



WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2025

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"We would see Jesus and be transformed into His Likeness"

Dear Friends,

Do you think that God wants us to have fun? This was a question posed to us at the evening worship on Sunday. Sometimes I wonder whether Christians portray a life of pious devotion devoid of fun and enjoyment. Yet, if we read scripture, the life of a person following Christ should be one filled with joy and rejoicing.

What does living joyfully look like? Well, I don't think it means always wearing a smile and always trying to portray that we are happy and acting as though life is easy and have no trouble. But, I do think that being filled with joy will result in laughter and smiles and fun and optimism for a good part of our living. Can we have joy even when going through times of hardship, illness or sorrow? I think we can. I don't know that we can conjure it up by self-talk and willing it into being by simply speaking it or acting happy. I believe that joy is a deep abiding in the promises of Christ with us, of knowing the living God who is creator, of being filled with the Holy Spirit who will guide us into the joy of being rescued from sins trouble and entering into the love of Christ.

Jesus engaged in both celebration, such as we read about his attending a wedding celebration near the beginning of his ministry, and weeping, such as when he encountered the sorrow of Mary and Martha with the news of Lazarus' death. While he wept, he also encouraged Mary and Martha about the hope of life eternally lived with God. Jesus proclaims that he is the resurrection and life and that everyone who lives and trusts in Jesus shall never die. He holds both the joy of resurrection life and the sorrow together. This is part of the complexity of life and emotions. And God is with us in all these complexities, enabling us to navigate them by the foundation of His loving presence.

To answer my initial question, yes, I think God wants us to have fun. And I think that we can have fun in a God honouring way by including and inviting others to participate in the joy filled fun. This advent season, we are invited to turn to God, to encounter the joy of God's loving presence in Christ, and to celebrate Christ coming into this world and into our lives. I think we can have fun even as we may shed tears for those who are not with us because of death or life circumstances.

With love,

Iain

P.S On Sunday morning, in response to the church's monthly financial shortfall, a congregation member, Teresa, shared a creative and heartfelt initiative called #Coffee - a small way each of us can make a meaningful

difference. Here is her testimony as she shared it:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/fz6t6nlTurM?si=5WggH6Oe0ZOg7yaP&t=3877> .

Here is her idea:

by giving up one small luxury each month — perhaps a cup of coffee, a snack outing, or another treat that costs around R200 — we can collectively help close the financial gap. For instance, skipping a weekly R50 coffee adds up to R200 a month, which can then be donated to the church.

You can participate by setting up an automatic monthly deposit or by bringing your contribution in an envelope marked #Coffee. This tag helps us track the initiative's progress.

It's about sharing joyfully to support our community. If 200 people give R200, we could raise R40,000 together! Let's invest in keeping our church strong, our ministries active, and our lights shining.

May God bless this effort and everyone who takes part in it.



(By Iain Kemp)

