

The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

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Welcome Presiding Elder Mr. Alex Tamby

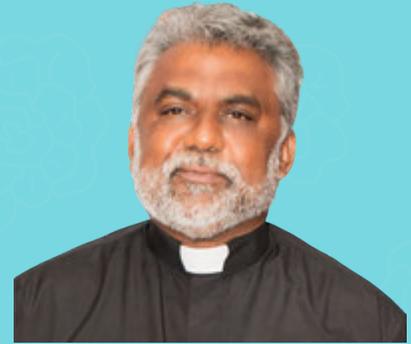
Moderator Speaks

From the desk of the General Secretary

Celebrating Presbyterians Serving The Nation

THE MODERATOR SPEAKS

PCTT MODERATOR, THE RIGHT REVEREND DANIEL CHANCE



Persevere in Your Witness: Overcoming the Challenges

On Saturday, 25th October, 2025, the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) hosted its Biennial Convention at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya, after a seven-year hiatus. Approximately twenty-five hundred church members, well-wishers, and Church Workers gathered in prayer, music, and fellowship to renew their faith and commitment to the mission for which God has called and set us apart.

This long-awaited gathering was a time of spiritual renewal and thanksgiving—a testimony to God’s sustaining grace through the years. Speakers at this significant event reminded all present that the ministry and mission entrusted to the Church continue to flourish, even amid the many challenges faced in recent times.

The devotion for the day focused on St. John’s Gospel, chapter 17, verses 14–26—“Jesus prays for His disciples.”* This passage reminds us that Jesus Himself prayed for His followers, asking the Father to keep them united in truth and love. As the Body of Christ, we too are prayed for—that we may be one, united under the banner of Christ Jesus. The text calls us to love one another as God loves Jesus and as Jesus loves us.

We must acknowledge, however, that differences of opinion and approaches to ministry can sometimes divide us. God’s Word challenges us to have the same mind and heart that are in Christ Jesus. It becomes difficult for the Church to share a message of peace when peace is lacking among us, or to speak of love when love is not present within our fellowship.

As members of the Body of Christ—guided by God’s Spirit and strengthened by the knowledge that Jesus continues to intercede for us—we are called to live faithfully here and now. We must continually transform our hearts toward a caring and loving God, becoming instruments of peace, healing, and reconciliation in our communities.

The feature speakers, Rev. Damien Sieunarine and Rev. Namelia Lutchman-Pulwarty, drew from Scripture to highlight men and women of faith who persevered through adversity. From Abraham’s obedience to Ruth’s loyalty, from Job’s endurance to Paul’s courage, the Bible is filled with examples of people who, despite trials, held firmly to their faith. They may have stumbled, but they never abandoned their trust in God—and neither should we.

The Convention was therefore not only a time of reflection but also a call to action. It reminded us that the mission inaugurated by Jesus Christ continues through us today. The same God who empowered the early disciples empowers us now to witness courageously, serve compassionately, and persevere faithfully.

Friends, as we continue our journey of faith, let us remember that perseverance is not simply endurance—it is faith in motion. It is choosing to trust God when life feels uncertain, to love even when it is difficult, and to serve even when the world grows weary.

I urge all believers to persevere in their witness and remain steadfast in faith, for the Lord who called us is faithful and will sustain us as we press on together, united in Christ’s love and purpose.

Stay Strong, Stay Focused, Stay Blessed.



FROM THE DESK OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

PCTT GENERAL SECRETARY,
PRESIDING ELDER MR. ASHFORD D TAMBY



The Enduring Legacy: God's Command to Teach and Nurture

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV): "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) is more than sound advice; it is a divine mandate coupled with an enduring promise. This verse calls us—parents and church leaders alike—to the high privilege and sacred responsibility of intentional spiritual formation. As we observe Universal Children's Day on November 20, 2025, there needs to be the realization that we are not just raising children; we are disciplining the next generation of faith.

The home is the foundational seminary. For parents, this command means stepping into the role of the primary spiritual instructor. It requires more than just dropping children off at Sunday school, youth group, or even Sunday morning church; it demands modelling Christ in daily life. We are called to be vigilant, teaching the "way they should go" not just through formal lessons but also through prayer at the dinner table, forgiveness in conflict, and service in the community. Every choice—from media to financial giving—is a teaching moment that shapes their moral and spiritual trajectory.

The "way" encompasses not only salvation but also sanctification—the daily practice of godly character. Parents need to be purposeful about teaching their kids what is right and wrong, as well as virtues like honesty, integrity, and compassion. Church leaders must reinforce these ethical standards, guiding children to understand how faith translates into just actions, ethical decision-making, and responsible citizenship in the world. This comprehensive approach ensures that children are not just spiritually grounded but morally equipped to face complex modern challenges with unwavering character.

For church leaders, the concept means moving beyond preaching a sermon and entering into genuine partnership with parents. Our role is to reinforce, equip, and support. We must provide environments where children feel safe, seen, and deeply known, offering sound biblical teaching and mentorship that complements the home. This includes strong programmes for kids and teens, as well as training and tools to help parents do their jobs better. We must ensure that the transition from childhood to young adulthood is guided by strong, consistent biblical principles, creating a community where the faith taught at home is affirmed in the church.

Proverbs 22:6 is a testament to the compounding power of faithful instruction. The work is difficult, often unseen, but eternally significant. Let us commit today—in our homes and our ministries—to faithfully teach and nurture, trusting God's promise that this investment in the young will yield an enduring legacy of faith.



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PCTT CHANNELS



ELEVATION SERVICE TO THE ORDER OF PRESIDING ELDER FOR MR. ALEX TAMBY

by Mrs. Rumonia Drepaulsingh, Secretary of South Eastern Presbytery

The Act of Elevation to the Order of Presiding Elder for Mr. Alex Tamby was held on Sunday 12th October 2025 at the St. Julien Presbyterian Church, Tableland Pastoral Region conducted by Rev. Stephen Harripersad chairperson of the South Eastern Presbytery (SEP).

The service was enhanced by the musical precludes on organ by Elder Carlye Mulchan and Worship Team, with an Introit (It all About you Jesus, I coming back to the heart) and Anthem (How Great Thou Art) by Mr. Joel John from Trinity Presbyterian Church friend of Mr. Alex Tamby. Minister of the Tableland Pastoral Region Rev. Peter Arjoon served as the leader of worship. Members from the three Presbyteries gathered to support Mr. Alex Tamby on this special day.

Recording Secretary of South Eastern Presbytery (SEP) Mrs. Teesha Dass welcome all to this auspicious service and stated that we gathered not only to witness this moment of ecclesiastical honour but to celebrate the faithfulness, leadership and calling of Mr. Alex Tamby to the Order of Presiding Elder. Quoting 1Peter Chapter 5.vs 1-4. Instructs Elders to "shepherd the flock to God." With willing hearts and to lead by example, not by force or for personal gain.

Members of the South Eastern Presbytery and the son of Mr. Alex Tamby participated in the service. The prayer of Adoration was said by the leader of worship. Rev Peter Arjoon, Rev Robert Dinnoo, minister of the Tabaquite Pastoral Region said the prayer of Thanksgiving, the dedication of the Offering was by Deaconess Calpurnia Chance (Tableland PR) and the Pastoral Prayer said by Presiding Elder Martin Sahadath (Nariva/Mayaro PR)

Scripture readings were taken from Jeremiah 29:vs 1& 4-7, and 2nd Timothy 2 vs 8-15, read by Taramatee Loorhoor and Tristan Tamby respectively.



Proclamation of the Word was delivered by General Secretary of Synod, Presiding Elder Ashford Tamby, Theme Persevere In Your Witness- Faithful Presence even in Challenging times. General Secretary PE Ashford Tamby stated that Jeremiah 29 is a letter written by prophet Jerimiah to the Jewish exiles in Babylon advising them to build homes, plant gardens, marry and seek the peace and prosperity within the community, no matter what uncomfortable foreign situations ,God calls his people to live with purpose in the society and told Alex Tamby not to give up no matter the challenges he will face but to live, built friendship, live out the testimony to God, do small acts of service and fellowship which will build his ministry and mission with God. Contemplate and engage living with endurance and live with purpose. We are called to witness by letting our life speak of hope, truth and grace. Exile, whether personal, cultural emotional or spiritual is not the end of your story, often it's the beginning of a deeper journey with God, whose call is with purpose, hope, truth and ensured with grace. Alex, as you step into this new chapter as a Presiding Elder, may you carry the legacy of those who came before you, those who stood firm and asked the difficult question but remained faithful even when it was difficult. Let your presence be a light in every room you enter. Your words season with truth and love and your action rooted in the hope of Christ. And for everyone may we embrace our season of exile not with fear but with faith, trusting the God who was with the Israelites in exile in Babylon, Paul in prison, who strengthened our forebearers in church, is the same God who walks with us today.

