**Order of Worship**

**Introit:** **“I Will Bless Thee O Lord…”**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I will bless Thee, O Lord I will bless Thee, O Lord With a heart of  thanksgiving I will bless Thee, O Lord | With my hands lifted up And my mouth filled with praise With a heart of thanksgiving I will bless Thee, O Lord |

**Call to Worship** *(adapted)*

L: Look to the mountains; look to the hills!

**P: Love comes to us with joy!**

L: The world is filled with beauty.

**P: Flowers appear on the earth;** **birdsong brightens the day.**

L: Crops yield their produce in abundance; the air is filled with sweetness.

**P: The summer of God’s love is with us.**

L: Let the oil of gladness anoint your souls.

**P: Arise and sing for joy!**

**Opening Hymn**: “**In Christ There Is No East or West…”** [**# 398 VIP]**

1. In Christ there is no east or west,  
   In him no south or north,  
   But one great fellowship of love  
   Throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In him shall true hearts everywhere  
   Their high communion find,  
   His service is the golden cord  
   Close-binding humankind.
3. Join hands, then, family of the faith  
   Whate’er your race may be;  
   Who serves my Father as a child  
   Is surely kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west,  
   In Him meet south and north,  
   All Christlike souls are one in Him,  
   Throughout the whole wide earth.

**John Ozenham (1852—1941)**

**Prayer of Adoration:**

L: Let us all pray:

**P: Creator God, you are the source and sustainer of all life. You have shaped all creation with the palm of your hands and breathe life into us. The rain, the gentle breeze, flowering plants and animals of all sorts are evidence that you are still creating and still active in our lives. On this Lord’s Day, we come with delight and thankful hearts for your goodness towards us. Help us to be steadfast in our living and unbiased in our love. May we ever sow seeds of hope, peace and joy. Amen.**

**Chorus: “Change My Heart O. God…”**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Change my heart , Oh God Make it ever true Change my heart, Oh God May I be like you [Repeat]  ***You are the potter I am the clay*** | ***Mold me and make me this is what I pray. . .***  Change my heart , Oh God Make it ever true Change my heart, Oh God May I be like you. |

**Prayer of Adoration:**

L: We have failed to live the Christian life that Jesus has demonstrated for us. We have harboured evil intentions in our hearts: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride and folly. We have been partial and shown favoritism at the expense of our Christian virtue. We have not demonstrated our faith by our works. We have been enslaved by traditions that suffocate change and religious rites that strangle our worship of God. Good God, we have sinned *(pause).* We know that sin only separate us from God. God has provided a way of redemption through Jesus Christ. Let us now then in silence admit that we have sinned and humbly beg for pardon. *[Silence for personal confession]*

**P: Dear Lord and Father of humankind, Forgive our foolish ways; Reclothe us in our rightful mind, In purer lives Thy service find, In deeper reverence, praise. Breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm; Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.** *(Adapted)*

**Assurance of Pardon**

L: Sisters and brothers in Christ, having confessed your sins be assured of this: God’s love knows no boundary. Sins confessed are sins forgiven.

**P: Amen. Thank God we are free.**

**THANKSGIVING**

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ let us now in our own words offer thanks to our God. Remember to give God thanks for every gift even the smallest. *[Pause for thanksgiving]*

**The Gloria** *(pg. 70 MPB)*

**ALL: GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH, and on earth peace, goodwill to all. We praise you; we bless you: we worship you; we glorify you; we give thanks to you for your great glory, O Lord God Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. You, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. You who take away the sin of the world receive our prayer. You, who sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For you only are holy; you only are the Lord; you only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit are Most High in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Hymn: “In Times Like these…”**

1. In times like these you need a Savior  
   In times like these you need an anchor  
   Be very sure, be very sure  
   Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

***Refrain:  
This Rock is Jesus, Yes He's the One  
This Rock is Jesus, the only One  
Be very sure, be very sure  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!***

1. In times like these you need the Bible  
   In times like these, O be not idle  
   Be very sure, be very sure  
   Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!
2. In times like these I have a Savior  
   In times like these I have an anchor  
   I'm very sure, I'm very sure  
   My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

***Ruth C. Jones***

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**COLLECT:**

**ALL: Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.**

**Old Testament: Proverbs 22: 1—2, 8— 9, 22—23***,* **— Sis. Yvonne Brown**

**Responsive Reading” Psalm 125** *Led by* **Rev’d Dr. Wayneford McFarlane**

L: **1**Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,  
    which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

**R: 2As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
    so the Lord surrounds his people,  
    from this time on and forevermore.**

L: **3**For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
    on the land allotted to the righteous,  
so that the righteous might not stretch out  
    their hands to do wrong.