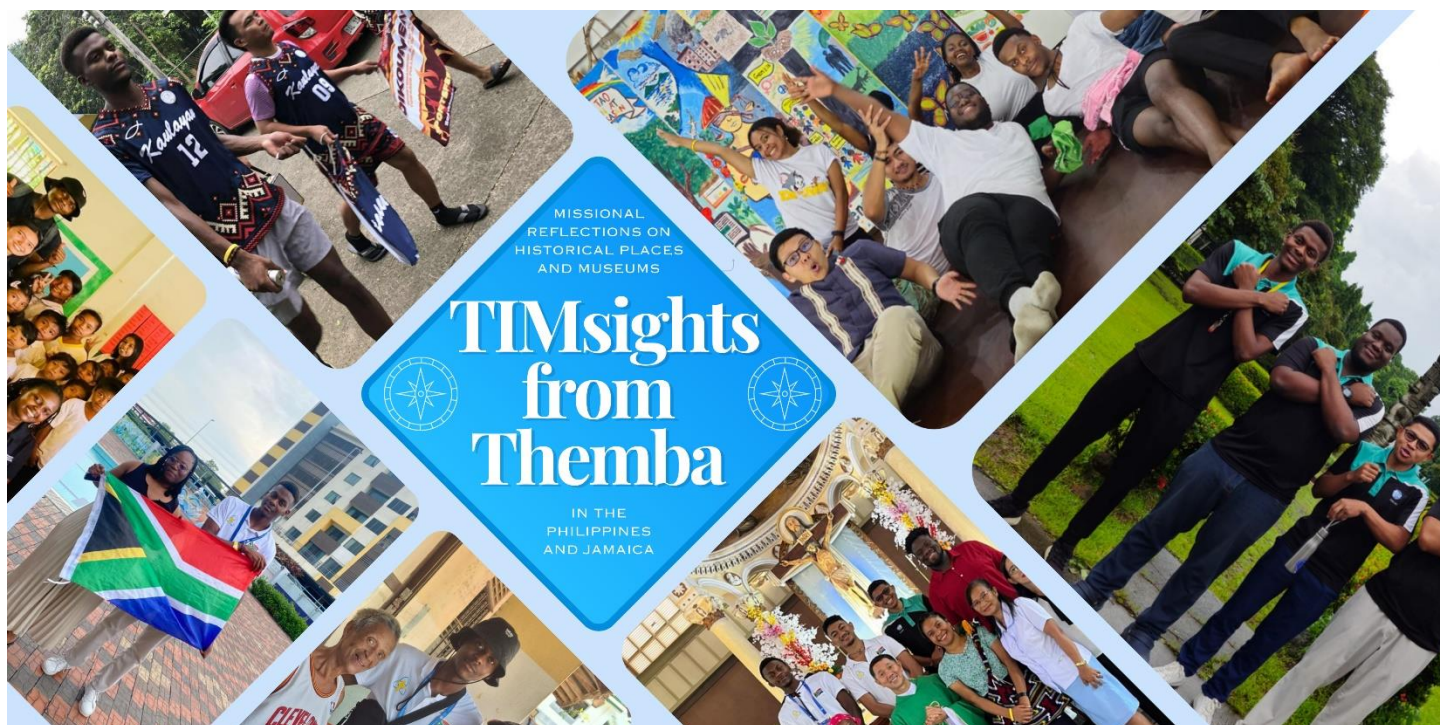
The following is a new song of worship shared with me a few weeks ago by George when he used it at an evening worship service. It raises within me a joy and delight, bringing me to worship with awe and appreciation God who is creator.

"Heaven's Voice Brings The Dawn" – by Resound Worship -

<https://youtu.be/msWH0HQTJRQ?si=DfwqkAZdD944T02I>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/track/6zqq9erUe31trtGx4kEXhg?si=28f041cf2c7e40b9>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/album/heavens-voice-brings-the-dawn-feat-gemma-timo/1522356811>



Faith, Healing, and Mission Through Presence – Lessons from Culion and a Remote Island

In Mark 1:40-45, we meet a man with leprosy who approaches Jesus, kneels before Him, and says, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Moved with compassion, Jesus reaches out His hand, touches the man, and says, “I am willing. Be clean!” Instantly, the leprosy leaves him. This is more than a healing story—it’s an act of restoration. In touching him, Jesus broke through the social and religious walls that had isolated this man for years.

During my recent time in Culion, I witnessed echoes of this passage in the lives of real people. Culion was once chosen