Greetings were extended by: Mr. Harry Partap member of the Tableland Pastoral Region, Mr. Carlye Mulchan from St. Julien Presbyterian Church, Ms. Joy Sammah from South Central Presbytery. Presiding Elder Dr. Dianne Phillip-Ramjattan from Northern Presbytery, Fr.Micheal Lawrence Minister of the Princes Town Anglican Church and the Acting General Secretary of Synod, Ms. Judyann Alfred.

Mrs Rumonia Drepaulsingh, secretary of the South Eastern Presbytery, presented Mr. Alex Tamby to the Chairman of the South Eastern Presbytery, Rev Stephen Harripersad who conducted the Act of Elevation for Mr. Alex Tamby to the Oredor of Presiding Elder.

Newly elevated Presiding Elder of South Eastern Presbytery Mr. Alex Tamby response by quoting selective verse from Psalm 51: "Let my lips praise you Lord. Today my hands are your hands that I would be able to stretch forth and bring healing and to help all your people, and that my eyes would be your eyes and I would see the love and compassion in all your people. I pray that mu shoulder be strengthen that I can serve you through the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago. Amen. Presiding Elder Alex Tamby thank everyone who participated in the service especially giving thanks to his mother children and siblings for him being what he has accomplished today. Presiding Elder Alex Tamby stated he did not write down a response speech, he wanted to talk from his heart.

The Leader of Worship, Rev. Peter Arjoon concluded the services with Closing Prayer, Benediction and blessing of the refreshment that was prepared by the Tableland Pastoral Region Session.



SABRINA MOWLAH-BAKSH: CHAMPION FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

By Florabelle Lutchman

The Wilson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Marabella, congratulates Mrs. Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh on her receipt of a National Award 2025 for the empowerment of women.

Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh: Champion for Women's Empowerment in the Caribbean An overview: Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh has dedicated over 40 years to advancing women's rights, gender equality, and community development across Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean. Her work spans grassroots activism, political leadership, policy advocacy, and peacebuilding.

Key Roles & Contributions:

Advocacy & Mentorship

Peacebuilding & International Engagement 1986–1996:

Project Facilitator at CEPAC-Network, leading interfaith and intergenerational initiatives for vulnerable communities. Projects included preschools, cooperatives, and women's skills training.

1996–2003: Local Government Representative, San Fernando. Pioneered the only gender policy for a local authority (Penal/Debe). 2012–2013:

Deputy Mayor of San Fernando, 2011–2017: Deputy Programme Director, Community Development Fund. Focused on poverty reduction and empowering women-led organizations.

2018–Present: General Manager, Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Mrs. Mowlah-Baksh has led major legislative and policy reforms, survivor support programs, and national awareness campaigns. Co-led "A Woman's Place is in the House of Parliament" project, training 200+ women for political leadership. Delivered domestic violence training to professionals across sectors. Spearheaded community sensitization in 100+ areas. Active in Women, Peace and Security (WPS) since 1999.

Contributed to Trinidad and Tobago's WPS National Action Plan (2025). Member of global peace networks: ICAN, WASL, and Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth. Presented internationally, including to Japan and Norway.

Sabrina is an active member of the Wilson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Marabella and serves on the PCTT Beth Rapha Mission.



PRESBYTERIANS SERVING THE NATION

By. Harry Partap

SEVERAL members of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) have been drawn into public service through appointments to National Statutory Boards and Committees by the ruling United National Congress (UNC) government of Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

Among them are, Judy Kalloo - Chairperson, National Insurance Board (NIB); Terrence Kalloo – National Infrastructure Development Company (NIDCO); Edwin Chariah – Chairman, Export Import Bank (EXIM); Micah Baksh – Chairman, Southern Academy of Performing Arts (SAPA); Emmanuel Vincent Singh - Chairman of Board of Directors, Naparima Bowl; Avinash Maharajh – National Insurance Board (NIB); and Terrence Warde – National Awards Committee.

Ms Kalloo serves the church in the Curepe/St Joseph Pastoral Region and is Chairperson of the Board of Stewardship and Finance (BOSF). Mr Kalloo is also from the Curepe/St Joseph Pastoral Region and Chairman of the Jubilee Presbyterian Church Local Board. Mr Chariah serves in the Princes Town Pastoral Region while Mr Baksh and Mr. Singh are from the Marabella/Bon Aventure Pastoral Region. Mr Dookie serves in the Couva/Balmain Pastoral Region while Mr Warde is Chairman of the St Joseph Presbyterian Church Local Board and the Central Archives of the Presbyterian Church. Mr Warde was a former PCTT General Secretary.

In addition, Presbyterian Church member Dr. Michael Dowlath has been elected as the Member of Parliament for San Fernando West and was appointed Minister of Education. In the 2025 National Awards, Presbyterians, Ivan Toolsie of Susamachar Presbyterian Church received the Chaconia Medal (Silver) for his 40 years of work in the sphere of Film and Media, and Dr. Allen Sammy received a Public Service Medal (Gold) for his service to the community. Dr Sammy was a former Chairman of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation. He served at various levels in the national community notably in the Sou Sou Lands Cooperative Society and is a former Deputy Mayor of San Fernando.

Over its 157-year history, the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) has given to this nation a cadre of citizens fully prepared to advance national development in the field of politics, law, medicine, diplomacy, finance, education and a wide range of other disciplines. It is no secret that many who served in both the private and public sectors had an initial grounding through the Church's 72 primary and five secondary schools scattered throughout Trinidad.

Dr Dowlath joins a list of Presbyterians who served as Ministers in Government over the years. They include: Kelvin Ramnath (Energy- 1986-88); Dr Brinsley Samaroo (Agriculture/ Local Government -1986-91); Harry Partap (Labour -1995-2001); Winston Dookeran (Finance/Foreign Affairs -2010-2015); Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan (Energy -2010-2013); Collin Partap (Junior Minister, National Security 2010-12).



MS. KALLOO



MR. WARDE



DR. DOWLATH



CHAIRMAN MICAH BAKSH, CENTRE, AND MEMBERS OF THE SAPA BOARD



EDWIN CHARIAH (LEFT) - CHAIRMAN, EXPORT IMPORT BANK

SUSAMACHAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WISHES TO EXTEND

Congratulations!

TO

MR. IVAN TOOLSIE

Chaconia Medal Silver
(Journalist) in the Sphere of Film & Media




IVAN TOOLSIE 1ST FROM LEFT



DR. SAMMY 2ND FROM LEFT



MRS. SABRINA MOWLAH- BAKSH, 2ND FROM LEFT



READING AWARDEE BIOGRAPHIES. DANIELLE KARIM OF ST. AUGUSTINE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



DR ALLEN SAMMY



EMMANUEL VINCENT SINGH



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL ST ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE REV. DR. KERON KHELLAWAN

BIBLICAL FAIRNESS: A FOUNDATION OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

"It's not fair!" may be a resounding echo in parts of our lived experience but let us look at the concept of fairness from its biblical foundations. Fairness is a profound biblical principle that reflects the heart of God's character and the ethical standards to which we, as followers, are called. Throughout Scripture, fairness is closely tied to justice, righteousness, and impartiality, serving as a divine mandate for human conduct. The Bible places a strong emphasis on equitable treatment of others, urging individuals and leaders alike to embody fairness, reflecting God's perfect justice in the world.

The Character of God and Perfect Fairness. The Bible presents God as the ultimate model of fairness. In Deuteronomy 32:4 (NRSV), God is declared as: *"The Rock, his work is perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God without deceit, just and upright is he."* This foundational text anchors the concept of fairness firmly in God's nature. God's deeds are flawless and just; His fairness is without bias or error, calling us to imitate His integrity. God's reign rests on justice and fairness, undergirded by unfailing love and truth, illustrating that fairness is part of the divine governance of the world.

Fairness in Human Justice and Leadership. The Bible commands fairness as a standard for judging others, particularly emphasizing impartiality without favouritism or discrimination. Leviticus 19:15 (NRSV) instructs: *"You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour."* In the Old Testament, this directive underscores the importance of unbiased judgment regardless of social status or wealth, reflecting fairness that honours God's justice. The legitimacy and stability of leadership depend on fairness in governance, affirming that fairness is a cornerstone of righteous rule. This may challenge how leadership operates in society, faith communities, and workplaces.

Fairness as a Moral and Social Ethic. Fairness in the Bible transcends legal judgments; it is a personal ethical imperative guiding all interpersonal relationships. Proverbs 21:3 (NRSV) declares: *"To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice."* Here, fairness and justice are valued above ritualistic religious acts, emphasizing a heart and life aligned with God's ethics. The biblical ethic demands that believers treat others with equity, kindness, and honesty, avoiding exploitation or partiality in any situation.

Jesus' teaching further elevates the principle of fairness. In Matthew 7:12 (NRSV), commonly known as the Golden Rule, He commands: *"In everything do to others what you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets."* Fairness, then, includes treating others as one desires to be treated, embodying empathy and equity in day-to-day life.

