

Notes

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

JAMAICA DISTRICT



**OFFICIAL CONFERENCE LORD'S DAY
WORSHIP SERVICE**

FOR THE 205TH GENERAL MEETING OF THE DISTRICT

at the
Saxthorpe Methodist Church
143 Constant Spring Rd, Kingston 8

SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 2021
4:00 P.M.

THEME: *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

Conducted by:

REV'D DR. WAYNEFORD MCFARLANE
Secretary of the District Conference

Preacher:

BISHOP THE REV'D CHRISTINE GOODEN BENGUCHE
President of the District

Accompanists:

Bro. Devon Brewster Organ
Bro. Donovan Rookwood Piano
Sis. Helen Bromley Violin
Bro. Ricardo McFarlane Drums

Order Of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL

PRAISE IN WORSHIP *The Saxthorpe Praise Team*

The Choir leads the Procession of Lay delegates, Ministers and Ministerial Delegates, The District Treasurer, Secretary of the District Conference, Connexional Representative, the District President.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: *The District Secretary* [All standing]

L: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation and Deliverer from despair.

P: **Let us come before God with thanksgiving and praise our God with music and in song.**

L: For the LORD is the great God, above all objects of worship.

P: **Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.**

ALL: For God is our Shepherd and we are the people of God's pasture, the flock under God's care.

Hymn: "Omnipotent Redeemer. . ." [# 137 VIP]

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Omnipotent Redeemer,
Our ransomed souls adore thee;
Whate'er is done thy work we own,
And give thee all the glory;
With thankfulness acknowledge
Our time of visitation;
Thine hand confess, and gladly bless
The God of our salvation. | The church of pardoned sinners,
Exulting in their Saviour,
Sing all day long the gospel song,
And triumph in thy favour. |
| 2. Thou hast employed thy servants,
And blessed their weak endeavours,
And lo, in thee we myriads see
Of justified believers; | 3. Thy wonders wrought already
Require our ceaseless praises;
But show thy power, and myriads more
Endue with heavenly graces.
But fill our earth with glory,
And, known by every nation,
God of all grace, receive the praise
Of all thy new creation.
Amen. |
- Charles Wesley (1707-88)**

Message from the District President



My dear fellow Pilgrims,

In this journey called life and more so as a people called Methodists, as we renewed our Covenant vows with God and made our pledge of allegiance, we are confident that regardless of the seasons we will go through undergirded and surrounded by His abiding presence.

WE HAVE AN ONGOING RESPONSIBILITY as Methodists to ensure that we spread scriptural holiness through Word, Deed and Sign and our witness as a people called Methodists should be visible. The church occupies a space that allows us to worship know Christ and make Him known to others.

This year the sub theme guiding us as a District is "Caring for the Body, Mind and Soul as we Serve the Present Age." Wesley undoubtedly was committed to ministry involving the total person; mind, body and soul. He sought to promote the holistic well-being of the entire individual.

With the entrance of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the attendant challenges the Church has been placed under the spotlight and called to:

1. Re-think our mode of operations
2. Recognize the need to remain relevant and to minister to the whole person

It has to be business unusual not business as usual.

The call to focus on physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing is paramount as we grapple with the realities of the Pandemic that has brought the world into our homes and place us on a virtual platform.

I invite you to explore with me these texts in light of the biblical and theological doctrine to bring us to a place of understanding on how to better effect God's plan and purpose for our lives and how we will navigate the waters as we spread scriptural holiness across the nation.

Let us seek to fulfil God's mission and effectively walk according to His plan, and purpose for our lives. With firm resolve we navigate the waters heralded by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Bishop Christine Gooden Benguche

CLOSING HYMN: “A Charge to Keep I Have” [# 314 VIP]

THE BENEDICTION

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| 1. A Charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to
save,
And fit it for the sky: | 3. Arm me with jealous care,
As in thy sight to live;
And O thy servant, Lord, pre-
pare
A strict account to give! |
| 2. To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfil:
O may it all my powers
engage
To do my Master's will! | 4. Help me to watch and pray,
And on thyself rely,
Assured, if I, my trust betray,
I shall for ever die. |
- Charles Wesley (1707—1788) alt.**

THREEFOLD AMEN: (Amen, Amen, Amen)



PRAYER OF ADORATION

L: Faithful and loving God, in this holy place, in this holy hour set aside for praise and prayer, we offer all that we are and hope to be that, by your grace, we may be made holy; reveal as we listen, stir as we respond and lead as we follow.

