

Order of Worship

INTROIT HYMN: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

*‘Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth
will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace’*

CALL TO WORSHIP: -

- L O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.
- R **Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**
- L Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- R **Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.**
- ALL: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

OPENING HYMN “Ye Servants of God. . .” [# 248 VIP]

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| 1. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful Name;
The Name all-victorious of Jesus extol:
His kingdom is glorious, and rules over all. | 3. Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb. |
| 2. God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still he is nigh: his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King. | 4. Then let us adore, and give him his right:
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honour and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing and infinite love. |

Charles Wesley (1707—1788)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

- Sis. Dr. Sherlette Rookwood-Brown

Our God and Heavenly Father, we come before you at this time to praise you and adore you. How awesome is your power, that You can allow the waters to rise and the mountains to crumble; yet powerful Lord, you keep the most helpless among us safe and alive because it is not part of Your design for them to perish and die. How great is your wisdom, that You can lead us and guide us,

close a door and open another, give us trials as well as blessings, and shepherd us all our lives until we are safe and finally home. How deep is your love and how boundless your mercy, that no matter how grave our problems, how terrible our mistakes, how shameful our secrets, and how often we stumble and fall, we can pray to You for forgiveness, we can find in You our salvation. You are awesome!

Chorus: *You are awesome in this place mighty God
You are awesome in this place, Abba Father
You are worthy of our praise,
to you our hearts we raise
You are awesome in this place, mighty God*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, we confess that it is often difficult for us to be your people. You have called us to be the church and to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet in truth, we admit that we are more prone to apathy than action; isolation than involvement; callousness than compassion; obstinance than obedience; legalism than love; rigidness than receptiveness; pessimism than praise; we are more prone to be self-filled than Spirit-filled. Gracious Lord, freely pour out your mercy on us and forgive our sins. Remove those obstacles that hinder us from being your representatives in a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit ... (even as we make our personal confessions in silence) ... Hear our prayers in Jesus' powerful name.

Amen.

(We continue our prayer of confession as we sing:)

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| 1. <i>If I have wounded any soul today,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way,
Dear Lord, forgive!</i> | 3. <i>If I have been perverse or hard, or cold,
If I have longed for shelter in Thy fold,
When Thou hast given me some fort to hold,
Dear Lord, forgive!</i> |
| 2. <i>If I have uttered idle words or vain,
If I have turned aside from want or pain,
Lest I myself shall suffer through the strain,
Dear Lord, forgive!</i> | 4. <i>Forgive the sins I have confessed to Thee;
Forgive the secret sins I do not see;
O guide me, love me and my keeper be,
Dear Lord, Amen.</i> |

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L Romans 4: 7 declares 'Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven; whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against him.' Sisters and brothers, we are forgiven in Jesus Christ.

P **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- Sis. Dr. Sherlette Rookwood-Brown

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We thank you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Chorus: *God is so good; God is so good,
God is so good; God's so good to me.*

WELCOME

SPECIAL SELECTION:

- Sis Justine Rookwood

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

COLLECT:

- Sis. Dr. Sherlette Rookwood-Brown

Almighty God, we are grateful that you communicate your wisdom and truth to us. Prepare us now to receive with eagerness your living and active Word. Blow your Holy Spirit through these pages that they might penetrate deeply into our lives, directing us how to live. Enable us to participate in this marvel of communication as we explore and experience the good news made known in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

HYMN “Break Thou the Bread of Life. . .” [# 163 VIP]

1. Break Thou the bread of life, O Lord, to me,
As you did break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
My spirit pants for you, O living Word!

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 29: 15 – 28 – Bro. Donovan Rookwood

2. You are the Bread of life, O Lord, to me,
Your holy Word the truth that saves e'en me;
Give me to eat and live with you above;
Teach me to love your truth, for you are love

EPISTLE: Romans 8: 26 – 39

- Sis Tamara McGowan

3. Send your Spirit, Lord, now unto me,
That He may touch my eyes, and make me see:
Show me the truth concealed within your Word,
And in your Book revealed I see the Lord.

THE GOSPEL: Matt. 13:31—33; 44—52 — Rev'd Dr. Oral Thomas

HYMN "We Have Heard A Joyful Sound. . ." [# 184 VIP]

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| 1. We have heard the joyful sound
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Spread the gladness all around
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Bear the news to every land
Climb the steeps and cross the waves
Onward! 'tis our Lord's command
Jesus saves! Jesus saves! | Sing it softly thru the gloom
When the heart for mercy craves
Sing in triumph o'er the tomb
Jesus saves! Jesus saves! |
| 2. Sing above the battle's strife
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
By His death and endless life,
Jesus saves! Jesus saves! | 3. Give the winds a mighty voice
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Let the nations now rejoice
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Shout salvation full and free
To every shore of ocean's waves
This our song of victory,
Jesus saves! Jesus saves! |

Priscilla J. Owens (1829—1899)

SERMON — Rev'd Dr. Oral Thomas

HYMN OF RESPONSE "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go, , , " [# 262 VIP]

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| 1. O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be. | 3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be. |
| 2. O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be. | 4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be. |

George Mattheson (1842—1906)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION: -- Sis. Christine Carmen Bogle

L: Sovereign Lord, we draw near ... to call out to you. Hear our cry, O God...

P: Listen to our prayer

L: Almighty and enabling God . . . Hear our cry, O God,

P: Listen to our prayer

L: Omnipresent God, give courage . . . Hear our cry, O God,

P: Listen to our prayer

L: Everlasting God, may we not neglect ... Hear our cry, O God,...

P: Listen to our prayer

L: Compassionate God, heal the sick, . . . risk of infection of COVID-19. Hear our cry, O God.

P: Listen to our prayer

L: Merciful God, comfort and . . . Hear our cry, O God,

P: Listen to our prayer

L: We praise you, Lord . . . in the name of Jesus, Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN — "Rescue The Perishing..." [# 180 VIP]

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| 1. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save. | 3. Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more. |
| 2. Though they are slighting Him, still He is waiting,
Waiting the penitent child to receive;
Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently;
He will forgive if they only believe. | 4. Rescue the perishing, duty demands it;
Strength for your labour the Lord will provide;
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;
Tell the poor wand'rer a Saviour has died. |
- Cho:
Rescue the perishing,
care for the dying,
Jesus is merciful,
Jesus will save.*
- Frances J. van Alstyne (1820—1915)*

BENEDICT ION



The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA)

JAMAICA DISTRICT

METHODIST VOICES IN WORD AND SONG
TELEVISION MINISTRY



8th Lord's Day after Pentecost

Sunday, July 26, 2020

DIVINE WORSHIP

OFFICIATING CLERGY:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Oral Thomas,
President, UTCWI

Liturgist: Sis. Dr. Sherlette Rookwood-Brown
Preacher & Congregational Steward

Organist: Bro. Donovan Rookwood
Preacher & Congregational Steward)

Soloist: Sis. Justine Rookwood

Participants: Members of the Gordon Town Congregation
Christine Carmen Bogle
Leethie Davis
Delores McEwan
Patricia McGowan
Wayne Mc Gowan
Tamara McGowan
Deon Reid
Rayan Whitehorne
Andrea Ulett

District Bishop: Rev'd Christine Gooden- Benguche

District Secretary: Rev'd Dr. Wayneford McFarlane

A warm welcome to all worshippers!