Fairness in Giving and Life. The Apostle Paul also appeals to fairness in Christian giving. In 2 Corinthians 8:13–15 (ESV), Paul writes: *"I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, 'The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.'"* This principle promotes mutual support and balance among believers, reflecting fairness through generosity and stewardship.

King Solomon's wise judgment is an iconic biblical example of fairness in action. When two women claimed the same baby, Solomon's proposal to divide the child revealed the true mother, demonstrating wisdom, impartiality, and compassionate justice (1 Kings 3:16–28). This story highlights fairness as not only legal equity but also as seeking the truth through wise and fair processes.

Similarly, the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30) addresses fairness in accountability. God rewards faithfulness proportionately and justly, teaching that fairness involves recognizing each person's effort and responsibility.

Conclusion. Biblical fairness is deeply rooted in the nature of God and spans all aspects of life, from governance to personal relationships. It calls for impartiality, justice, honest dealings, and compassionate wisdom in judgment. Built on God's perfect righteousness, fairness in the Bible is a standard for human behaviour that reflects God's nature and assures ultimate equitable judgment for all. As believers, we must adopt biblical fairness, mirroring the divine justice and love that God exemplifies and commands.

THE FAMILY CAN

A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE THE FAMILY - HILTON R SIBOO: CONTACT: 788-2685)
THE PILGRIMAGE OF PARENTING: [Part 16] - Can RELIGION be parented?

In this series, our approach established that parenting is a relationship between the 'parenter' and the 'parentee'. Continuing we will consider, Can Religion, God and Spirituality be parented? This month we consider - Can RELIGION be parented...even when the 'parentee' may not always be a young child?

What is **Religion**? - This is simply defined [Little Oxford] as a particular system of faith and worship; belief in and worship of a God or gods. However, 'Religions' have **creeds** - 'a system of religious belief; a faith, a set of beliefs or principles.' Religions have **Symbols** - an object a person or event, a letter, mark, character which represents something, Religions have **Rituals** - 'a ceremony that involves a series of actions performed in a set order;' Religions have **Doctrines** - 'a set of beliefs or principles held by a religious or political groups;' Religions have **Faith** - 'complete trust or confidence; a system of religious belief.' Religions have **prayer** - a request, hope or wish and Religions have **Worship** - through practices of... praises, and religious rites.

What is the purpose of religion? As an agent of socialization and social order, of social change and social control (the 'opiate of the masses') and can be imposed with aspects of culture - that is the 'arts, customs, institutions of a nation, people or group, which can result in a sect or cult - 'a system of religious worship directed to a particular person or object.' The varieties of religion are endless and for theorists of Religion there are two perspectives - the functional [in human life content] and - the substantive [sacred and profane, good and evil].

So how can you or anyone as 'parenter' or parent teach religion? - **PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH** -

As the adult or 'parenter' discuss your religion: your creeds, symbols, rituals, faith, prayers, worship, traditions and heritage with your child or 'parentee'. Do you want your child to experience and to be indoctrinated in religion and to know God or to a religion with no God, no symbol, an atheist or agnostic? Religious services may not indoctrinate a child to a formal religion but to religious traditions and rituals.

A child brought up with and in religion and impacted by God and spirituality develops an inner spirit and faith and can endure any challenges and influencing to the quality of personal, family and social life... and who contributes positively to society. Talk to children in a way they will listen. Demanding, bullying, punishing or even rewarding may be challenging. Children respond to non verbal communication. Fix and take time to talk and listen... to answers and responses with one or few words, with less talk and nagging.

I hope that this perspective can guide the understanding and effect changes to the narrative and approach to parenting where the participants interact in a relational exchange that affects and impacts their words and actions, attitudes, behaviours, and responsibilities. Can this approach improve our parenting relationships and skills and improve intra-family and inter-family relationships?

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.

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

Encounteringthe Archives of PCTT

'KNOW THE CAPCTT' SERIES FOR 2025 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Archives of the PCTT (CAPCTT) observed and celebrated the **50th Anniversary** since the establishment of the present physical location on September 15, 1975. Over the last months, 'Encountering ... the Archives' has shared information with you to '**KNOW THE CAPCTT**'.

Continuing on **does the PCTT need the Archives?** Mention previously has been made as to the Archives contents. This is determined by what has been contributed by Local Boards and Groups of the Congregations; the Sessions (Official Boards), Presbytery, Synod (+ its boards and committees), Church Workers - as in the past by Missionaries, Catechists and Bible Women; by Ministers, Deaconesses, Lay Pastors, Presiding Elders and School and Institutions. However, gratitude must be expressed to individuals who, over the years, have contributed and donated from their family and personal archives and collections.

These have been identified as they, in the past, were responsible for documenting and recording dates of events such as baptism, confirmation, marriage, death and achievements in the lives of church members and adherents, whether individual or family, and the work and witness of the church Presbyterian, this continuing to be their duty and responsibility in the present and into the future.

Within recent years, there has been an increase in the request for information with many persons calling and visiting the Synod Office, often referred to the Archives when their churches and regions could not provide information and records of baptism, marriage and confirmation, even dates of death and transfer of membership, when such was needed for personal use and to pursue even secular, legal and national matters. Many members researching and creating family trees and histories have come to the Archives as a last desperate hope. **The Archives can ONLY make available and accessible what is held in the Repository.** This means if it was never sent it does not exist. Search and research have been stymied because of the non-availability of these basic records. [To be continued].

An encounter with the Archives is an encounter with ... yourself.

The Archives are opened on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Call to arrange a visit. Contact: 652-4829 [Synod Office] and 653-4166 [SATC Library] Asst Archivist: Hilton R Bill Siboo 788-2685

AGRI FACTS COLUMN

GARDEN CHRISTMAS GIFTS: THOUGHTFUL GREEN IDEAS FOR EVERY GARDENER SUBMITTED BY RAYANNA BOODRAM rayannaboodram@hotmail.com

The festive season is upon us and it is a time for giving and what better way to celebrate than by choosing gifts that bring joy, beauty, and sustainability to someone's garden? Whether your loved one is an experienced horticulturist or simply enjoys spending peaceful hours among flowers and greenery, garden-inspired gifts offer both charm and practicality. This Christmas, step away from the usual and explore meaningful presents that help your friends and family nurture their love for nature.

Few gifts brighten a home like a beautiful plant. A festive Poinsettia, Christmas cactus or Amaryllis adds a touch of holiday colour indoors, while herbs like Rosemary and Mint provide fragrance and flavour throughout the season. For outdoor gardeners, consider a fruit tree like mango, avocado or citrus that symbolizes growth and can be enjoyed for years to come. Succulent arrangements or terrariums are also great for beginners since they require little maintenance but bring a splash of greenery to desks or patios.

Every gardener appreciates a good tool. A sturdy hand trowel, pruning shears or a watering can designed with both style and comfort in mind makes an excellent gift. For something more personalized, choose tools with engraved wooden handles or eco-friendly bamboo designs. Gardening gloves made of breathable, durable material can also be wrapped beautifully with a bow, simple yet thoughtful. These practical presents remind gardeners of you every time they tend to their plants.

Eco-conscious gifting is a growing trend, and the garden is the perfect place to embrace it. Consider compost bins, recycled planters or solar-powered garden lights that reduce energy use while creating a magical nighttime glow. A rainwater collection barrel is another thoughtful option for those interested in water conservation. For small spaces or balconies, vertical garden kits help maximize greenery while saving space, ideal for urban gardeners who dream of a lush retreat.

A book can be a gardener's best companion during the rainy season or quiet afternoons. Choose beautifully illustrated titles on tropical gardening, organic techniques or Caribbean plant species. Pair it with a garden journal where they can record planting dates, sketches, and seasonal reflections. These gifts encourage mindfulness and creativity, blending knowledge with personal expression, two traits every gardener values.

Gardens are not only about plants but also personality. Wind chimes, bird feeders, or painted garden stones add life and charm to outdoor spaces. Handmade ceramic pots or woven hanging baskets bring an artisanal touch that supports local craftspeople. For a festive feel, consider solar fairy lights or a mini garden lantern set to illuminate evening gatherings. From living plants to eco-friendly tools and handcrafted decor, there's something for every gardener on your list. These gifts don't just fill a stocking; they plant seeds of joy that bloom long after the holidays are over. This Christmas, give the gift of green and let nature be part of the celebration.



BORDE NARVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

By Ms. Kerina Mohammed, Youth Coordinator

On Sunday, September 21st, 2025, Borde Narve Presbyterian Church, Barrackpore Pastoral Region, overflowed with gratitude and joy as members, clergy, and well-wishers gathered for its 150th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service. Under the inspiring theme, “A Legacy of Grace, A Future of Hope”, the celebration honoured a century and a half of unwavering faith, service, and community.

Worship was led by Reverend Shirvan Siloch, Minister of the Barrackpore Pastoral Region, whose warm welcome set the tone for an afternoon of worship and reflection. The Guest Preacher, Reverend Brenda Bullock of the Siparia Pastoral Region, delivered a stirring message that drew from Psalm 100:1-5 read by Mrs. Kathryn Gokool-Seepersad and Philippians 1:3–6 read by Mr. Lincoln Ramnarine. She urged the congregation to cherish its heritage while embracing the future God has prepared.