P: Amen.

Faithful and loving God, infinite is your love for us, definite are your plans for us. Life is because you are. At times, our attempts at praise are feeble and inadequate; our gifts are small. Even so, your desire is for us to worship you. May we so experience your presence that our only response is to offer to you who we are and what we have.

P: Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: May we not take this act of confession lightly whereby we heed neither the burden of our sin nor the responsibility required by your grace. “Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends”; yet a love that we have spurned, shunned, and have not lived up to its demands: do unto others as you would have them do unto you; forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Let us spend a few moments in silence contemplating how it can be that you, me, you, should gain an interest in the Saviour’s blood... Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; hear then God’s word of grace: “your sins are forgiven”.

P: Amen. Thanks be to God.

L: Receive our confession, grant us forgiveness and free us to live out the joy and burden of sins forgiven, and prayer answered, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

P: Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: We thank you faithful and loving God, for your tender mercies and deep compassions, for memories, hopes and strength that do not fail to arise when we meet in your presence. As we the people called Methodists meet in this place and in a spirit of praise and thanksgiving, we acknowledge that some of us are suffering bereavement, anxiety of sickness, frustration of times and relentless march to eternity. Yet, accept our joy of thanksgiving.

P: Amen.

L: Minister to us faithful and loving God, calm our anxieties, heal our sickness, and teach us the meaning of joy. Grant to us the evident signs of your presence among us and we ask you to excite and revive our love for you and one another, in Christ's name we pray,

P: Amen.

WELCOME AND COURTESIES: – Rev'd Dr. Wayneford McFarlane
(District Conference Secretary)

GREETINGS FROM CIVIC & RELIGIOUS LEADERS:

- **Message from the Governor General**
His Excellency, Sir Patrick Allen, ON
read by – Hon. Dr. Patricia Dunwell, CD. JP., Custos Rotulorum, Custos of St. Andrew
- **Message (pre-recorded) from the Prime Minister,**
– The Most Hon. Andrew Holness
- **Message—The President, Jamaica Council of Churches**
– Rev'd Newton Dixon

A TIME OF PRAISE: 'FULJOY'

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Collect

ALL: God of heaven, you send the Gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

may value the sanctity of life, and there will be love and forgiveness rather than hatred and war. Fill our hearts with love for our neighbours so that we will all be motivated to obey the protocols of social distancing, wearing masks and hand sanitization, so that we can protect both ourselves and others from the coronavirus. We pray, O God, that you will enable us to reach out and help one another, especially the many children and young people who have neither internet access nor electronic devices and so are unable to access their education.

God of community,

P: Hear our prayer.

(Let us in the silence of our hearts bring our own petitions before God)

L: Lord, hear our prayers in Christ's name. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (Fr Holung's Tune)

Our Father who art in heaven	Deliver us from all evil
Holy, holy	Deliver us from all evil
Holy be your name	Deliver us from all evil
Our Father who art in heaven	Deliver us from all evil
Holy be your name	
Thy kingdom come on earth,	Our Father who art in heaven
Thy will be done on earth	Holy, holy
Thy kingdom come on earth, as it	Holy be your name
is in heaven	Our Father who art in heaven
	Holy be your name
Give us this day our daily bread.	Thy kingdom come on earth,
Give us this day our daily bread.	Thy will be done on earth
Give us this day our daily bread.	Thy kingdom come on earth, as
Give us this day our daily bread.	it is in heaven.

And forgive us our trespasses	Amen, Amen, Amen.
And forgive us our trespasses	Amen, Amen, Amen.
As we forgive those who trespass	Amen, Amen, Amen.
Forgive us our trespasses.	Amen, Amen, Amen.

