



JAMAICA METHODIST DISTRICT

From the President's Desk.....

April 02, 2021

My Brothers and Sisters,

I greet you in the name of the Risen Conquering Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ whose people we are. He is Risen!

In the midst of this pandemic and lock down, we as a people called Methodist must never lose sight of the message of the Easter Story, a story that offers hope in the midst of total confusion and chaos.

Easter for every child of God is the most important season in the life of the church. The result of Holy Week and the commemoration of Christ's triumph over death, brought the fulfilment of scriptures, according to accounts in the New Testament.

For all of us, the story of Christ's resurrection is the fulfilment of Biblical prophecy and the source of faith in an afterlife. It was Jesus himself who gave this assurance as he stood at the graveside of Lazarus proclaiming in St. John 11: 25 -26 *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die"*.

Mary Magdalene and others went to Christ's tomb on that dreadful Sunday morning after he had been crucified on Friday, with all hope lost, they found the tomb empty and open, with the stone rolled away, and an angel told them, *"He is not here. He is risen."*

No doubt these followers found themselves in a hopeless and desperate situation, this must have been a shocking experience, never heard of before, an empty tomb, and the body of Jesus nowhere to be found. How could this be?

Today in the midst of this pandemic it is an Easter like no other, as we find ourselves imprisoned and barred from our physical chapels, confined to our homes unable to attend the usual worship celebrations to commemorate and reflect on our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. This abnormality allows us to empathize and relate to that feeling of hopelessness felt by the disciples at the tomb.

Never in the life and history of the Church have we experienced such a time as this, however, our worship of God continues. As faith leaders we must make the most of this situation giving a message of renewed hope and conviction as we travel through this 'new normal'. This 'new normal' has brought home the reality of our Strategic Development Plan that encourages us to see that the Church indeed has no walls, no boundaries. The physical building might be closed but the Church is still open. We are the Church my brothers and sisters. Let us share with joy the resurrection message of hope and joy.

Let me encourage all of us, to use whatever means is available in the midst of all the uncertainties to reach out to our congregants, brothers, sisters, friends, family members, colleagues and worship together and celebrate our Lord's victory over death and the grave.

Christ is risen Hallelujah! Risen our victorious head, sing his praises Hallelujah

Christ is risen from the dead.

Have a blessed Resurrection Lord's Day!!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Gooden Benguche". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Bishop the Revd. Christine Gooden Benguche