The event featured beautiful music which filled the sanctuary by the Esperance Presbyterian Choir, from La Romaine /Debe PR accompanied by drums, guitar, and organ preludes by Mr. Ralph Mitchell from our sister church, the Barrackpore Union Presbyterian Church, lifted hearts heavenward. Their renditions of beloved hymns and anthems captured the spirit of thanksgiving. A special highlight was the recitation of the original poem, “A Legacy of Grace, A Future of Hope” by Ms. Kerina Mohammed, whose words wove together the church’s humble beginnings and its continuing mission to shine as “a beacon set on hill and plain.”

The Chairperson of the Local Board Ms Cynthia Gobin welcomed all for attending, especially to the three foundation members’ families who accepted our invitation to celebrate this milestone event of the Borde Narve Presbyterian Church who established the congregation, the late John Bridglalsingh, late Emmanuel Ramkissoon and late Samoondarie Bissessar (Pancham Family). Mrs Florencia Gangaram, Secretary presented a brief history of our church. Prayers were offered by Student Minister Dave Jitta, Reverend Robert Dinnoo and Presiding Elder William Gokool.

Greetings were shared in a heartfelt sequence that reflected the church’s place within the wider Presbyterian family: Mr. Karamchand Mitchell (Clerk of Session) on behalf of the Barrackpore PR Session; Reverend Peter Arjoon representing the South Eastern Presbytery, and General Secretary of Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, Presiding Elder Ashford Tamby

The atmosphere inside the church mirrored its message of grace and hope. Elegant decorations adorned the sanctuary, lovingly prepared by members of the congregation and by our dear friend Presiding Elder Martin Sahadath.

One of the most touching moments came during the Presentation of Commemorative Tokens, which honoured both the families who laid the foundation of the church and those who continue to serve it faithfully. Tokens were presented to the Bridglalsingh, Ramkissoon, and Samsoondarie (Pancham) families — descendants of those who first planted the seeds of Presbyterian witness in Borde Narve. Presiding Elder William Gokool was surprised when Elder Rumonia Drepaulsingh announced he will be honoured for being the only member from the Borde Narve Presbyterian Church becoming a Church Worker. Tokens were also presented to our Guest Preacher Reverend Brenda Bullock, Reverend Shirvan Siloch, Student Minister Dave Jitta, General Secretary of Synod Presiding Elder Ashford Tamby, Reverend Peter Arjoon, Mr. Karamchand Mitchell (Clerk of Session), Mr. Ralph Mitchell, the Sohan Family and the dedicated Esperance Presbyterian Choir. The moment drew heartfelt applause as the congregation acknowledged both its founders and its present-day servants.

As the service drew to a close, a commemorative plaque was unveiled donated by the Pancham Family - a fitting tribute to the 150-year journey of the Borde Narve Presbyterian Church and its faithful members. The unveiling, greeted with reverence, stood as a tangible reminder of the congregation’s enduring legacy and its commitment to the future. Reverend Brenda Bullock blessed the refreshments and pronounced the benediction

The Youths added their own touch of hospitality, preparing beautifully presented snack boxes and in addition the Local Board catered a hearty roti meal for the occasion, capped the afternoon of worship and fellowship.

This milestone was not just a celebration of the past but a bold look toward the future. As the congregation sang the closing hymn, “God of Grace and God of Glory,” one could sense a shared determination to carry the light of Christ forward for generations to come. The Borde Narve Presbyterian Church, rooted in 150 years of service, continues to be a living testament to faith, resilience, and community—truly, A Legacy of Grace, a Future of Hope.



ISAAC SMITH MEMORIAL (ARIMA) ANNUAL HARVEST AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE

By Neerala Cumberbatch

With no resident minister attached to the Arima Pastoral Region at this time, the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, Presiding Elder Mr. Ashford Tamby, graciously accepted the invitation to be our guest preacher at our Annual Harvest and Thanksgiving Service.

The morning's proceedings started with the beautiful hymn No. 803: "Come ye Thankful People Come" His message was based on Scripture readings from Joel 2: 21-27 and Mathew 6: 25-33. and was well received by the entire congregation.

Also, participating in the mornings proceeding were the groups of the church. The Sunday School, led by Sunday School Superintendent, Ms. Deyan Dookie; The Youth Group led by Coordinator, Miss Reanna Gooding; and the Choir for their Ministry of Music led by Musical Director Dr. Jarryd Rampersad.

There was a special rendition of the popular gospel song: "Come Jesus Come" by the Chairman of the Local Board, Mr. Kenrick B. Cumberbatch, before he gave the the vote of thanks. He thanked all for coming out to share in the harvest of fruits, vegetables, and plants and more importantly those who gave generously to make this service a success. It was indeed a bountiful harvest.

The service, Mr Cumberbatch said would not have been complete if he did not mention the dedicated members of the Arima Presbyterian Church. He paid tribute to the hard-working members of PCW. This Group of dedicated ladies stepped forward to create the appropriate ambience for the occasion by decorating the church and the hall as well as the meal planning.

It is our prayer he said that we must all strive to be an invigorated and diverse congregation that will nurture the spiritual growth of members to individually and collectively serve the need of others. He urged more members to come forward and give of their time, talents and treasures to the honour and glory of the Lord.

Following the Vote of Thanks, Presiding Elder Ashford Tamby blessed the meal and the harvest and pronounced the Benediction.

It was certainly a September to remember event of praise and fellowship as we all went away saying, "We were glad to be in the House of the Lord."



WILSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Submitted by Florabelle Lutchman

Harvest is a time for Thanksgiving and Gratitude to God for His generous provision to us here on earth.

At Wilson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Marabella, the members of the Congregation were honoured to have Justice Frank Seepersad conduct their Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Fruits and vegetables lined the front of the Church in a marvellous display.

The service opened with the Choir, led by Musical Director, Mr. Winston Seupaul, singing that beautiful Hymn- 'Give Thanks My Soul for Harvest.'

Scripture Passages, Proverbs 24:12 and Galatians 6:7-10 were read by Mrs. Annette Paul. The Steel Orchestra played "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

After the Anthem, "Bringing in the Sheaves" sung by the Choir, Justice Seepersad brought his message entitled, "You reap what you Sow."

Galatians 6:7-10 reminds us that every choice bears consequences—righteous choices yield blessings, while sinful ones bring ruin. God gave us free will, and with it, the responsibility to shape our lives according to His Word. Sowing to the flesh: grudges, impure thoughts, and selfishness lead to corruption. But sowing to the Spirit: acts that please God - reaps eternal life. Like a mango seed producing thousands of fruits, our actions multiply. Kindness, honesty, and integrity can yield a bountiful harvest.

As a society, we've grown callous and divided. We must be our brother's keeper, reject corruption, and embrace unity. Poor parenting has led to a crisis in our schools; we must guide our youth with love and discipline. Social media's influence on children demands urgent attention—perhaps even regulation.

Nationally, we must ask: What have we sown since independence? Have we built strong families, empowered youth, and fostered civic pride? Or have we squandered resources and deepened inequality? If we're unhappy with our harvest, we must sow differently. Einstein warned that repeating the same actions while expecting change is insanity.

Ultimately, the principle of cause and effect governs all: spiritually, personally, and nationally. It's not too late. Let us sow seeds of righteousness, unity, and productivity. By doing so, we can transform our lives and our Republic, ensuring a harvest that honours God and uplifts all.

This was a most encouraging and uplifting message brought so eloquently by the distinguished Preacher. It touched the hearts of all present with some vowing to make a change of choices.

After the service the congregation was invited to partake of breakfast in the Fitzroy Bachan Memorial Hall.

The produce was shared freely to everyone present with some making a financial donation to the Church.



CUNARIPO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

"To the eternal King, immortal and invisible, the only God- to Him be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen"
(1st Timothy Ch1 vs 17).

On Sunday 14th September, 2025, the members of the Cunaripo Presbyterian Church celebrated the 121st Anniversary of the church, which was established on 19th September, 1904. The leader of worship was Presiding Elder, Dr. George Sammy, and the message was delivered by our own Minister of the region, Reverend Sanya Beharry. There were approximately ninety persons present for that service.

Members of the church participated in the service. The choir sang two pieces: an Introit and an Anthem. The Secretary of the Local Board, Mrs, Kathy-Ann Sankar-Kassiram, read the history of the church after bringing greetings and making the announcements. Reverend Sanya focused her message on the Scripture read from 1st Timothy 1: 12-17 and Luke 15:1-10. She reminded the congregation of Paul's relationship with Jesus before and after his conversion and emphasized the need for us as a church to seek out those who have gone astray and bring them back to the fold. She prayed for the members of the church for their continued growth, support, encouragement and dedication of all the members.

