



Welcome to Lent 2022

What Does The Lord Require Words BY Albert F. Bayly © 1949 Oxford University Press.

1. What does the Lord require
for praise and offering?
What sacrifice, desire
or tribute did you bring?
Do justly, love mercy,
walk humbly with your God.

2. Rulers of earth, give ear!
Should you not justice know?
Will God your pleading hear
while crime and cruelty grow?
Do justly, love mercy,
walk humbly with your God.

3. Still down the ages ring
the prophet's stern commands:
to merchant, worker, king,
he brings God's high commands:
do justly, love mercy,
walk humbly with your God.

4. How shall our life fulfill
God's law so hard and high?
Let Christ endue our will
with grace to fortify.
Then justly, in mercy,

The Lenten period of forty days has its basis in Jesus' forty days and nights in the wilderness (or desert). Three accounts of the wilderness experience are found in Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4:1-13. The Lenten journey is symbolic of the Christian journey, fraught with challenges to our identity, the demand to prove self-worth, and pressure to compromise values in order to acquire the temporal and superficial even at painful cost.

But the Christian journey has a formula for joyful fulfilment. This formula for joyful fulfilment is in resisting the world's value system through (1) knowledge of, (2) deep and constant reflection upon, and, (3) ready application of the Word of God. This engagement with the scriptures is what leads us to answer by word and witness "What does the Lord require of you?"

While the Christian endures the throes of the desert wilderness engaging the word of God, the journey foresees triumph and reward and joy. Careful reading of the accounts of the Jesus' wilderness experience reveals these.

At the start of lent, Ash Wednesday, the lections*

come together to call us to reflect upon the micro and macro conditions and conduct that dehumanize people and dishonour God. At the heart of dehumanization is selfishness and greed. Selfishness and greed thwarts the efforts of truth and justice. The result is hostility and mayhem. The lections call us to repentance. To turn away from behaviours that belie what our lips declare about our relationship with Christ. The lections call us to return to the place of true engagement with God and what God requires.

The current circumstances of the world and perhaps individual situations require us to enter a time of isolation, sacrifice, reflection even while the wild animals of bombing and subjugation, crimes and self-aggrandizement threaten. Isolation, sacrifice and reflection might lead us rediscover the presence of the supernatural - God, enabling us to resist and triumph.

[* Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 • Psalm 51:1-17 • 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 • Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21]

By Rev'd Paul Da-Costa Pinto

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International Women's Day

Moderator's Message for Sunday, March 6 2022

BREAKING THE SILENCE...STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR WOMEN

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Warm Greetings to You!

International Women's Day (IWD) will be celebrated across the globe on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 under the Theme: #BreakTheBias. While the experience is not the same for all women, the world over, women are generally not seen and treated as equal to men; many suffer as a result of societal/cultural biases, stereotypes, discrimination and violence. Women are also among the most economically vulnerable in our societies and their children along with them suffer as a consequence. Women who have disabilities, HIV & AIDS or who face other social exclusion, along with their children, are particularly disadvantaged. We see many of our sisters struggling among us daily in our homes, families, churches and communities.

It is regrettable that religion has directly and indirectly contributed to the undervaluing of women and our churches have not stood boldly alongside those who suffer from the various forms of abuse that is sadly so common in our own society. We want to take a stand alongside our women on this IWD. Along with our men, we declare solidarity with our women, as we affirm our belief that God created women

and men equal and as bearers of God's Image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-28). We are inspired by the example of Jesus, one who affirmed women; standing with them when society, culture and belief systems would have it otherwise. The implication of this fact is that we as church must stand in support of equal rights, justice and dignity for women and girls; we must break our silence and speak and act to redress the challenges that affect over half of humankind.

This year, in partnership with the Caribbean and European Region of the Council for World Mission (CWM), we have decided to highlight the problem of Gender-based violence as we observe International Women's Day (IWD). Silence by institutions like the church, by many of us as believers and by victim/survivors has only served to make the problem worse. In light of this, we have declared Sunday, March 6 as "Breaking the Silence on Gender-based Violence Sunday". We are therefore inviting all our Congregations to commit to working at eradication this scourge.

We congratulate the women of the UCJCI and of other denominations who are taking practical measures to provide services and opportunities for victim/survivor of gender-based violence. We commit to stepping up our own work in UCJCI and with other partners, including our men, so that women and girls can be enabled to fulfil their God-given potential and make their contribution towards the flourishing life for all.

