

Order of Worship

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

INTROIT HYMN # 165 [VIP] “Come Sinners to the Gospel Feast
(Saxthorpe Choristers)

GREETINGS AND CALL TO WORSHIP: - Bishop Christine Benguche

L The worship services in our churches may not be blessed by full choirs and the strains of musical instruments because of the restricting and confining effects of the global pandemic, COVID-19. But what COVI-19 cannot do is silence the worshipful praise of the people of God, for each saint can say in the words a great hymn writer (Isaac Watts):

*I'll praise my Maker while I have breath
and when my voice is lost in death,
praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall never be past
while life and thought and being last,
or immortality endures.*

L I greet you in the name of the God who deserves our praises. Today is Aldersgate Sunday, and on every continent and island where that part of the Church of Jesus Christ called Methodist exists, we give worship in grateful remembrance of what happened on in a small Moravian Society in Aldersgate Street in the city of London. On that evening, May 24, 1738, God touched a man (John Benjamin Wesley) who changed a nation and the world. Of that experience Wesley said:

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where (someone) was reading (Martin) Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

‘Without Aldersgate, Methodism as we know it today may not have happened. But Aldersgate is not just about the past, or just about John Wesley. His experience . . . demonstrates the difference it makes knowing God for ourselves.’

HYMN # 298 [VIP] - ‘O For A Heart To Praise My God’ (verses 1,4 and 5)

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| 1. for a heart to praise my God
A heart from sin set free,
A heart that always feels Thy
blood
So freely spilt for me. | 4. A heart in every thought received
And full of love divine;
Perfect, and right, and pure, and
good,
A copy, Lord, of Thine! |
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5. Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
Come quickly from above,
Write Thy new name upon my heart,
Thy new, best name of love.
Charles Wesley (1707—1788)

PRAYERS

- Led by Rev'd Dr. George Mulrain

ADORATION

L Creator God, we are filled with praise and adoration of You when we consider the beautiful world that You have made. You blessed this land of Jamaica with so many fascinating sceneries that we are bound to admit that nothing can compare with the nature that is attributed to You only. As we think on this Aldersgate Lord’s Day of John Wesley whose heart was strangely warmed, we imagine that he came to love You even more than he previously did. We are grateful that when we come to know You, we are confronted with Your loving nature. Your love for us is such that You sent Jesus Christ, Your Son into the world. Belief in him and following in his footsteps constitute sure ways of acknowledging You as the perfect example of love.

R We adore You, God of love.

CONFESSION

L We do confess, loving God, that we are far from being like You. We dare not claim to be filled with love. We are full of jealousy, pride, arrogance, selfishness, self-centeredness. We have been disobedient to Your commands, unfaithful in our relationships with others. The original good world has been tainted, through hatred, warmongering, injustice, a poor representation of the heavenly kingdom to which we aspire.

You gave us laws with which to be governed; but we pay little heed to them. We sit back and allow others to disregard simple laws, doing nothing to guide those who seem to be straying from Your ways like lost sheep. Forgive our lack of vigilance that causes us now to suffer the harmful effects of crime and violence.

R Merciful God, we seek Your forgiveness.

THANKSGIVING

We are fortunate that You are a God of mercy, willing to overlook our faults. We thank You for offering us pardon and lovingly accepting us as Your forgiven children. We are blessed with the knowledge that Jesus Christ, among his acts of love, freely spilt his blood for us. Despite our mistakes as frail human beings, we can aspire towards perfection, when we genuinely love You with heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbours as ourselves. We can rejoice because despite the mistakes we often make, You are kindly disposed to overlook them. Thank You for offering to forgive us when we confess our sins. In saying thanks for Your love, we ask that You help make us determined to transform our country into a more caring entity than

before. May we be committed to change Jamaica into a place where justice, peace and love abound, to the honour and glory of Your Holy Name.

