Ernest Budhoo, Mother of Edwin & Chrystal Ann,  
daughter in law of Emerson Budhoo (dec) & Patricia Budhoo (dec)

SUNRISE: 29 07 1961  
SUNSET: 24 11 2018

## Gladys Barbara Sammah

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

We miss you, Mum, as you celebrate your 90th birthday in heaven.  
No one can ever replace you now that you've gone.  
There's an emptiness that doesn't go away.  
Rest in heavenly peace and watch over your loved ones  
as you soar with the angels. Love always: your children  
Gerard, Randall, Peter, Clarence, Joy



SUNRISE: 30 11 1931  
SUNSET: 02 12 2020



## Pamela Phillip

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Lovingly remembered as the wife of the late Dennis Mahabir Phillip  
and as the mother of Dianne, Ronald, Richard (dec.), Wendy, Rodney and Ryan

What though the radiance which was once so bright be now forever taken from my sight,  
Though nothing can bring back the hour of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower;  
We will grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind.- William Wordsworth

SUNRISE: 10 001 1945  
SUNSET: 19 10 2021



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Layout for the December 2021 Digital Edition of *The Trinidad Presbyterian* done by: Vincent Ramkhelawan.

*"The Trinidad Presbyterian" was established in 1904  
It is the official publication of the Presbyterian  
Church of Trinidad and Tobago.*

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2020  
*December*

**“Let us receive the Light of Life”**

<b>SUNDAY</b>		<i>Luke</i> 3:1-6	<i>Philippians</i> 4:4-7	<i>Luke</i> 1:46b-55	<i>Luke</i> 2:41-52
<b>MONDAY</b>		<i>Isaiah</i> 40:1-11	<i>Hebrews</i> 13:7-17	<i>Colossians</i> 1:15-20	<i>Psalms</i> 148
<b>TUESDAY</b>		<i>2 Peter</i> 1:2-15	<i>Acts</i> 28:23-31	<i>Romans</i> 8:18-30	<i>Isaiah</i> 54:1-13
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<i>Psalms</i> 90	<i>Isaiah</i> 35:3-7	<i>Isaiah</i> 11:1-9	<i>Ephesians</i> 2:11-22	<i>1 Corinthians</i> 3:10-17
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<i>Luke</i> 1:68-79	<i>Isaiah</i> 12:2-6	<i>Jeremiah</i> 31:31-34	<i>2 Peter</i> 1:16-21	<i>Mark</i> 13:32-37
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<i>Philippians</i> 1:18-26	<i>Amos</i> 8:4-12	<i>Hebrews</i> 10:32-39	<i>Isaiah</i> 9:2-7	<i>John</i> 8:12-19
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<i>Malachi</i> 4:1-6	<i>Amos</i> 9:8-15	<i>Luke</i> 13:31-35	<i>Titus</i> 3:4-7	