As is customary at these services, persons were honoured. This year two persons were honoured and tokens presented. Mrs. Mahadaye Sieunarine (posthumously) for her kind and generous nature and Member of Parliament for Cumuto/Manzanilla, Ms Shivana Sam, a member of the church, for her achievements, dedication and service to country, as she embarks on her new career.

Both, Reverend Sanya Beharry and Dr. Sammy were presented with tokens for their dedicated service to Cunaripo Presbyterian Church church. May God continue to bless and guide their paths. At the end of the service the congregation was treated to a delicious dinner and dessert with a time of fellowship.



Presentation to MP, Ms Shivanna Sam



Cunaripo Choir, Rev Sanya Beharry, PE Dr. George Sammy

CELEBRATE 121st ANNIVERSARY

By Mrs Deokala Rampersad.

September is "Stewardship Month," and Reverend Sanya Beharry, Minister of the Guaico Pastoral Region, truly expounded on the scripture passage read from Romans 8:31 -39. She directed the attention of all present to the hardship, struggle and determination of the missionaries and past church workers who served in this Region, more specifically, the Cunaripo Presbyterian School and Church, which were both established on September 19th. 1904.

The school celebrated the 121st Anniversary on 19th September, 2025 with a special morning worship service. It was truly a wonderful service. The students were encouraged to continue the good work established by the many past pupils, who passed through this noble institution and made their mark in society: labourers, teachers, policemen and women, nurses, doctors, politicians, farmers, tradesmen, to name a few. The community, together with church and school leaders, overcame struggles of poor roads, building repairs, and even limited access to running water for the sake of educating the children.

Present at the service, apart from the principal, staff and pupils were Minister of the Guaico Pastoral Region, Reverend Sanya Beharry; the School's Manager, Mrs. Bernadette Manickchand; Past Teacher, Mrs. Deokala Rampersad and Mrs. Ceilia Lally, a member of the community, who assists the school regularly. During her school's report, the Principal highlighted the achievements of the school and praised everyone, past and present, for the part they play/ played in the school's continuous success.

As the Apostle Paul said, "If God is for us, who can be against us ... nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus." May God continue to bless the Cunaripo Presbyterian School as overcomers!



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A TRIBUTE TO MRS. EMMA LATCHMEDIAL BHOLA HER LIFE AND SERVICE TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, THE PCW GROUP, THE COMMUNITY AND AS A TEACHER

On Sunday, October 5th, 2025, the PCW Group of the Star of Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Tabaquite, paid tribute to Mrs. Emma Latchmedial Bhola 'This Tiny Giant' of a woman for her faithful service to God, the Presbyterian Church Women (PCW), the Board of Women, the wider Presbyterian Church, and her community as a devoted teacher.

Born on March 12th, 1933, Mrs. Bhola is now 92 years old and is presently the oldest member of the Tabaquite Presbyterian Church. Her life stands as a living example of faith, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to God's work.

The PCW women felt it fitting to honour her with a living tribute to express love, appreciation, and gratitude while she is still with us. She was presented with a beautiful plaque engraved with her years of service.

The words of her favourite hymn capture the very heartbeat of her ministry:

"If I can help somebody as I pass along,
If I can help somebody with a word or song,
If I can show somebody he is traveling wrong,
Then my living shall not be in vain."

A Life Guided by Principle and Praise

Mrs. Bhola's guiding principle was simple yet profound: to honour God by nurturing His children and strengthening His Church. Through decades of teaching, mentoring, and faithful service, she embodied the spirit of the PCW faith in Christ, service to others, and a life poured out for God's glory.

Her legacy continues to bless Tabaquite, the Church, and the wider community a living testimony of love, faith, and devotion.

"Well done, good and faithful servant...
Come and share your master's happiness" (Matthew 25: 21).



PHILIP SEESAHAJ'S TRIBUTE CONCERT CUREPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Sharmila Singh

On Saturday 4th October, the Curepe Presbyterian Church came alive with the melodious sounds of artistes who were invited to perform with the sole purpose of paying tribute to one of Trinidad's and the Curepe Presbyterian Church's legendary singer, Mr. Philip Seesahai, who passed away in September, 2023.

Philip, whom God gifted with a beautiful tenor voice, used his talent throughout the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago to bring people closer to Christ. He sang with many Church choirs and singing Organizations over the years. He proudly sang with his home choir, the Curepe Presbyterian Church Choir, for 63 years. At the national level, he won numerous awards and trophies, including those from Scouting for Talent and Music Festivals, even placing second in 2018, at the age of 83. Philip sang with the Love Movement, the Marionettes Chorale, the SAGHS Alumnae Choir and Friends, and was the soloist at numerous weddings.

It was no wonder that Trinidad and Tobago's best artistes gladly came out to pay tribute to Philip in a concert that show-cased music from multiple genres.

Past Love Movement singer, Ian Pesnell, sang 'The Holy City', one of Philip's favourite songs, to honour the man he admired while Richard Pierre, who knew Philip well, sang 'O Solo Mio' by Capu. "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" sung by Wendell Constantine brought the house down. After singing this song, Wendell explained that he knew Philip at the tender age of eleven and that Philip was an inspiration to him. Philip was a Master who sang in many Musicals and shows.

The Musical Concert featuring a splendid mix of beautiful vocals and instrumentals, opened with the beautiful voices of the Curepe Presbyterian Church choir singing 'Tonight' from Westside story. The beautiful voices of Cheryl Beharry, Caryl Sahadath and SAGHS Alumnae choir, filled the church with wonderful songs, while Reverend Adrian Sieunarine surprised the audience with a powerful monologue. Amid the veterans, young talent shone, with Joshua Dharoo on the piano, Aiden Ramsumair (2-time Music Festival Champion) on the steelpan and Adeel Flanders on the saxophone. Jival Poliah's tenor steelpan rendition 'Love changes everything' showcased Philip's favourite wedding song while Alethea Beharry (Music Festival Winner) sang the evening's theme song 'Some Enchanted Evening'. 'The Sound of Music' sang by Samara Mohammed transported everyone present to the Austrian hills. The evening ended with Megan Aleong paying her tribute to her grand-uncle with 'Let there be Love', an Anne Murray classic.

The talented Director and Producer of the show, Sean Sadaphal, himself an accomplished pianist and Music Teacher at Hillview College, accompanied most of the singers on the piano.

Philip's family was moved to tears, in a concert that was a fitting tribute to a man who devoted his life to singing and to the Curepe Presbyterian Church.



TABAQUITE PRES CHURCH & ROTARY CLUB OF SAN FERNANDO HOST SUCCESSFUL MEDICAL OUTREACH

By Miss Angela Samaroo

A Day of Service and Compassion

On Sunday, September 7th, The Tabaquite Presbyterian Church partnered with The Rotary Club of San Fernando to host a Medical Outreach at the church hall. Residents of Tabaquite and surrounding communities, including members from sister Presbyterian churches, were welcomed to receive free health and wellness services. This event was more than just about care—it was about building community, hope, and connection.

Free Health & Support Services

Participants benefited from free medical consultations, dental checkups, vision screenings, and legal and financial advice, all generously provided by volunteers. In addition, Rotarians distributed clothing, books, stationery, and hygiene supplies, easing financial stress for many families.

Collaboration and Fellowship

The event was made possible by the dedicated leadership of Rotary Club President Mr. Kurt Traboulay and his team, working in close partnership with The Tabaquite Presbyterian Church.

After the outreach, volunteers shared a fellowship lunch hosted by the church; a time to connect, reflect, and give thanks for a successful day of service.

A Visit from MP Sean Sobers

Adding to the day's significance, Tabaquite MP Sean Sobers made a surprise visit, taking time to engage with residents. Community concerns, especially deplorable road conditions, were brought to his attention.

Looking Ahead

This outreach was a powerful example of what's possible when faith and service unite. It addressed urgent needs while opening the door for ongoing collaboration among the church, civic groups, and community leaders.

Special Thanks To

Trinidad Eye Hospital • La Pique Dental • Shiva Pharmacy • Maritime Financial Group • Rotary Club of San Fernando • Tabaquite Presbyterian Church Members.

Together, we made a difference, one act of service at a time.



DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH



By Sabrina Ami Ramkissoon, BSc Pharmacy (Hons) 🇧🇩 🇹🇩

November is recognized as Diabetes Awareness Month worldwide. Are you a diabetic? A simple test is carried out to diagnose, it is called an HbA1c test. This test's result will reveal if you are diabetic or not and is recommended to be performed annually if you are a non diabetic and tri-monthly as a diabetic. You've been diagnosed as diabetic, what's next?

Medication, Diabetes and the role of the Pharmacist.

Metformin, Gliclazide and Insulin are all treatment medications that diabetics are familiar with. However, with the advancement of time and technology there has been the introduction of new drugs. As a pharmacist in the private sector, there are drugs available to purchase that you would not get at your local health institution. There are countless times questions arise where one person uses a certain medication and someone they know uses something else and they want to know why.