nation. Lord, as the Jamaica District continues to focus on this theme this year, enable us to care for body, mind and soul so that we will be equipped to serve the present age as we seek to spread scriptural holiness and reform the nation. Calling God,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Equipping God, we bring before you the leaders of the Christian Church and especially the Methodist church. We pray for our Connexional officers, all District Bishops and all ministers as they seek to lead your church in these changing times. Equip them, O God, with the vision and the wisdom to find innovative and creative ways to spread the gospel. Enable them to remain faithful in the midst of the challenges of ministry in these times, and not to compromise their faith in any situation. Enabling God,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Guiding God, we pray for leaders of our nation, Jamaica. We pray for the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, all ministers of the government and all those involved in making policies for the advancement of the nation. Guide them, O God, as they seek to make decisions for the governance of this nation at this time. As they continue to manage the pandemic, enable them to find the right balance between valuing lives and building the economy. Help them to always keep the best interest of the people at heart and not to lead with selfish ambitions. Guiding God,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Caring God, we pray for all those who are in need. Heal and comfort those who are sick. We remember especially those who have been infected and affected by COVID-19. We pray for doctors and nurses who care for the sick, especially at this time of the pandemic as they continue to put their lives at risk in caring for those affected by COVID-19. We pray for all other essential workers at this time. Strengthen them, O God, and protect them and their families. God of comfort, we pray that you may comfort those who are mourning the loss of loved ones. May they find strength in you. Caring God,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord God, we pray for the nation of Jamaica. We pray that your peace and justice may prevail in the midst of crime and violence. We pray for transformation of hearts so that people

HYMN: “Come, Divine Interpreter” [#146 VIP]

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| 1. Come, divine Interpreter,
Bring us eyes your book
to read,
Ears the mystic words to
hear,
Words which did from
you proceed,
Words that endless bliss
impart,
Kept in an obedient
heart. | 2. All who read, or hear, are
blessed,
If your plain commands we
do;
Of your kingdom here pos-
sessed,
You we shall in glory view—
When you come on earth to
abide,
Reign triumphant at your side. |
|--|---|

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

DISTRICT FOCUS: “CARING FOR THE BODY, MIND AND SOUL AS WE SERVE THE PRESENT AGE”

“HEALTHY CHILDREN, HEALTHY LIVES”

– Mrs. La-Toya Cameron-Hill

(Safeguarding Officer,

Jamaica Methodist District)

– Dr. Doreth Garvey

(Regional Psychiatrist,

Southern Regional Health Authority)

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 26

Led by: Bro. Javed Intiaz

(Minister- in-Training, UTCWI)

- L: ¹ Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
- P: ² Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.**
- L: ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.
- P: ⁴ I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;**

L: ⁵ I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.

P: ⁶ **I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O LORD,**

L: ⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

P: ⁸ **O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.**

L: ⁹ Do not sweep me away with sinners,
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,

P: ¹⁰ **those in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.**

L: ¹¹ But as for me, I walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.

ALL: ¹² **My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.**

Hebrew Reading: Deuteronomy 30: 11 – 20
Read by: Master Dimitri Burgess

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 12 – 24
Read by: Bro. Ricardo Benguche

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 16: 24 – 28
*Read by: Rev'd Shanet Edmondson (English)
and Rev'd Dr. George Mulrain (French)*

The Word Sung: "We Are the Church"
– **Combined Choir**

The Word Proclaimed:
– **Bishop, the Rev'd Christine Gooden-Benguche**

Selection: "People Like You"
– **Bro. Leslie Francis**

HYMN OF RESPONSE "Make God Your Choice" [# 224 VIP]

1. In a world of freedom as
such
opportunities, there are
much,
and increasingly it's becom-
ing
hard to decide.
When the wrong things
seem to be right,
and confusion is our plight,
there is only one rule by
which
we all should abide.
wolves in sheep's clothing
would be found,
and we know that the
Word of God
is far from void;
when we don't know what
course to take,
and we're afraid to make a
mistake,
that's the time we must
surely seek
direction from God.

Refrain:
***Choose, with your mind on
the Master;
make him your constant
Adviser;
strive, to be his in thought
word and deed.
Live, everyday with the
Master,
and you'll be sure to dis-
cover
life, lived with God is bound
to succeed.***

3. Old King Solomon, we are
told,
asked for knowledge in-
stead of gold;
as a consequence, he got
wisdom
and wealth complete;
we must first, the things of
God heed,
and all other things that we
need
will be added, to make our
lives
abundant and sweet.

Pearl Y. Mulrain (1943-)

2. In the Bible, we have been
warned,

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND PETITION

*Led by: Rev'd Dr. Oral Thomas
(President, United Theological College)*

[The congregation sits]

L: Calling God, you called us to be your followers and to be
partners with you in ministry. We come before you today as a
people called Methodists, who have identified our mandate as
spreading scriptural holiness throughout the land to reform the