

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Sunday, May 3, 2021)

- L: Let us approach God's mercy seat and throne of grace. If we say that we have no sin:
- R: **We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**
- L: But if we confess our sins:
- R: **God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- L: Let us ask God's forgiveness for the sins that have marred our Witness
- ALL: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have not always loved you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; nor have we always loved one another as Christ has commanded us. Forgive us what we have been; help us to amend what we are; and in your Spirit direct what we should be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
- L: Let us now proclaim the promises of God, declared in Holy Scriptures and set forth in the sermons of John Wesley. By grace ye are saved through faith, and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.
- R: **Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift.**
- L: There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.
- R: **We walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit.**
- L: Ye have not received the spirit of bondage again unto fear.
- R: **We have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father.**
- L: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirits.
- R: **That we are the children of God.**
- L: He that is born of God does not commit sin: He cannot sin because he is born of God.
- R: **We must be born again.**
- L: Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be.
- R: **We know that we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

EXTRACT FROM WESLEY'S JOURNAL (MAY 1738)

On 21st May and 24th May, 1738, respectively, two brothers Charles and John Wesley, were converted and experienced the gift of assurance. The Evangelical Revival took root and spread throughout the United Kingdom.

John Wesley in a journal entry for 24th May 1738 wrote: "I think it was about five this morning, that I opened my Testament on those words, "There are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, even that ye should be partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1. 4). Just as I went out, I opened it again on those words, "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God." In the afternoon, I was asked to go to St Paul's. The anthem was, "Out of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord."

In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust Christ, Christ alone, for salvation: and an assurance was given me, that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

On this momentous day, Charles Wesley was an invalid in the house of John Bray in Little Britain, also in Aldersgate Street. He was a triumphant invalid, however, for three days earlier, on Whitsunday, 21st May, he himself had entered into the joy of salvation, and had written one of his earliest hymns under the inspiration of this experience. In his Journal for 24th May he wrote: "Towards ten, my brother was brought in triumph by a troop of our friends, and declared, "I believe!" We sang the hymn with great joy, and parted with prayer."

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
(PART 1)**

L: In loving gratitude, let us now offer special prayers of Thanksgiving to God. Let us give thanks to God for our Methodist founders. God of our fathers, we thank you for your servants John and Charles Wesley, and for all those human influences who have led them to your saving truth. We thank you for the power of their preaching, the witness of their lives, and the continued inspiration of their hymns.

C: Grant that we their children, may prove worthy of the glorious heritage bequeathed to us

Bro Amazon:

Let us give thanks to God for all the early pioneers of Caribbean Methodism. We think of Nathaniel Gilbert, Bessie, Mary Alley, Sophia Campbell, John Baxter, Thomas Coke and all others who worked for the establishment and furtherance of Methodism in the Caribbean.

C: Eternal God, we thank you for their life, work and witness.

Bro Pierre:

Let us give thanks to God for the MCCA – The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, especially as it celebrates 55years as an autonomous conference. We remember with gratitude the vision and efforts of those who brought the MCCA into being. We give thanks for the labours of our presidents, vice presidents, secretaries and treasurers, who toiled over the years to keep the flame of the MCCA burning.

C: We give thanks for the progress we have made as a Caribbean Church over these last 55 years and we look to you for future growth and development.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
(PART 2)**

Bro. Dorcin:

Let us give thanks to God for all the stalwart men and women of our time – both ministerial and lay who hold positions of leadership and Stewardship; and those who are charged with preaching your word, or in ministering one way or the other. We think of all our presbyters and deacons, local preachers and Ministers in Training. We remember especially those who have served their generation and have now gone on to their reward.

C: May their faithfulness in witnessing for you continue to inspire us to serve you faithfully.

Sis Alfred:

Let us give thanks for the Methodist Church here in this Jamaica District, We are thankful for your favour extended to our District Bishop Rev'd Christine Gooden Benguche and for those committed to her care; for each member every Congregation and all Circuits. We are grateful to you that you have preserved us through this COVID-19 pandemic and have spared our lives to celebrate yet another Pentecost and Aldersgate. Continue to warm our hearts with love for you and for each other to the end that we may serve the present age our calling to fulfill.

C: And are we yet alive and see each other's face. Glory and praise to Jesus give for His redeeming grace.

L: With thanksgiving we offer these prayers to you.

C: May the sacrifices of our praise and thanksgiving be pleasing and acceptable in your sight. AMEN