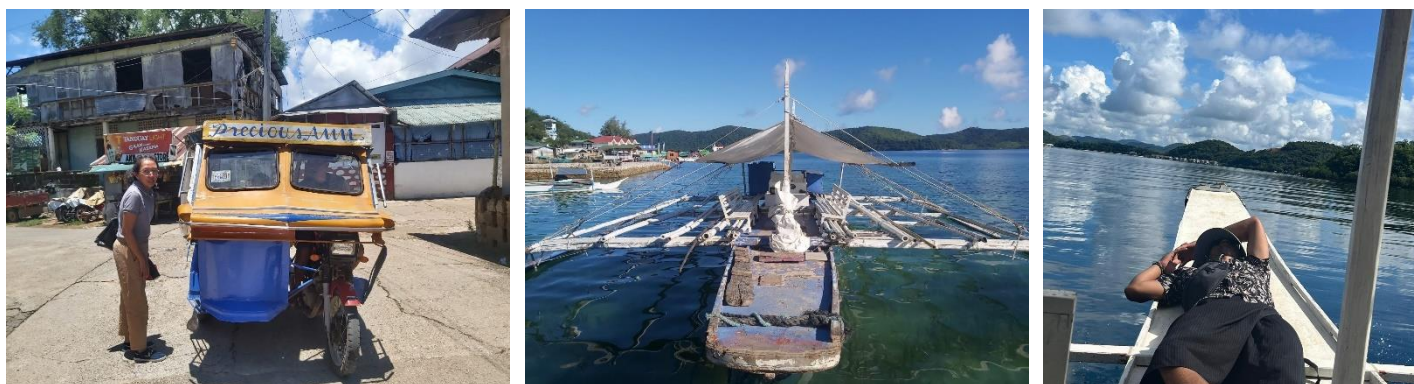
by the American government as a quarantine island for those with leprosy. This history still shapes the community’s identity. There, we met a man who contracted leprosy at just seven years old. For decades, the disease lay hidden, until deformities appeared at age fifty. He has since lived with the stigma, separation, and physical challenges the illness brings. Yet his spirit is remarkable.

We also came across two dedicated teachers. Arneil S Torreblanca, works as a teacher in an indigenous community, one that faces immense daily struggles—no electricity, no running water, and almost no access to



phone networks or the internet. The community consists of about 35 families who sustain themselves mainly through fishing. Education is limited to Grade 6, and all learners are taught together in one classroom, using a different curriculum from the national standard.

He is not alone in this calling. Alongside him is another teacher, a Catholic named Jesabeth A. Quimson who has been on the island for two years, while Torreblanca, a Pentecostal (UPC), has been there for almost five years. The government assigned them to this remote post, but their perseverance comes not from obligation, but from a deep sense of purpose. One of them told us he serves there because he feels called—he sees teaching as a noble profession, and believes every child deserves a foundation in learning, no matter where they live.



Their work is far from easy. The teachers sometimes use their own money to cover school needs or help learners. They live in makeshift bedrooms inside the classroom, taking only a two-month break in the entire year. Beyond teaching, they navigate a language barrier—the children speak primarily an indigenous language and not the common language of Tagalog, making lessons even more challenging.

Yet they press on, encouraged by their families, by small victories in literacy and confidence among the learners, and by the resilience of the community. They even create opportunities for some children to join extra-mural activities in town, such as participating in sports, like basketball, netball and football .

When I think about Mark 1:40-45 in light of their story, the connection becomes clear. The man in the gospel sought physical healing and restoration to society. These teachers may not be performing miracles of physical cure, but they are working toward a different kind of healing—restoring dignity, confidence, and hope to a generation of children who might otherwise be forgotten. Their presence says to the community: “You are worth our time. You are not forgotten.”

This mirrors the man we met in Culion, who, despite never having been reunited with his two children—separated because of his in-laws’ fear of the disease—told us with quiet conviction: “Have faith and live life.” His life, and the teachers’ lives, showed me that faith is not merely waiting for a miracle, but choosing to live with hope, purpose, and joy despite the circumstances.



Jesus' touch in Mark 1 was radical—it defied the cultural norms that kept the leper at arm's length. In the same way, these educators cross barriers daily: the barrier of geography, the barrier of limited resources, the barrier of cultural difference, and the barrier of societal neglect. They do not preach from a pulpit, yet their mission is deeply Christ-like. They live among the people, sharing their struggles and joys, sowing seeds of possibility in young hearts.

Matthew 25:40 says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." These words come alive in the quiet perseverance of these teachers. Their mission is one of presence—a reminder that God's work is not always loud or dramatic. Sometimes it is the steady rhythm of showing up each day, teaching in a hot classroom without electricity, ferrying water for basic needs, and encouraging a child to believe they can learn.