The reason for this simply put, different medications work in different ways, they affect the body or causes changes differently for example; metformin works by decreasing (glucose) sugar production in the liver, decreasing the absorption of glucose in the intestine and improves insulin sensitivity by increasing glucose uptake and use in the body while gliclazide works by increasing the amount of insulin the pancreas make. Therefore, depending on your body a different medication may be prescribed for you by your doctor compared to someone you know who is also diabetic. Considerations that are made when deciding on treatment options include: your weight, your HbA1c levels, specific allergies, how long you've been diabetic, other health complications (heart and kidney) and blood pressure.

The CDAP programme caters for the diabetic patient by offering medications (Metformin, Gliclazide and Insulin) for free at partnered CDAP pharmacies. Apart from medications, the CDAP programme offers free blood glucose monitors and provides strips for these machines. Monitoring and recording your blood sugar fasting (on waking up in the mornings) and 2 hours after meals (post prandial) are instrumental in deciding if your current treatment is working. The Hba1c test should be done at least every three months as well as it gives a better picture into the effect of your medication on your body.

As a diabetic, it is critical to your wellbeing to use your medications as directed by your doctor or pharmacist. It is absolutely necessary to note the name of your medication and the milligram to better help assist in therapy monitoring. An article recently stated that you see your doctor maybe twice a year but your pharmacist monthly. It is in your best interest to develop a relationship with your pharmacist as they will have the time to discuss, inform and educate you on your medications.

Special mentions to consider when conversing with your pharmacist: when is the ideal time to take my medications, what can I do to decrease the side effects of my medications or are there any suitable supplements available to assist in regulating my blood sugar? It is also integral to use medications prescribed by your doctor and not follow trending products to manage your diabetes as each molecule you add to your body affects and causes changes and we should avoid unwarranted change.

Next time you visit your pharmacist, ensure to take the time to discuss your medication and address questions and concerns you may have. Pharmacists are your medicine's friends and we're here only to help.

Sabrina Ami Ramkissoon is a registered pharmacist in Trinidad and Tobago and a member of The Riversdale Presbyterian Church. November is recognized as Diabetes Awareness Month.

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“WHY GRATITUDE?” (3)

DR LESTER GOETZ, ELDER AT SUSAMACHAR CHURCH

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LOOK FOR THE GOOD:

A Professor Once Showed A White Sheet Of Paper With A Tiny Black Dot In The Upper Right Corner. He Asked The Students To Comment On What They Saw. They All Said That They Saw The Tiny Black Dot. This Is Us, Because We Focus On The Tiny Negative But Not The Large White Sheet Of Positive Blessings. Gratitude Helps You To Look For The Good In Others.

COMPARISON:

There Was Once A Man Who Was So Frustrated And Angry Because He Had No New Shoes, Until He Met A Man In The Street Who Had No Feet.

There Will Always Be People Better Off And Also Worse Off Than You, So Be Grateful For What God Has Given You Right Now, And Focus On What You Have And Not On What You Lack. Do Not Waste Time Comparing.

You Will Be Happier And Healthier.

Gratitude Is Self-Healing. Develop An Attitude Of Gratitude. There Is Always Someone Who Wants What You Have. What God Has Given You

Is Yours. No One Can Take It Away. He Will Open Doors For You That No One Can Close, So Give Thanks.

EMBRACE YOUR IMPERFECTIONS:

God Loves You Unconditionally. You May Worry That Your Tummy Is Too Big Or That Your Husband Is Not Romantic Enough, So You Are Not Happy Nor Grateful. Your Life May Not Be Perfect, But God Still Loves

You Unconditionally, No Matter What. So Still Give Thanks For God's Love. You Can Develop An Attitude Of Gratitude.

IN CONCLUSION:

Pray With Thanks. The Bible Says 'Do Not Be Anxious About Anything But In Everything By Prayer And Supplication With 'Thanksgiving,' Let Your Requests Be Known To God For This Is The Will Of God.' (Philippians 4:6) It Is God's Will! 'Thanks Giving' Is God's Will. A Command From God. If You Pray For Healing Then Do Not Beg God "Please, Please, Please Heal Me." Show Your Faith, Cast Out All Doubt And Believe You Will Be Healed.

Pray With Thanks: "Dear Heavenly Father Thank You For Healing Me" And The Healing Will Begin! Jesus Said Your Faith Has Healed You (Mark 5:34). Do Not Doubt, Fully Believe. Start Your Prayers With Thanks.

You Are Thanking Him For What He Will Do. That Is Faith. God Never Fails.

Stop Saying 'Why Me?' And Start Declaring 'Thank You Lord For Being With Me.' Thank God For Who He Is.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS NOT YOUR TROUBLES:

As You Remember Your Blessings You Can Write Them Down In Your Thank You Diary. Count Your Blessings, Name Them One By One.

Also, Buy A Thank You Card! And Put It On Your Beside Table. When You Wake Up 'What Is That Silly Card For ?' It Will Remind You To Start Your

Day With Gratitude, And Focus On The Goodness Of God. 61 Million People Died Last Year, 2024. You Are Still Alive! Say Thanks To God For Giving You Another Day.

THE BIBLE Reveals GODS PROMISES:

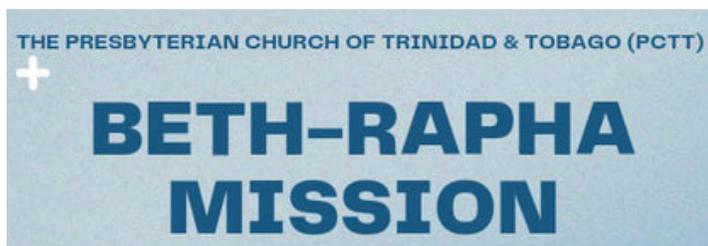
For I Know The Plans I Have For You Declares The Lord. Plans To Prosper You, Not To Harm You, Plans To Give You Hope And A Future

(Jeremiah 29:11). Is This Not A Reason To Give Thanks? For God Did Not Give You A Spirit Of Fear, But Of Power, Love And A Sound Mind (Timothy 1:7) Gratitude Again. Gratitude Transforms Us And Will Unlock The Power Of God In Our Lives.

FINALLY:

What Is The Greatest Gift All? God Gave Us His Son Our Lord And Saviour Jesus Christ. This Is Indeed The Most Precious Gift Of All! The Greatest Gift! He Came To Save Us From Our Sins And To Show Us The Way To A Better Life.

Thanks To God For His Promises And For Giving Us Hope And Resilience. For His Divine Love, His Peace And Forgiveness. Lord We Enter Your Gates With Thanksgiving (Psalm 100:4) Teach Us To Be People Of Gratitude No Matter What We Face. Amen



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SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION IN ACTION:

By: Angelica Khan

THE FUTURE OF SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION: EMBRACING INNOVATION AND INCLUSION (PART 5)

Introduction

To conclude this series, we turn our focus to the future. Special Needs Education continues to evolve through the integration of technology, inclusive policies, and global collaboration. But how do we ensure we are truly meeting the needs of every learner in the years to come?

Trends in Special Education

- Use of artificial intelligence for adaptive learning tools
- Virtual reality and simulations for sensory training
- Online platforms for personalized learning paths
- Growth of inclusive education policies across the Caribbean

Teacher Empowerment and New Roles

Educators are no longer just instructors—they are facilitators, advocates, and co-learners. Future teaching will include data analysis, collaborative planning with specialists, and greater use of digital resources.

The Role of Community and Policy

Inclusive education must be sustained by national investment. This includes updated teacher training, stronger IEP systems, accessible learning materials, and community awareness campaigns.

Looking Ahead with Hope

The future of Special Needs Education is inclusive, innovative, and inspiring. By embracing new tools and mindsets, we ensure no learner is left behind. We must remain open, adaptable, and compassionate.

Conclusion

Every article in this series has shown us that Special Needs Education is dynamic and essential. As we look ahead, let us continue to grow, support, and transform the educational experiences of all children—together.

Author: Angelica Khan

Educator/ Educational Specialist

/ Special Needs Educational Consultant

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IN SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY: KNOX CELEBRATES A YOUTH SUNDAY OF DEVOTION, DIGNITY, AND NATIONAL PRIDE

By Dr. Asia .S. Hasanali

On August 31st, 2025, members of Knox Presbyterian Church gathered to celebrate not only 63 years of national independence, but also a Youth Sunday that stirred hearts and lifted spirits.

Clad in the patriotic colours of red, white, and black, the service began with a dignified procession. A stirring rendition of “God Bless Our Nation” followed, setting the tone for a gathering that was both Christ-centered and rich with national pride.

The youths came forward with unwavering enthusiasm, offering songs, prayers, and scripture in deep devotion—honoring their Creator and their country. Encouraged by support from the Knox Church congregation, the young people effortlessly embodied the day’s theme: “Remaining Humble in Service to Others.”