On Tuesday, March 8 at 11:30 a.m. there will be an online forum on Zoom (ID: 851 0712b1476; Passcode: CWM-IWD) under the Theme: "Women - Breaking Chains, Nurturing Communities, Planting Seeds of Hope." It will be our pleasurable joy to have you and your congregations join the conversation.

Let us come together to put an end to all forms of violence and build life flourishing communities

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer Requests

- Ukraine and all affected by the invasion of Russia
- Healing and recovery for David Henry from King's Gate United who is ill.
- Victims and perpetrators of crime and violence in Jamaica and security force and government as they respond.
- Family of the late Rev. Dr. Edmond Folkes who passed from a brief illness.
- Rev. Rohan Kong and his wife whose newborn son, Joel Kong, remains in hospital since birth.
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19.

CWM WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

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



Calling churches to pray and stand
IN SOLIDARITY WITH
MYANMAR

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

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Watch over us as we enter this Lenten season. Remind us that we are nothing without you and help us to rid our lives of all our idols and set our focus on you. May we be made new through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

TIME MARCHES ON X 3

The nature of time is boundlessness, endlessness and patience. We are limited and timebound. We become anxious, rushed and impatient; multitasking and demanding. Getting the job done without a flaw. But flaws show up anyway. Time is process. While we are in process call up wisdom, listen to truth, submit to love, they'll serve up quality enduringly.

Time is not in conflict with itself nor anything else. In fact it is in harmony with everything it marks and everything by which it is marked. It works with the emerging, the evolving, with good will and the well intended.

Time is never in a rush, always consistent, always available. A second is a second. One minute is always sixty seconds. One day is always twenty four hours.

The sun's orbit around the earth is 365 days and every four years we have a leap year. You can rely on it and plan around it. Time is your friend. It is on your side. It offers itself as a tool at your disposal. And it says "do not panic, you will get through". Be still and know... you are not in control but you can work with me to organize, put in place, get some rest, laugh, have fun, and still have time for neighbor.

Then I might not have to noise my horn at the stoplight, swear at the bad driver, hit a dog, dehumanize my sister and brother. Make an excuse. Time works best with patience, foresight, planning.

Time Marches On, not to leave us behind but stay in step to create harmony and balance, make good on mistakes without rancour and still have time to rock.

By Paul D DaCosta-Pinto © February 2021



 HOPE UNITED CHURCH
LENTEN MEDITATIONS
 JOURNEYING THROUGH THE WILDNERNESS

THE WILDERNESS OF TEMPTATION REV. DR. DAVE HAZLE	6th MARCH 2022
THE WILDERNESS OF SIN REV. DR. ORAL THOMAS	13th MARCH 2022
THE WILDERNESS OF INDECISION REV. DR. STEPHEN JENNINGS	20th MARCH 2022
THE WILDERNESS OF PAIN REV. CANON DR. GEORGIA JERVIS	3rd APRIL 2022

 **LIVE**  @HopeUnitedChurch

Contact Us: hopeunited@cwjamaica.com | (876) 927-2909

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED (JAMAICA)
 PRESENTS
2022 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE
 "I Know the Plans I have for you..."
 FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022
 04:30 P.M.



(PREPARED BY THE WOMEN OF ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND)
 MEETING ID: 883 8646 5490
 PASSCODE: 925972

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council, CIRMC



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



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

LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

March 6, 2022

Rooted and Equipped with the Spirit and the Word

Lent is a spiritual journey and a time for deep reflection when we commemorate the forty days of Jesus' temptation and fasting in the wilderness and as such, the Lucan passage comes to the fore.

Lent is the journey that foreshadows the ministry and mission Christ will undertake and the ultimate sacrifice He will make on our behalf for our salvation.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus countered the temptations by relying on the Holy Spirit and by using scriptural verses to express faith in God. **As we face our temptations we too must be equipped with the Spirit and the Word.** Note that Satan used scripture inappropriately to destabilize the purposes of God and the Christian should always be mindful of this reality.

Words were spoken by the individual worshipper from the heart in the ritual for the feast of the First Fruits in Deuteronomy 26:1-11. **Usually, words are the prerogative of the Priest, but in this text, each worshipper participates in the ritual by speaking and doing.** The words celebrate the actions of God in Israel's history and recall God's faithfulness.