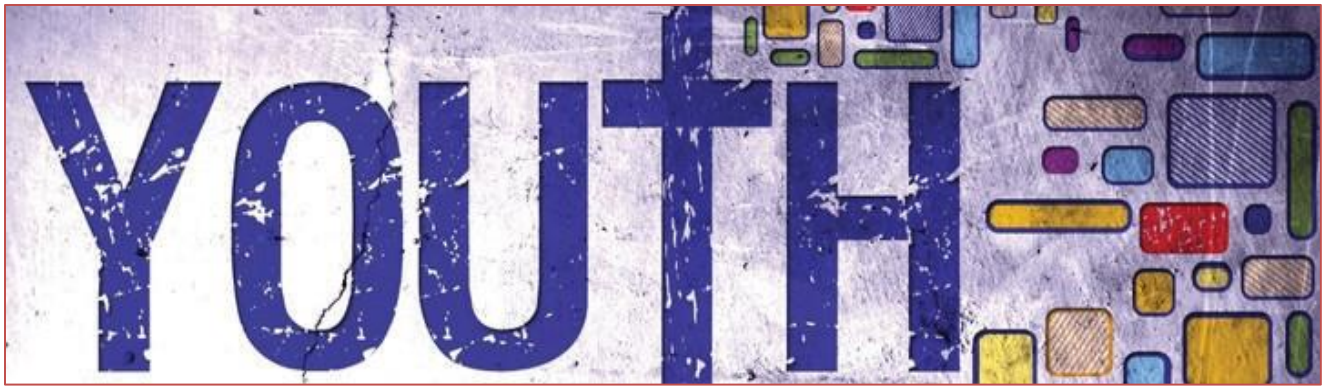


The healed man in Mark's gospel could not contain his joy; he went out and spread the news about Jesus everywhere. I believe that my role after meeting the people of Culion—both the man with leprosy and the two dedicated teachers—is to carry their stories forward. Not as tales of pity, but as testimonies of

resilience, faith, and the power of showing up for others.

Our visit reminded me that mission is not just about what we say, but about how we live among others. It's about extending the compassion of Christ in tangible, everyday acts—sharing life, offering dignity, and holding onto hope. Whether in a remote classroom or in the quiet faith of a man living with leprosy, the love of God finds ways to touch lives and restore them.

And perhaps that's the greatest lesson I take home and that I can share is that: that the Kingdom of God is built not only through miraculous healings but also through the small, faithful acts of those who choose to serve, love, and believe, even in the hardest places.



“Our Purpose is to GROW DEEPER! Grow deeper with God, in Relationships with each other, by creating Opportunities for ministry and as Witnesses.”

Friday night Youth – Junior and Senior Youth on Fridays
Check out the WhatsApp group or contact Ross for more information
In recess for the holidays.