The sermon was delivered by Dr Asia Hasanali, and reflected on Scriptures from Luke 14:1, 7–14 and Matthew 25:31–40, calling all to live with godly humility, and a tender heart for serving others.

The message gently reminded listeners that being humble does not diminish our worth. On the contrary, God continually affirms our value in scripture—declaring that we are made in His image and likeness and that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Drawing on the lives of Moses, David, and Nehemiah, the sermon highlighted how surrendering to God’s plan with humility not only reveals his mighty work but positions us to serve others with purpose and grace. Their humility and obedience allowed God to raise them up to fulfill His purpose and serve others in powerful ways.

The message also emphasized that serving others doesn’t require great wealth. In Acts 3, Peter and John encountered a man begging at the temple gate. Though they had no silver or gold, they offered what they did have—faith, compassion, and the power of Christ. Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” And the man was healed.

This moment in Acts was more than a miracle—it is a model for how we are called to serve. It teaches us that the value of our offering isn’t measured by material abundance, but by the sincerity of our hearts and willingness to act—trusting that even the simplest gift, offered in love, can be powerful in God’s hands.

Practical ways to serve include:

- | Volunteering where help is needed
- | Forgiving those who have wronged us.
- | Giving without expectation
- | Encouraging the discouraged
- | Visiting the elderly
- | Mentoring the youth.
- | Spending time with those who grieve

As the sermon ended, the congregation was reminded that service is not merely something we offer, it is something we have all received. True humility recognizes that each of us has, at some point, been in need. And it is this shared experience that calls us to serve others with kindness and compassion.



The service concluded with the reciting of the national pledge—a joyful affirmation of the deep commitment to both God and country. It was a day of celebration, faith and fellowship that proved that patriotism and worship can walk hand in hand.

ADAM, LUKE & GABRIEL VISIT THE ARK ~HOW ONE VISIT BROUGHT ANCIENT FAITH TO LIFE~

By Luke Nancoo, Adam Ali & Gabriel Hampton, Susamachar Presbyterian Church Youth Group,

Our parents often say they prayed the traits of the biblical figures we were named after would live within us—and in many ways, they do.

I am Luke. Like the physician and Gospel writer, I value truth, detail, and faith grounded in understanding. I am Adam, the eldest of my parents, tasked with looking out for others. And I am Gabriel, the youngest—not an angel, but I try to share God’s message through how I live.

These qualities shaped how we each experienced our journey to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. On Friday, July 25, 2025, twenty youths from the Susamachar Presbyterian Church Youth Group, five Registrars, and three parents embarked on a two-hour trip from Louisville to Petersburg, eager to explore the stories of our faith brought to life.

Adam’s Experience – The Creation Museum
Growing up in Sunday School, I often heard about the Garden of Eden, the Flood, and God’s redemption but those stories sometimes felt distant. At the Creation Museum, they became real. From lifelike exhibits of Eden to scientific displays on fossils and the Flood, I saw how faith and science could exist in harmony.

The museum didn’t dismiss science; it reframed it. Evidence of rock layers, fossils, and geology all pointed back to God’s design. I realized that being “Adam” wasn’t just a name—it was a reminder of our shared role in God’s creation story. My faith deepened as I understood that everything—from the stars to our DNA—bears His fingerprint.

Luke’s Reflection – Walking Through the Ark

A short drive away, we arrived at the Ark Encounter—a full-scale reconstruction of Noah’s Ark. We were encouraged to read Genesis beforehand and reflect on obedience and trust. Yet, nothing prepared me for the sheer scale of the 510-foot-long structure.

Inside, I was struck by the practicality of Noah’s task: caring for animals, storing food, building in faith while the world mocked. Each exhibit—every fossil, every reconstructed stall—echoed the same message: Noah’s obedience was rooted in trust.

As I stood before a display of Noah’s family praying amid the storm, I realized how isolating yet faithful that moment must have been. The Ark became more than wood and pitch—it became a symbol of Christ, our true Ark, carrying us safely through life’s floods.

Gabriel’s Message – Faith Like Noah

At the Ark I thought about my little brother, also named after Noah. Would I have believed him if God told him to build a boat that took 75 years? Probably not! Exploring the Ark raised questions of science and faith—how it floated, how it sustained life—but the deeper answer was simple: God’s hand was in it.

Genesis 7:16 says, “And the Lord shut him in.” It wasn’t just design or engineering—it was divine protection. Psalm 127:1 reminded me, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.”

We left the Ark with more than knowledge—we left with strengthened faith. Like Noah, we’re called to trust, obey, and believe that God’s hand still shuts us in and keeps us safe.

We left the Ark walking in renewed “Faith Like Noah.”



CLASS REUNION AT VISTABELLA

By Shurland Sookdeo & Carollyn Paul

The past students of the Post Primary Class of Vistabella Presbyterian School, 1973 – 1974, hosted a grand reunion at the Vistabella Community Centre on Saturday 23rd. August. The purpose was to renew former acquaintances and to honour and pay tribute to class teacher, Mr. Tommy Mootoo, retired Vice Principal I . He was accompanied by his daughter, Dianne, a past pupil.

Mrs. Ramtahal prayed for those present and their families, others who migrated and remembered those who had passed away. Gangadeen welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. He was ably assisted by Randy, the Chief Organizer. Shurland and a few others discussed how they contacted the students far and wide, much to the joy and delight of those present.

Deeniah recalled some of his teacher's favourite comments like 'strive for excellence', 'work consistently and hard' and 'less talk, more work.' He even sang some of the songs that Sir taught us "Doggie in the Window", "I have a Dream", etc. while everyone sang along.

All the students paid glowing tribute to Sir. They agreed that he was the best teacher who taught them, as many succeeded in their exams. Some who reside abroad called during the reunion to extend greetings and best wishes. Surprisingly, Nandrani graced us with her presence late in the afternoon.

In reply, Teacher Mootoo admitted that it was indeed a great joy to interact with such a class of attentive and disciplined students. It brought back fond and cherished memories of the good old days. In fact, they were great days and a jolly experience at the best school of all.

Tokens were given out to each past student who attended. Shurland and Carollyn assisted, with Mr. Mootoo making the presentation.

Everyone dined on the delicious meal and various refreshments catered by Shurland and Shakila.

The reunion ended happily, but not before the reunited students danced and sang to the popular D.J. music. They all wished Mr. Tommy Mootoo, the master teacher, a continued happy retirement and God's richest blessings.



SAN JUAN PRESBYTERIAN CUB SCOUTS WORLD COMMUNION DAY SERVICE

By Shurland Sookdeo & Carollyn Paul



Their aim is to exemplify their promise and pledge which underscores a duty to God and service to others.

Special thanks to Scout Leader, Mrs. Gillian Baksh, Assistant Scout Leader, Mrs. Gabriella Phillip-Lynch and Chairman/Line teacher, Ms. Danielle Supersad for training them.

Thanks also go out to all committee members, parents, congregation members and well-wishers for their support and words of encouragement.

CUREPE PRESBYTERIAN STUDENT AWARDED PRESIDENT'S MEDAL SILVER

By Davenand Kaladeen, Curepe Presbyterian Primary School.



Curepe Presbyterian Primary School is celebrating a proud milestone as former pupil, Ruthvika Saravana Kumar, was awarded the President's Medal (Silver) for her outstanding performance in the 2023 Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) Examination. Ruthvika, who placed second in the national examination, was given the prestigious award. However, due to her family's absence from the country, the Principal, Mrs. Patricia Thompson - Jaggernaut, received the award on her behalf in a ceremony at the President's House on Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

The school's principal, teachers, and staff have extended heartfelt congratulations to Ruthvika noting that her success is a reflection of her consistent discipline, dedication, and a commitment to excellence.

Throughout her seven years at Curepe Presbyterian, Ruthvika distinguished herself as more than just a high achiever. She served as a role model and mentor to her peers and represented the school with pride at numerous academic competitions. Known for her quiet demeanor, humility, and strong work ethic, she has been described as a student who exemplifies the values of her alma mater.

In addition to her academic accomplishments, Ruthvika is also a talented classical Indian dancer, further underscoring her qualities as a well-rounded and versatile individual.

Curepe Presbyterian Primary School has expressed its pride in Ruthvika's achievement, noting that her recognition at the national level is an inspiration to current and future students.

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ANCESTORS OF KING DAVID

By P.E George Sammy

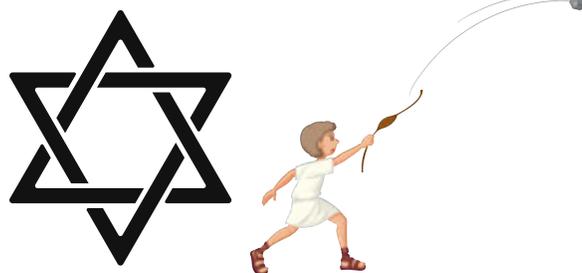
Jesus Christ our Saviour was born of King David's line:
 o "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1),
 o God "raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David" (Luke 1:69),
 o Joseph, Jesus' Daddy, was "of the house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4), and
 o Christ Jesus, our Lord, was "born of the seed of David according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3).

