

Order of Worship

INTROIT Jesus Is Born (Noel Dexter)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Luke 2: 10-11, 14)

L: I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
(Verse 10-11)

R: **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours! (Verse 14)** (by David Beswick)

HYMN "Come and Join the Celebration. . ." [# 58 VIP]

Refrain:
Come and join the celebration,
It's a very special day;
Come and share our jubilation,
There's a new King born today!

1. See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,
Gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lay before them:

2. Wise men journey, led to worship by a star,
Kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar,
so,
3. God is with us', round the world the message bring,
He is with us, 'Welcome', all the bells on earth are pealing:

Valerie Collison (1933-)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (inspired by Matthew 2: 1-18)

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability; who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed.

Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world.

Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's light is present in this world.
Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.
Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.
God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.
God's grace is in the world, and our mis-steps will not overcome it.
We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

(by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy)

Thank you, Gracious God, for giving yourself to the world,
Not in the powerful and extraordinary, But in weakness and the familiar: In a baby; in bread and wine. Thank you for offering, at journey's end, a new beginning; for setting, in the poverty of a stable, the richest jewel of your love; for revealing, in a particular place, Your light for all nations. Thank you for bringing us to Bethlehem, House of Bread, where the empty are filled, and the filled are emptied; where the poor find riches, and the rich recognize their poverty; where all who kneel and hold out their hands are unstintingly fed.
(by Kate Compston, from Bread of Tomorrow)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT/ CHRIST CANDLES

CHILDREN'S FOCUS: – Bro. Victor McSweeney

HYMN "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy. . ." [# 60 VIP]

1. DE Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
De Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
De Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
An' dey say dat His name was, Jesus.
2. De angels sang when de baby born,
De angels sang when de baby born,
De angels sang when de baby born,
An' proclaim him de Saviour Jesus.

Refrain:

He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom. (Repeat)
Oh yes, Believer,
Oh yes, Believer,
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.

3. De wise men saw where de baby born,
De wise men saw where de baby born,
De wise men saw where de baby born
An' dey say dat dis name was Jesus.

West Indian Traditional

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Collect:

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through

Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 – Sis. Marcia Cohen

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 148 / Canticle #2
"Te Deum Laudamus", Led by Sis. Patricia Beecher

EPISTLE: Galatians 4:4-7 – Sis. Barbara Hylton

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40 – Bro. Orville Manning

MINISTRY ITEM: "Imagine Yourself" (Composed by: Bros. Paul Thorbourne and Bill Higgs) – Choristers

MESSAGE: Bishop, the Rev'd Christine Gooden Benguche

CALL TO COMMITMENT / PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

HYMN "O Come All Ye Faithful. . ." [# 66 VIP]

1. Come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels:
2. True God of true God,
Light of Light eternal,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
Begotten, not created:
3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God
In the highest:
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Anonymous 17th or 18th Century trans. by Frederick Oakeley, (1802-80)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF OFFERING

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS (Please see Insert)

LORD'S PRAYER

SONG: "Sing De Chorus, Clap Your Hand"

Refrain:
Sing de chorus, clap your hand!
Beat de congo, play de pan.
Spread de news throughout the land,
That Jesus is born.
Jesus, de Saviour is born.

2. O great God above us
Truly, you do love us
Your cords of love around us no one can sever
May we always do our part
Show the world your loving heart
Sing your praise and glorify you forever

Noel Dexter (1938—2019)

1. Do you know de story
How de king of glory
Came to earth a baby born in a manger?
But de worl' then did not know
That 'twas God on earth below
And treat the Son of God on earth like a stranger.

BENEDICTION



Announcements

- **District Conference 2021: The District Theme** for Connexional Year 2020 - 2021: "Spreading Scriptural Holiness to Reform the Nation: Beginning with Me" **Sub-Theme** - "Caring for the Body, Mind, and Soul as We Serve the Present Age."
- **"The Theme Hymn/Songs:** "A Charge to keep I have" [VIP 315], "Make God Your Choice" [VIP 224]; a copy of the sound file for the latter may be accessed from the Caribbean Praise, CD on sale at the JMD Bookstore.
- **District Conference Dates and Activities**
 - a. **Ministerial Sessions-** [Blended Session, that is both physical and virtual] – Thursday January 21, Friday, January 22 and Thursday, January 28, 2020.
 - b. **Representative Session-** Monday, January 25 to Wednesday, January 27 [Meetings to be entirely virtual by Zoom]
 - c. **Conference Lord's Day- Sunday, January 24**
A Common Order of Service for morning worship will be sent for use in Congregations/Circuit services where possible and with adherence to the relevant government protocols. Be guided by your Superintendents.

- d. **Official Conference Service- Sunday, January 24**
To be hosted at Saxthorpe Methodist commencing at 4:00 p.m. with Superintendent Ministers, one Circuit Steward, invited guests from civic and religious bodies, and laity, as allowed by government protocols for the management of the COVID -19 Pandemic.

District Conference 2021 Summary of Meeting Dates and Activities

Day/Date	Event	
Thurs.	Jan. 21, 2021	Ministerial Session (Blended, Saxthorpe)
Fri.	Jan. 22, 2021	Ministerial Session (Blended, Saxthorpe)
Sun.	Jan. 24, 2021	Conference Lord's Day (Morning worship in Congregations) Official Conference Service (Saxthorpe, 4:00 p.m.; select group -physically present; all others on virtual platform - Zoom& YouTube)
Mon.	Jan. 25, 2021	Representative Session (Virtual – Zoom)
Tues.	Jan. 26, 2021	Representative Session (Virtual – Zoom)
Wed.	Jan. 27, 2021	Representative Session (Virtual – Zoom)
Thurs.	Jan. 28, 2021	Ministerial Session (Blended, Saxthorpe)

Prayer Meetings Leading up to District Conference 2021

Zone	Day/Date	Time	
3	Friday	December 4	6:00 – 8:00 pm
1	Friday	December 11	6:00 – 8:00 pm
5	Friday	December 18	6:00 – 8:00 pm
2	Tuesday	December 29	6:00 – 8:00 pm
4	Tuesday	January 5	6:00 – 8:00 pm
6	Tuesday	January 12	6:00 – 8:00 pm
District Prayer Meeting	Wednesday	January 20	6:00 – 9:00 pm

Open Forums:

- **January 16th** – The target group will be Youth and Young Adults. **Theme:** 'Covid or no Covid, Hooray Fi Jesus.'
Chorus: Hooray fa Jesus...
- **January 23rd** – Target group will be adults.
Theme: 'Cope and Hope in these Covid times.'
The Zoom Link for prayer meetings and Fora will be sent subsequently

Kindly ensure that your registration forms are completed and submitted to the District Office. Online registration will be possible as of December 28 from the Jamaica Methodist District website at www.jamaicamethodist.org.

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



CHRISTMAS SUNDAY SERVICE

Lord's Day After the Nativity



Sunday, December 27, 2020

PARTICIPATING CLERGY:

Preacher: Bishop, the Rev'd Christine Gooden Benguche

Liturgist: Dr. the Rev'd Karen Durant-McSweeney

Organist: Sis. Melrose Davies

Choristers:

- Sis. Marcia Cohen
- Sis. Patricia Beecher
- Sis. Barbara Hylton
- Sis Colleen Nembhard
- Sis. Nesta Palmer
- Bro.Orville Manning
- Bro. Paul Thorbourne

District Bishop: Rev'd Christine Gooden- Benguche

District Secretary: Rev'd Dr. Wayneford McFarlane

A warm welcome to all worshippers!