

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST AFRICA

Centennial Celebration

Of

First Kirk-Session and the Ordination of Elders



Theme: Bearing Lasting Fruits.

John 15:16

The Launch and Celebrations Guide

(20th September 2020 – 25th October 2020)

Launch of Centennial Celebration Worship Service (20th September 2020)

Leader of the service: Rev. Paul M. Kariuki, Ag. Secretary General, PCEA.

- Hymn
- Call to Worship: **John 15:16**
- Opening prayer by the leader
- Praise in Worship
- Intercessory and thanksgiving prayers
- Welcome and Intimations
- Offerings and Prayer
- **Bible Readings**
 - **Isaiah 40: 28-30**
 - **John 15:1-16**
- Hymn
- **Sermon: Rt. Rev. Dr. Julius Guantai Mwamba,**
Moderator, 22nd General Assembly, PCEA.
- **Launching Ceremony**
 - Background and naming the first Elders – Eld. Stephen Githitu
 - Prayer for Elders and their ministry
 - Launching the month program
 - Lighting of the celebration torches and sending to regions
- Closing hymn
- Benediction
- Recession hymn

NB: All congregations are encouraged to join in the this launch by:

- *Adopting the Sunday worship programme of 20th Sept 2020.*
- *Intimating that the centennial celebrations are being launched at Thogoto*
- *Reading out the names of the first Elders*
- *Offering a thanksgiving prayer for the ministry of Elders in PCEA (Minister or senior Elder)*



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

While addressing elders at Ephesus as recorded in Acts 20:28, Paul exhorted them to take care of themselves and the flock which the Holy Spirit had made them overseers. He further encouraged them to take care of the church which Christ obtained with his own blood. It is for this reason that I take this opportunity to thank all Elders in our church for the continued dedication and commitment to this noble calling. The Elders have been very instrumental in organising worship in the new normal and supporting the vulnerable people during this covid-19 pandemic.

It is therefore with a lot of gratitude to God that we are marking a century of eldership since September 1920 when first Elders of African origin were ordained. The ordination of African Elders meant that the gospel would spread faster and reach out to more people. This ordination was very key as it would see the Christian literature in Kikuyu develop and later the writing of the bible in Kikuyu language.

The office of an Elder is very key in our church. Firstly, they attend meetings and together with the minister make critical decisions on church matters. Secondly, they offer pastoral oversight to members of the church. Thirdly they stand in and conduct church services when the ministers are attending other congregations. They also act as example to be emulated by living out their lives in accordance with the scriptures besides encouraging other church members to do the same.

The number of Elders has grown in leaps and bounds across East Africa. From the initial 43, we now have more than twenty thousand Elders. The contribution of the elders' service in the church has contributed to numerical growth and increase in membership of our church, from few hundreds to the excess of four million members today. Elders have also contributed to churches infrastructural growth, and have assisted in maintaining peace, harmony, and unity in the church over many decades.

Through the wisdom and unity of purpose of our ruling and teaching Elders, the church has also made monumental decisions that have shaped the entire society throughout history. Some of these decisions are: Saying no to female circumcision as early as 1928; and opposing oaths that went against Christian teachings. As we mark this milestone, I wish to congratulate the current Elders both active and retired and pray that the Almighty God will give them wisdom and grace as they continue to serve.

Finally, recognising that we are the fruit of the seeds that these first Elders have sown, we have adopted the theme, ***Bearing Lasting Fruits*** based on John 15:16. This theme not only reminds us of the efforts of the past Elders but also challenges to continue this legacy and leave lasting fruits for posterity.

May God bless our Elders. May God bless our church.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Julius Guantai Mwamba, Moderator of 22nd General Assembly.