 2026

STARTING FEB

TRINITY
PRESBY

CONFIRMATION

IF YOU ARE 16 OR OLDER (OR YOUR CHILD IS) AND INTERESTED IN JOURNEYING WITH THE IDEA OF CONFIRMING YOUR FAITH

Please reach out to Ross or Iain
0114537729

SUNDAY

Worship

14 December
9am Onwards

Joy



Trinity Presbyterian Church,
St David Road,
Elma Park, Edenvale



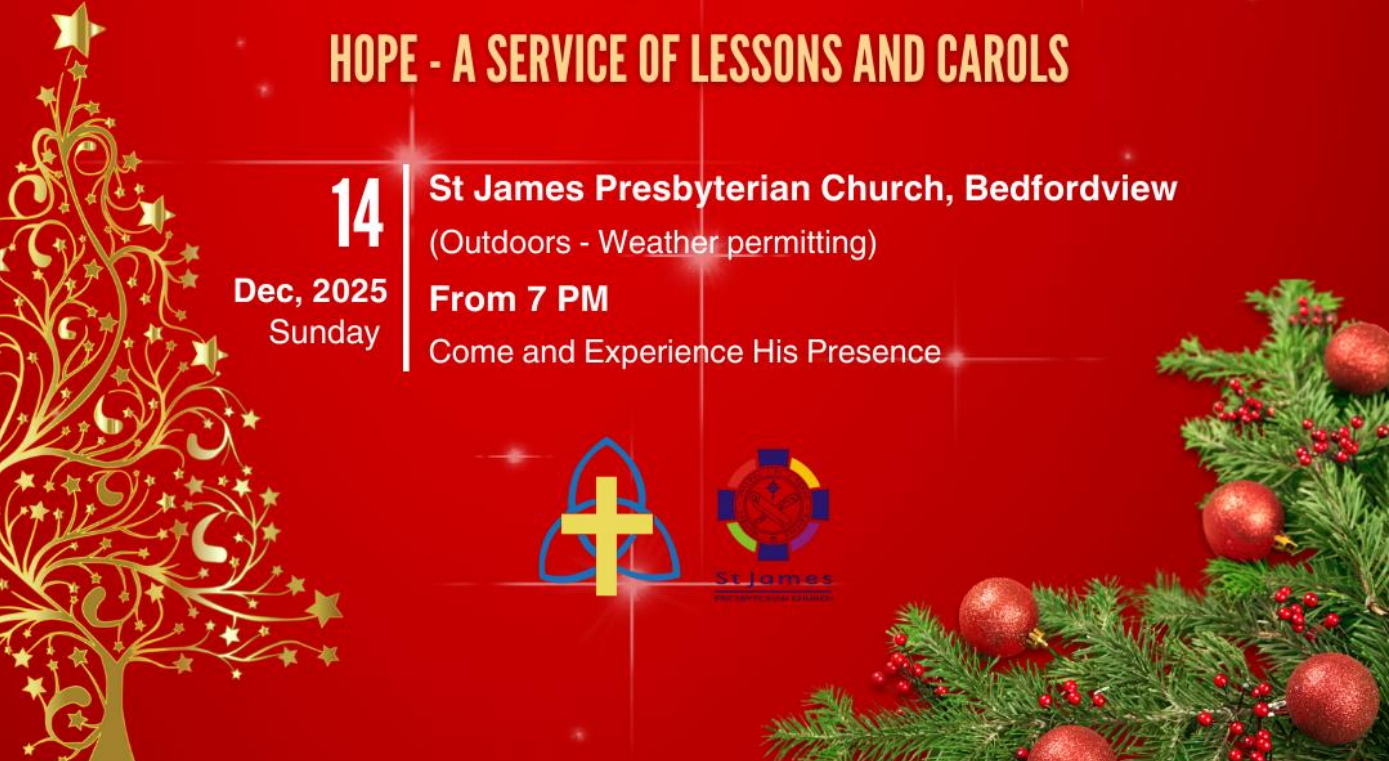
Christmas CAROL SERVICE

Join us for Christmas Carols hosted by St James and
Trinity Presbyterian Churches

Bring: Yourself, a friend and maybe a jacket !

All Are Welcome

HOPE - A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



14

Dec, 2025
Sunday

St James Presbyterian Church, Bedfordview
(Outdoors - Weather permitting)

From 7 PM

Come and Experience His Presence



Staff on leave

Please note the following:

**Felicity will be on leave from 9 – 17
December 2025**

**Mxolisi will be on leave from 19
December 2025 to 6 January 2026**

**Iain will be on leave from 27 December –
4 January 2026**

**Ross will be on leave from 2 – 6 January
2026**

Giving

Please take note:

EFT Payments

We would like to ensure that the payments made to Trinity towards tithing, retiring offerings, food bags etc are allocated correctly. In order to do this, please would you ensure that the reference shown on your payment has the correct beneficiary.

For Tithing, please use the following methods:

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
STANDARD BANK
CURRENT ACCOUNT
NUMBER: 42 448 2088,
BRANCH: 016 342

Zapper QR Code



Scan the QR code with your phone camera to go to either our Facebook or Instagram pages.

