

Order of Worship

INTROIT: "Oh Freedom . . ." - Saxthorpe Choristers

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this service marking the start of Heritage Week in Jamaica. Next week is the official celebration of the Heritage Focus but today we celebrate to build awareness of our common heritage. We begin with a hymn that reminds us that from the beginning of time until the present, God has been taking care of us. The same God rescued the people of Israel from bondage and piloted them along their faith journey, will be our God during the present time and even forevermore.

OPENING HYMN: "O God of Bethel, by whose hand" (#333 VIP)

1. O God of Bethel, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who through this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led:
2. Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before thy throne of grace:
God of our fathers, be the God
Of their succeeding race.
3. Through each perplexing path of life.
Our wandering footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread,
And raiment fit provide.
4. O spread thy covering wings around.
Till all our wanderings cease,
And at our Father's loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.
5. Such blessings from thy gracious hand
Our humble prayers implore;
And thou shalt be our chosen God,
And portion evermore. Amen.
Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

OPENING PRAYER

Adoration

O God, Creator of us all, we praise You that by Your word this world came into being. We rejoice that on this Heritage Sunday, we may look to You as the One who gave to us the rock from which we were hewn. We call to mind some of our nation's heroes – Bogle, Bustamante, Garvey, Gordon, Manley, Nanny and Sharpe – who inspired us along the road to freedom and independence. We rejoice that placing our confidence in You, like many of them did, we can rest assured that the destiny of our country is in powerful hands. You, O God, are worthy of our trust, so that whatever challenges we may face, be they pandemics or natural disasters, we have You as our firm foundation.

Confession

Omnipotent God, although You revealed Yourself to us in Jesus Christ, many persons in the world still do not know You, have no fear of You, or respect for You. We have been poor evangelists, having permitted so many of our contemporaries to turn away from embracing righteous and sober lives and from receiving the offer of eternal life. We are to be blamed for not having heeded Your voice as proclaimed through the prophets of old and through Christ's earthly ministry. We have forgotten the victories that were achieved because You intervened. Like Israelites of old, we need to recall that when in bondage, You come to the rescue; that when oppressed by others, You step in to accord salvation.

Forgiveness

Merciful God, we ask, in humility, that You forgive these shortcomings on our part. We depend upon the Holy Spirit, so that despite our sinful nature, in You there is love, forgiveness, and hope. We praise You for overlooking our faults, our having confessed them, and treating us as though we are pure, innocent children.

May we, during this time of worship, experience joy and gladness, even as we keep our gaze fixed upon You! Through it all, in the hymns, the prayers, the Word read from the Scriptures and proclaimed through Your servant Paul, we may catch a glimpse of the justice and truth we long for this nation of ours.

Hear this our humble prayer, which we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 25: 1 – 9 - Sis. Valerie Hinds

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 33 - Sis. Melrose Davies

L: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.

R: **Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.**

L: Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

R: **For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.**

L: He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

R: **By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.**

L: He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses.

R: **Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.**

L: For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

R: **The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.**

L: The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

R: **Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.**

L: The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.

R: **From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—**

L: he who fashions the hearts of them all,
and observes all their deeds.

R: **A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.**

L: The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.

R: **Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,**

L: to deliver their soul from death,
and to keep them alive in famine.

R: **Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.**

L: Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

R: **Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.**

Gloria Patri...

ALL: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.**

EPISTLE: Philippians 4: 1 – 9 - Sis. Marie Miller

GOSPEL: St. Matthew 22: 1 – 14 - Sis. Lucette Cargill

HYMN "I Vow to thee, my Country" [# 524 VIP)

1. I VOW to thee, my country,
all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect,
the service of my love,
The love that asks no question,
the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar
the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters,
the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted
the final sacrifice.
2. And there's another country,
I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love
her,
most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies,
we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart,
her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently
her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of
gentleness
and all her paths are peace.
Cecil Spring-Rice (1859-1918)

MINISTRY ITEM: "OUR FREEDOM SONG... by Noel Dexter" -
Saxthorpe Choristers

SERMON - Rev'd Dr. Paul Douglas-Walfall

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TITHES & OFFERING

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS (Prayers for Heritage Week)

Let us pray for the leaders of this nation, that like many of our national heroes, they sense the divine presence in all their doings. Give to them the desire to serve, not their own private or selfish interests, but the common good.

(Silence)

Our God hears our prayer. **Thanks be to God.**

Let us ask God to continue protecting us from the corona virus. Preserve those who are in the forefront of the fight against the pandemic. May they, as they use their skills to minister, be victorious in so far as preventive measures become effective and increased cases of healing registered.

(Silence)

Our God hears our prayer. **Thanks be to God.**

As we remember those acclaimed as heroes, we pray for suitable role models for the children and youth of this nation. May the country be rid of evil intentioned persons who commit crime and violence. May there rise a new generation of well-intentioned persons, who will always inspire young influential minds to pursue noble deeds.

(Silence)

Our God hears our prayer. **Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray for the church in this land and across the world. May it truly represent God, as its leaders are so guided by the Spirit, that they possess the mind that was in Christ. Hasten the time when all who call themselves Christians may be devoted to sustaining the noble heritage that was passed on by those who were before us.

(Silence)

Our God hears our prayer. **Thanks be to God.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER - (Richard Ho Lung)

CLOSING HYMN: "The Right Hand of God..." (# 525 VIP)

1. THE right hand of God is writing in our land,
Writing with power and with love;
Our conflicts and our fears,
Our triumphs and our tears,
Are recorded by the right hand of God.
2. The right hand of God is pointing in our land,
Pointing the way we must go;
So clouded is the way,
So easily we stray,
But we're guided by the right hand of God.
3. The right hand of God is striking in our land,
Striking out at envy, hate and greed;
Our selfishness and lust,
Our pride and deeds unjust,
Are destroyed by the right hand of God.
4. The right hand of God is lifting in our land,
Lifting the fallen one by one;
Each one is known by name,
And lifted now from shame,
By the lifting of the right hand of God.
5. The right hand of God is healing in our land,
Healing broken bodies, minds and souls;
So wondrous is its touch,
With love that means so much,
When we're healed by the right hand of God.
6. The right hand of God is planting in our land,
Planting seeds of freedom, hope and love;
In these many-peopled lands,
Let his children all join hands,
And be one with the right hand of God.

Patrick Prescod (1932-)

BENEDICTION

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

JAMAICA DISTRICT

DISTRICT THEME:

*"Spreading Scriptural Holiness to Reform the Nation...
Beginning with Me"*

METHODIST VOICES IN WORD AND SONG
TELEVISION MINISTRY



DIVINE WORSHIP

Observing National Heritage Week

19th Lord's Day after Pentecost

Sunday, October 11, 2020

OFFICIATING CLERGY:

Preacher: Rev'd Dr. Paul Douglas-Walfall

Liturgist: Rev'd Dr. Wayneford McFarlane

Organist: Sis. Melrose Davies

Choristers: Sis. Valerie Hinds
Sis. Marie Miller
Sis. Lucette Cargill
Sis. Yvonne Brown
Bro. Nigel Haye

District Bishop: Rev'd Christine Gooden Benguche

District Secretary: Rev'd Dr. Wayneford McFarlane

A warm welcome to all worshippers!