BACKGROUND TO THE CELEBRATIONS

On this occasion of 100 years anniversary of Africans' Eldership, we give thanks to almighty for the growth of the little seeds which have germinated and multiplied a hundred-fold as evidenced by various congregations throughout Central, Eastern and Rift Valley Provinces of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania; as well as the worshipping communities in USA and Britain. We celebrate the Presbyterian form of leadership identified with Elders. Elder in the Greek language is 'Presbyteros' from which we derive our 'presbyter' translated as 'elder.' Presbyterian church is governed by representative assemblies or courts of Elders. The 'Ruling' and the 'Teaching' Elder is the foundation in the Reformed Tradition of the Presbyterian Church.

In 2018, our church celebrated the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of the planting of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa in Kenya. Although the first pioneers of this great movement had arrived from Kibwezi in September, 1898 at Kikuyu, where the work of what was later to become the Church of Scotland Mission (CSM) was started, it was not until 1920 when the Presbyterian form of Church governance was established. The first Kirk Session was constituted on the 16th September 1920 and the ordination of the first 26 Elders took place on 19th September 1920 at Kikuyu, and on 26th September 17 Elders were ordained at Tumutumu. On 17 September 1920 the Presbytery of Kenya Colony was constituted by the Nairobi Kirk Session and the newly ordained elders from Kikuyu.

The Elders who were ordained at Thogoto on 19th September 2020 are:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ishmael Wango | 10. Yusuf Ngwaci | 19. Musa Gitau |
| 2. Samuel Gitau | 11. Alfred Muthuri | 20. Daudi Ndatha |
| 3. Daudi Makumi | 12. James Muriu | 21. Shadraraka Kang'u |
| 4. Benjamin Githiaya | 13. Musa Ngururia | 22. Ayub Nguyai |
| 5. Filipu Karanja | 14. William Njoroge | 23. Douglas Itotia |
| 6. Andrea Wainaina | 15. Tomaso Wanyoike | 24. Joseph Ngure |
| 7. Samson Njoroge | 16. Shadraka Mbirua | 25. Musa ndirangu |
| 8. Ibrahim Njuguna | 17. George Njoroge | 26. Elijah Kibacia |
| 9. Zakaria Wambura | 18. Joshua Matenjwa | |

The Elders who were ordained at Tumutumu Kirk Session on 26th September 1920

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Solomon Ndambi | 10. William Mwema |
| 2. Gideon Gatere | 11. Samson Maingi |
| 3. Jonathan Ng'ang'a | 12. Zakaria Mutahi |
| 4. Joshua Riunga, | 13. Asa Muhuga |
| 5. Musa Matu | 14. Jeremia Waita, |
| 6. Daudi Kamau | 15. Lazaro Theuri |
| 7. Maina Maina | 16. Paulo Kahuho |
| 8. Zakayo Kagotho | 17. Simeon Karecu. |
| 9. Luka Macaria | |

The theme of this centennial celebrations is **“Bearing Lasting Fruits”**. We acknowledge that church Elders are commissioned to go out into the world to proclaim the saving power of Jesus Christ and His sufficiency for all human needs, starting from wherever they are and going out into whatever new areas the Lord may lead them. This Mission must not be seen only in terms of expansion of the Church's sphere but must be seen in terms of the church being fully involved in the affairs of mankind- to cry when the situation demands it, to comfort where necessary, to challenge and to build where duty calls.

As we commemorate this milestone, the formation of the first local Kirk Session and ordination of first African Elders 100 years ago, we are indebted to the Almighty God for endowing them with the spirit of humility and service. We celebrate the African Church workers in various departments and missions that have sacrificed their time, energy and resources for the sake of the Church of Christ. Their families celebrate with us their rich heritage of the service to God and obvious blessings that the Lord has showered upon them. Their testimonies are witnesses to the promise that God never abandons His servants who have served him devotedly.

The challenges before us are many, the workers are few but the Master is still saying –“I shall not forsake you” nothing is impossible with Him. May God bless us all as we celebrate this great event, the pioneering work and dedication of Elders of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. Let us therefore re-dedicate ourselves not only for the coming one hundred years and respond to the command of Jesus Christ to go to all corners of the world and continue bearing lasting fruits for our Master.