DANCE: (“You Made a Way...” by Travis Green)

- Sis. Michelle Bowen Goldson

HYMN # 213 [VIP] - “Where Shall My Wandering Soul Begin”
(verses 1 and 5)

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| 1. Where shall my wondering soul
begin?
How shall I all to heaven aspire?
A slave redeemed from death and
sin,
A brand plucked from eternal fire,
How shall I equal triumphs raise,
Or sing my great Deliverer’s praise? | Come, O my guilty brethren come,
Come, O my guilty brethren come,
Groaning beneath your load of sin!
His bleeding heart shall make you
room,
His open side shall take you in;
He calls you now, invites you home:
Come, O my guilty brethren come! |
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Charles Wesley (1707—1788)

SOME DEFINING MOMENTS OF THE EARLY METHODIST WITNESS IN THE MCCA

- Rev'd Dr. Phillip Robinson

HYMN # 188 [VIP] ‘And Can It Be’ (verses 1,4 and 5)

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| 1. AND can it be that I should gain
An interest in my Saviour’s blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for
me! | My chains fell off, my heart
was free
I rose went forth, and
followed Thee. |
| 4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature’s night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening
ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with
light, | 5. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness
divine,
Bold I approach the eteranal
throne
And claim the crown, through
Christ, my own
<i>Charles Wesley (1707—1788)</i> |

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT

- Led by Rev'd Dr. Phillip Robinson

L Almighty God, we rejoice today, for the rich heritage we claim as Methodists, a heritage born out of hearts strangely warmed. We give you thanks for the place of our rich tradition among the churches which comprise the body of Christ. Grant that we may serve you faithfully through Christ our Lord. Amen

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 9: 14-16

- Sis. Joelle Alfred (MIT, UTCWI)

SERMON:

- Bishop The Rev. Everal Galbraith
(Connexional President – MCCA)

HYMN # 232 [VIP] - 'O Thou Who Camest from Above' (verses 1 and 4)

- 1. O THOU who camest from above
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart
- 4. Ready for all Thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death Thy endless mercies
seal,
And make the sacrifice complete.
Charles Wesley (1707—1788)

AFFIRMATIONS

- Rev'd Dr. Phillip Robinson

L: Within the Christian Church— One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic—the Methodist Church holds and cherishes a true place, having been raised by God to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world. The Methodist Church confesses the HEADSHIP of our LORD JESUS CHRIST—acknowledges the Divine revelation recorded in Holy Scripture as the supreme rule of faith and practice and rejoices in the inheritance of that Apostolic Faith. Let us affirm that Faith as we repeat the Apostles' Creed:

APOSTLES' CREED [PAGE 71 MPB] [said by all]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- Rev'd Dr. Phillip Robinson

L O Triune God – Father, Son and Spirit - we pray for the leaders of all nations, especially now that they face so many challenges that have intensified with the corona pandemic. Guide Jamaica, land we love; bless and protect our Governor General, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Members of Parliament and all who occupy positions of authority and influence. May they ever surrender to Your authority and serve with dignity, honesty, humility and love. And may each one of us consecrate ourselves to service and to do Your will now and always! Lord, in Your mercy,

R Hear our prayer!

ALL The Lord's Prayer

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bishop Christine Benguche

HYMN # 237 [VIP] 'My God I Am Thine' (verses 1, and 3)

- 1. My God, I am Thine;
What a comfort divine,
What a blessing to know that my
Jesus is mine
In the heavenly Lamb
Thrice happy I am,
And my heart it doth dance at the
sound of His name.
- 3. Yet onward I haste
To the heavenly feast:
That, this the fullness; but this is
the taste;
And this I shall prove,
Till with joy I remove
To the heaven of heavens in
Jesus' love.
Charles Wesley (1707—1788)

BENEDICTION



The Methodist Church in the Caribbean
and the Americas
JAMAICA DISTRICT

METHODIST VOICES IN WORD AND SONG
TELEVISION MINISTRY



7th Lord's Day After the Resurrection

Sunday, May 24, 2020

ALDERSGATE SUNDAY

PARTICIPATING CLERGY:

Preacher: Bishop Everal Galbraith
 Liturgist: Bishop Christine Benguche
 Rev'd Dr. George Mulrain
 Rev'd Dr. Philip Robinson
 Sis. Joelle Alfred (MIT, UTCWI)

Organist: Bro. Audley Davidson

Choristers: Sis. Yvonne Brown
 Sis. Marie Miller
 Sis. Yvonne Patterson
 Bro. Oliver Campbell
 Bro. Nigel Haye

Dancer: Sis. Michelle Goldson

District Bishop: Rev'd Christine Gooden- Benguche
 District Secretary: Rev'd Dr. Wayneford McFarlane

A warm welcome to all worshippers!