King David, therefore, was forefather of Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23); and in this Advent Season it is worthwhile to learn from King David's ancestors.

The lineage from Abraham to King David is listed in four scripture passages: 1 Chronicles 2:1-15, Ruth 4:18-22, Matthew 1:2-6, and Luke 3:23-48; with good agreement between them. The fourteen generations (Matthew 1:17) between Abraham and David are:

Unusual for biblical times, three women are listed among these ancestors - Tamar, Rahab and Ruth; two of these women were not Jewish. Scripture tell us little about Perez, Hezron, Ram, Amminadab, Nashshon, Salmon and Obed, but here is what it says about the other ancestors:
 o Abraham was obedient to God and received God's blessing (Genesis 22:1-18);
 o God promised to bless Isaac (Genesis 26:2-4) and kept that promise (Genesis 26:12-13);
 o Jacob had a vision of the way to heaven (Genesis 28:10-17), wrestled with God (Genesis 32:24-27) and was given a new name (Genesis 32:28-30);
 o Judah changed his mind and avoided the sin of murder (Genesis Chapter 37);
 o Tamar demanded her rights (Genesis Chapter 38);
 o Rahab recognized the True God and protected God's servants (Joshua 2:1-7),
 o Ruth symbolized fidelity (Ruth Chapter 1),
 o Boaz showed kindness (Ruth Chapter 2), and
 o Jesse's story teaches us that God looks into our hearts, not our outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7). This Advent Season let us learn from these stories of King David's ancestors and let them lead us to Immanuel.

Abraham,	Isaac,	Jacob,
Judah and Tamar	Perez,	Herzon,
Ram	Aminadab,	Nahshon,
Rahab and Salmon,	Ruth and Boaz,	Obed,
Jesse, and	King David.	





SOUTH-EASTERN PRESBYTERY
in collaboration with
THE NATIONAL SPORTS COMMITTEE



SOUTH-EASTERN PRESBYTERY
CRICKET
tournament

SAT, 15 NOV, 2025 | START AT 8 A.M.

**Sancho St Julien Recreational Ground,
Sancho Branch Rd, New Grant**

CPL - COLLABORATIVE PRESBYTERIAN LEAGUE

As we step onto the field as a collaborative Presbyterian team, we're here to craft our sacred score across this blessed land. We open our arms wide to each brave soul willing to join the race, because in this game of faith, our victory's just getting started.

Time rolls on, guided by God's own Word and, without a doubt, our confidence blooms. We swing with trust, knocking the ball of doubt aside, securing a powerful Four of grace that charges toward the boundary, a clear sign of our spirit's growth, driven by His purpose.

Then there's that exhilarating moment when we lift high, a shot that's pure and right. A soaring Six of love radiates for all to see! It captures our peak in Him, reflecting each member's blessed spirit. We're finding strength in fellowship, in unity, and in peaceful rest.

We must cherish those who watch from the sidelines, who linger at the edge. Let's pray they feel inspired to come, stay, and join our vibrant circle, our joyful family in this wide-open field. Here, nobody's a stranger, and everyone belongs.

We can't just talk a good game, lamenting those who used to fill these stands on this sacred ground. Sure, we're fifteen thousand strong, but we were created for even more! There's plenty of room in the stadium to pack in the faithful and even up that score.

Our Umpire is none other than the Lord Himself; His vision is crystal clear. He doesn't need a review on the screens or a second opinion, He holds every moment dear. He knows the play before the ball's even pitched, judging with a perfect heart, in mercy and light.

So take a moment, dig deep within, and ponder this: When was the last time you invited someone to join God's batting order? To stand beside you and make their own swing? Don't get caught waiting around, this is our moment to act!

In Loving Memory of

**THOMAS
LUTCHMAN**

Sunrise:
09/03/1931
Sunset:
06/12/2016



*It is now 9 years since you left.
We miss you terribly.
Grief changes nothing.
Only the love and good memories remain.
From Wife- Florabelle,
Daughters- Frances, Stacey Fenella (Dec.)
Siblings, In-Laws and Jennifer,
Your loving Care giver.*



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ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Rev. Dr. Keron Khellawan

(YEAR A)

This shortened litany can be adapted for home and church -

First Sunday in Advent

Purple Candle of Hope

· Opening Hymn vs 1 of 'O Come O Come Emmanuel'

LEADER 1: Today, we begin our preparation, for Christ is coming. We light the candles on our Advent wreath to remind us of the many gifts Christ brings to the world. This wreath represents the endless loving gifts God gives to us.

LEADER 2: The lights from the candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world, and every Sunday in Advent the lights grow stronger and stronger.

Today, we light the first candle- the candle of Hope, reminding us that our Hope in God has no end.

[Leader 3 - Lights the candle].

LEADER 2: HOPE is like a light shining in the dark, Christ is that light, Christ is our Hope.

LEADER 3: Let us pray: Lord, as we look to the birth of Jesus, grant that the light of your love for us will help us to become lights in the lives of those around us. Prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of your coming, for Jesus is our Hope. Amen.

Second Sunday in Advent

Green Candle of Peace

· Opening Hymn vs 2 'O Come O Come Emmanuel'

LEADER 1: Last Sunday, we lit the first candle in the Advent wreath, the Candle of Hope, representing God's endless gifts to us. Today, we light the Candle of Peace, which grows stronger.

LEADER 2: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

Christ brought peace when He first came to us, and He will bring everlasting peace when He comes again. So we light this candle to remember our Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, and our call as Children of God to be peacemakers.

[Leader 3 -lights the candle].

LEADER 2: PEACE is like a light shining in the dark, Christ is that light, Christ is our Peace.

LEADER 3: Let us pray: Gracious God, Grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. May divisions in ourselves and in our families be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities and in the countries of our world. Help us to see the paths of peace in our lives and then give to us courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us. AMEN.

Third Sunday in Advent

Yellow Candle of Joy

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Opening Hymn- vs 3 'O Come O Come Emmanuel'

LEADER 1: Our Advent Wreath is growing brighter and brighter, with the candles of Hope and Peace lighting. The endless Gifts God gives us continues today as we light the Candle of Joy.

LEADER 2: When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special Child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words "My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Jesus' presence in the world brings Joy to those who had none. He healed, restored, and brought laughter and rejoicing into their hearts.

[Leader 3 -lights the candle].

LEADER 2: JOY is like a light shining in the dark, Christ is that light, in Christ we find Joy.

LEADER 3:

Let us pray: We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for the fulfillment of your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit. AMEN

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Red Candle of Love

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

· Opening Hymn- 'O Come O Come Emmanuel'

LEADER 1: Our hearts are burning brightly, as we remember the gifts God has given us, for he has given us Hope, Peace, and Joy. As we draw closer to the coming of our Lord, and we remember his promise that He will come again, we light the Candle of Love representing the perfect Love of God.

LEADER 2: The Word of God says, "God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

That is what love is like: LOVE is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited or rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no record of wrongs, and it does not gloat, but rejoices in the right. There is nothing that love cannot face. Love never ends.

[Leader 3 -lights the candle].

LEADER 2: LOVE is like a light shining in the dark, Christ is that light, and in Christ we find Unconditional Love.

LEADER 3: Let us pray: Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it on our loves. As we prepare for our celebration of your Jesus' Birth, and as we wait for your coming again, fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, Jesus Christ, our Savior. AMEN.

Christmas day in Advent

The White Christ Candle

The Service begins with the Introit, but continues as a responsive congregational litany

All Sing ~ "O Come all Ye Faithful" (as the candles are lit)

O come all ye faithful joyful and triumphant Oh come ye O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him born the King of angels; O come let us adore him... Christ the Lord.

(First [1st] Advent Candle ~ "HOPE" is lit).

Leader's Voice ~ we light again the hope of Christ in our lives

God of God light of light born unto Mary, the virgin blest

Very God

begotten not created: O come let us adore him... Christ the Lord.

(Second [2nd] Advent Candle ~ "PEACE" is lit).

Leader's Voice- we light again the Peace of Christ in our lives

Sing choirs of angels sing in exultation Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God in the highest: O come, let us adore him, ...Christ the Lord

(Third [3rd] Advent Candle ~ "JOY" is lit).

Leader's Voice- we light again the Joy of the Lord as our strength

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

(Fourth [4th] Advent Candle ~ "LOVE" is lit).

Leader's Voice- we light again the love of Christ for all humanity

Leader: With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, You come to us -Immanuel, "God with us". We light the Christ Candle today knowing that with You all things are made whole.

(Center "CHRIST" Candle is lit).

O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord

Yea ,Lord we greet thee

Born this happy morning

Jesus to thee be glory given,

Word of the Father

Now in flesh appearing

All Pray: Eternal God, this holy day is radiant with the brilliance of your one true Light. May that Light illuminate our hearts and shine in this world. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this day fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. AMEN.