CELEBRATIONS PROGRAMME GUIDE (20TH SEPT 2020 – 25TH OCT 2020)

Sunday 20th September 2020

- Launch of the celebration booklets at Tumutumu and launching programme of celebrations
- Elders to lead worship services in all congregations
- Lighting the celebration torches and sending them to regions

Week 1: 21st – 27th September 2020

Focus of celebrations: Elder and Mission to the Family

- Elders be encouraged to pray with families throughout the week
- **Tuesday 22nd Sept 2020**
 - The Kirk sessions meet for fellowship and to familiarise themselves with the program of celebrations
- **Saturday 26th Sept 2020**
 - Kirk sessions organise seminars on 'Eldership and Family'
- **Sunday 27th September 2020:**
 - Normal service with a talk on eldership and highlight on the ongoing celebrations.
 - Lighting the celebration torches regions and sending them to presbyteries.

Week 2: 28th September – 4th October 2020

Focus of Celebrations: Elder and Mission to Environment

- **Tuesday 29th Sept 2020**
 - Kirk sessions meet for fellowship, and plan the activities of the week
- **Wednesday & Thursday**
 - Environmental Conservation activities such as Planting trees, cleaning streets, draining stagnant water, Garbage collection, Building bus stop shades, Improving roads etc.
- **Saturday 3rd October 2020:**
 - Kirk sessions organise seminars on 'Environmental Stewardship'
- **Sunday 4th October 2020**
 - Normal service with a talk on eldership and highlight on the ongoing celebrations.
 - Lighting the celebration torches at presbyteries and sending them to parishes.
 - Launching presbytery elder's fraternal where they do not exist

Week 3: 5th October – 11th October 2020

Focus of Celebrations: Elder and Mission to the Needy

- **Tuesday 6th October 2020**
 - Kirk sessions meet for fellowship, and plan the activities of the week

- **Wednesday & Thursday**
 - Mission to the needy and the vulnerable such as: the elderly, the sick, the hungry, homeless (can build for them), etc.
- **Saturday 10th October 2020**
 - Kirk sessions organise seminars on 'Eldership and Impact to the society.'
- **Sunday 11th October 2020**
 - Normal service with a talk on eldership and highlight on the ongoing celebrations.
 - Lighting the celebration torches at parishes and sending them to congregations.

Week 4: 12th October – 18th October 2020

Focus of Celebrations: Elder and Mission to Institutions

- **Tuesday 13th October 2020**
 - Kirk sessions meet for fellowship, and plan the activities of the week
- **Wednesday & Thursday:**
 - Visit and pray for the institutions such as: Police station (OCPD, OCS), Hospitals, Administration (Chiefs, Ward Administrators, Governors, MPs, MCAs etc.), Bank management, Magistrates, and judges etc.
- **Saturday 17th October 2020**
 - Kirk sessions organise seminars on '**Elder and Leadership in Community**'
- **Sunday 18th October 2020**
 - Normal service with a talk on eldership and highlight on the ongoing celebrations.
 - Lighting the celebration torches at congregations and sending them to districts

Week 5: 19th October – 25th October 2020

Prayer and Thanksgiving Week

- **Monday 19th October 2020**
 - Kirk sessions meet for fellowship and launch the weeklong prayers. (The Session to have prepared a rota of prayers with districts taking days or parts of the day in prayer)
- **Thursday 22nd October 2020**
 - Visit and appreciating of the Elder by district members (Can happen in the church where space cannot allow home meetings).
 - Lighting the torch at district to send to families (Candles can be used)
- **Saturday 24th October 2020:**
 - Kirk sessions organise seminars on '**Eldership and Prayer life**' or
 - Elders meet and discuss on '**Elders Welfare and wellness**'.
 - Launching the memorial monument at Tumutumu by GA Moderator
- **25th October 2020**
 - Climax Celebrations at Thogoto By GA Moderator
 - Unveiling the monuments at Thogoto and Tumutumu.