Psalm 91 is an assurance of God's care and preservation in the face of the danger that lies ahead. **Words of comfort** are addressed to the worshipper by the Priest and by God. Words enable the worshipper to take refuge in God who has promised to protect and to equip believers with the Spirit

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 || Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13 || Luke 4:1-13

End Violence Against Women and Children



Share your
**Thursdays in
Black** photos on
Twitter,
Facebook and
Instagram and
tag us @ucjci



*Tune in to United in Faith every
Sunday on RJR 94 F.M at 6:30
a.m.*

*You can also listen to the episodes
at your convenience on our An-
chor F.M. platform.*



COVID-19 UPDATES

Affecting Congregational Life

Cayman Islands

ACTIVE CASES

945

DEATHS

17

NEW CASES

34

*COVID-19 statistics as of Monday, March 1, 2022.

The Cayman Government has responded with regulations aimed at controlling the spread of the virus, including but not limited, to protocols for travel and gatherings. Consequently, indoor gatherings, including church services, are now restricted to 100 persons while outdoor gatherings are restricted to 250 persons.

Jamaica

ACTIVE CASES

600

NEW DEATHS

0

NEW CASES

26

*COVID-19 statistics as of Wednesday, March 1, 2022.

The Government of Jamaica, yesterday February 22, 2022, announced a number of changes to the provisions affecting church activities under the Disaster Risk Management Act. These changes come into effect February 25 to March 17, 2022.

- Church Services – the number of persons allowed in the sanctuary for worship services will be the maximum capacity of the designated area for worship calculated at 1 person per 36 square feet.

For example – worship area: 5000 sq. ft.

Calculation $5000/36 = 138$ people.


- Weddings – the maximum number of persons allowed is 100.
- Funerals – the maximum number of persons (inclusive of officials) allowed within the facility/sanctuary is 100
- Burials – are allowed Mondays to Fridays between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a maximum of 100 persons.

The other relevant provisions remain the same as under:


- No physical crusades, conferences or conventions will be permitted.
- Physical gatherings are limited to 10 persons.
- Stay at home – persons 60 years and over. Fully vaccinated persons are exempt.

Please note that the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing are still required for public spaces and gatherings.

We invite you to comply with these provisions.



**The Council for World Mission (CWM)
Caribbean and Europe Regions'
Gender Justice Working Group**



*Worship,
Table Talk & Poetry*

**"Women-Breaking Chains, Nurturing Communities,
Planting Seeds of Hope"**

Tuesday 8th March, 2022 at
11:30 AM (Jamaica), 12:30 PM (Guyana and TT), 4:30 PM (UK)

Zoom Meeting ID: 851 0712 1476
Passcode: CWM-IWD

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

TECHNOLOGY TRAINING SEMINARS

MARCH - MAY 2022




- DATA COLLECTION & MANAGEMENT
- SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES
- LIVE STREAMING & PRODUCTION

First Saturdays are theoretical sessions via Zoom. On the second Saturdays, the practical sessions for Live Streaming and Production will be done at the locations below:


NERMC	WRMC & CIRMC	SRMC
Webster Memorial	St. Paul's (St. James)	Ridgemount
Mar 12/19	Apr 23/30	May 14/21

REGISTER NOW

<https://training.ucjci.com> 876-926-6059



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CHILD OF GOD
"Living The Word, Changing Lives..."



TRAINING SESSIONS

You are Invited to Participate in Training Sessions on


The Development of Active Spiritual Discipline:

- Developing the Art of Stewardship
- The Act of Discipling
- Reading, Studying & Meditating on the Word of God
- The Discipline of Prayer & Fasting

PERIOD FOR TRAINING SESSIONS:
Tuesdays
6:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.
March 1, 2022 to April 12, 2022

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION OFFERED FOR ATTENDANCE

HOSTS: Mrs. Elaine Commissiong and Rev. Astor Carlyle | **GUEST PRESENTERS:** Rev. Norbert Stephens, Rev. J. Oliver Daley and Rev. Tara Tyme-Campbell

Register to Join: In the Sanctuary or On: 

Happy Birthday
Happy Birthday



Miss Jonielle Daley
March 6

Rev. Dr. Yvette
Noble Bloomfield
March 8