Notes:

1. During this month, the Elders are encouraged to take active role in all areas of the service including ushering, Praise in worship, Bible readings, intercessory prayers and preaching.
2. A short report on the celebrations should be given in every Sunday indicating the purpose of celebrations, the activities that took place in the week, the activities in the coming week.
3. Ministry of Health guidelines to be observed during these celebrations in terms of:
 - Physical distancing
 - Observe church reopening guidelines
 - Small groups can visit different places instead of the entire team going together
 - Sanitising all items before they are passed from one person to the other
 - Putting on of facemasks.

HYMNS

1) Bringing in the Sheaves

1. Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

*Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves;
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.*

2. Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest, and the labour ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.
3. Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,
Tho' the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

2) To God be the Glory

1. To God be the glory, Great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice
Come to the Father, Through Jesus the Son
Give Him the glory, Great things He has done***

2. Perfect redemption, the purchase of blood
To every believer the promise of God
The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus, a pardon receives
3. Great things He has taught us, great things He has done
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see

3) What a Fellowship

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

***Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.***

2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

4) **Bwana U Sehemu Yangu**

1. Bwana u sehemu yangu, rafiki yangu wewe
Katika safari yangu, tatembea na wewe

***Pamoja na wewe, pamoja na Wewe
Katika safari yangu, tatembea na wewe.***

2. Mali hapa sikutaka, ili niheshimiwe,
Na yanikute mashaka, sawasawa na wewe
3. Pamoja na wewe, pamoja na wewe
Mlangoni mwa Mbinguni, niingie na wewe

5) **Nataka Nimjue Yesu**

1. Nataka nimjue Yesu, na nizidi kumfahamu,
Nijue penndo lake tu, wokovu wake kamili.

***Zaidi zaidi, nimfahamu Yesu,
Nijue upendo wake, wokovu wake kamili.***

2. Nataka nimjue Yesu, na nizidi kusikia
Anenapo kitabuni, kunidhihirisha kwangu.
3. Nataka tena zaidi, daima kupambanua
Mapenzi yake, nifanye yale yanayompendeza.
4. Nataka nikae, kwa mazungumzo matamu.
Nizidi kuwaonyesha wengine wokovu wake!

6) **Kumtegemea Mwokozi**

1. Kumtegemea Mwokozi, Kwangu tamu kabisa,
Kukubali neno lake, Nina raha moyoni.

***Yesu, Yesu namwamini, Nimemwona thabiti;
Yesu, Yesu, yu thamani, Ahadi zake kweli.***

2. Kumtegemea Mwokozi, Kwangu tamu kabisa,
Kuamini damu yake, Nimeoshwa kamili.
3. Kumtegemea Mwokozi, Kwangu tamu kabisa,
Kwake daima Napata, Uzima na amani.
4. Nafurahi kwa sababu, Nimekutegemea,
Yesu, Mpendwa na Rafiki, Uwe nami dawamu.

Prayer:

In the midst of the chaotic times in this world,
We proclaim Christ as the peace of the world.
In the midst of works of darkness in many quarters,
We celebrate Jesus Christ as the light of all peoples
In the midst of power rivalries and struggles,
We announce that all POWER is hidden in Jesus Christ.
In the midst of doubts and despair,
We confess Jesus Christ to be our hope.
In the midst of oppression and lack of recognition,
We confess Christ the Emancipator and Redeemer.
In the midst of struggle to cope with many issues of life,
We proclaim Jesus Christ who coped with many issues of life, even the cross.
In the midst of wrong being seen as a winner,
We confess Jesus THE WAY, THE TRUTH and THE LIFE as victor!

(From 50th Anniversary Dedication of the Church of the Torch sermon in 1983)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

AMEN.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. **Amen.**



The Watson-Scott Memorial Church was prefabricated in Scotland before being shipped to Kenya



Kikuyu session Elders ordained on 16th September 2020

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