**R: 4Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,  
    and to those who are upright in their hearts.**

**ALL: 5But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways  
    the Lord will lead away with evildoers.  
    Peace be upon Israel! Gloria Patri**

**Epistle: James 2: 1 – 17 — Sis. Lucette Cargill**

**Gospel: Mark 7:24 – 37 — Bishop Christine Gooden Benguche**

**Sermon: — Bishop Christine Gooden Benguche**

**RESPONSE:** *(Silent Reflection & Contemplation)*

**Pastoral Prayer & Call to Commitment**

* **Announcements, Offertory/ Blessing of Tithes & Offering**

**Prayers of Intercession**

L: The Lord be with you

**R: And also with you**

L: Compassionate God, we pray this day for those who are underprivileged and being compelled to make choices that are not in their best interest. Move your Church to be living embodiments of your word. We beseech you good Lord:

**R: Hear our prayer**

L: Loving God, restore lives shattered by despair, exhausted by life’s efforts, confused by life’s problems and wounded by life’s failures. Remember in your mercy children in state care, individuals in rehabilitation, single parents households, families traumatized and grief stricken and persons struggling with health and related issues. Lead them to complete trust in you. We beseech you good Lord:

**R: Hear our prayer**

L: God our guardian, continue to bear up the leaders of this nation. As another academic year unfolds we commend to you all institutions of learning and their stakeholders. We remember in a special way students setting out for the first time, those starting new schools and teachers beginning their career. Equip them for the changes ahead and keep them safe always. We beseech you good Lord:

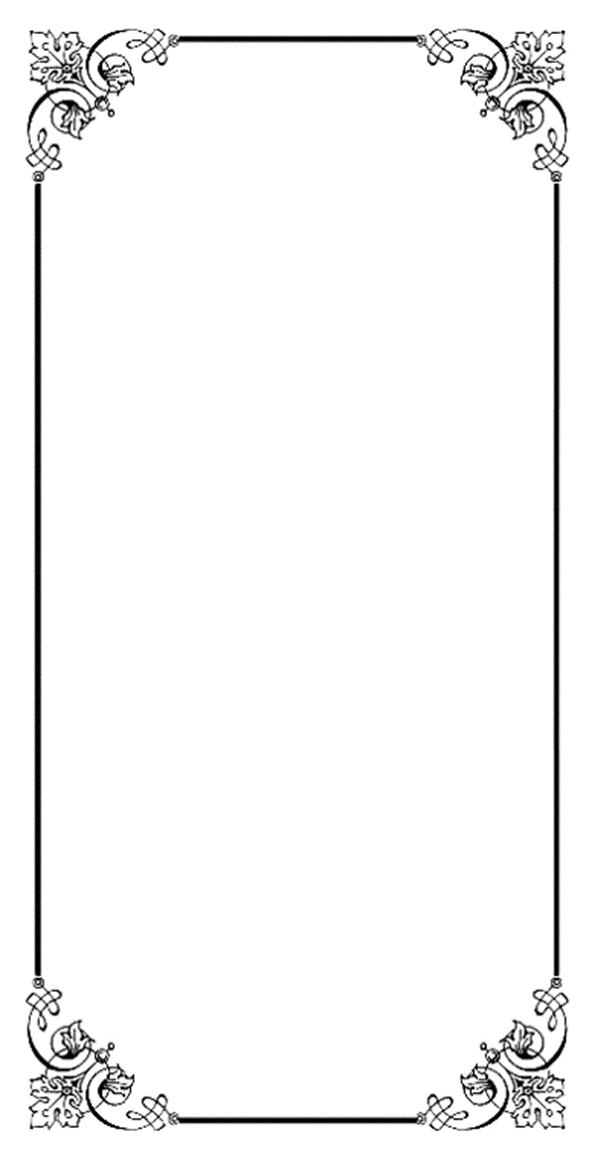
**R: Hear our prayer**

L: Bless the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas and the leadership at every level as we embark upon another Connexional year and as presbyters and deacons move across the Connexion into new stations. We pray too for ministers in training, especially those commencing training. Keep them discerning and steadfast. We beseech you good Lord:

**R: Hear our prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer:** *(James Seddon)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Father God in Heaven —Lord most high  Hear your children’s prayer —Lord most high  Hallowed be your name—Lord most high  O Lord, hear our prayer!  May your kingdom come —Here on earth;  May your will be done— Here on earth  As it is in heaven—so on earth  O, Lord, hear our prayer! | Give us daily bread—Day by day,  And forgive our sins —Day by day,  As we, too forgive—Day by day,  O Lord, hear our prayer!  Lead us in your way—Make us strong  When temptations come—Make us strong  Save us from all sin —Keep us strong  O Lord, hear our prayer! |

All things come from you—All are yours

Kingdom, glory, power—All are yours

Take our lives and gifts—All are yours

O, Lord, hear our prayer!

**Hymn of Preparation**: **“Let Us Enter into Covenant…” [# 429 VIP]**

1. Let us enter into covenant with Christ,  
   Celebrating the Eucharist of love,  
   Take a little bread and wine,  
   Lift up the chalice of the King.

***Refrain:  
Alleluia, it's a sign of love!  
Alleluia, it's a sign of peace.  
Alleluia, it's the mystery of faith,  
Alleluia, Amen.***

1. Take the body and the blood of Christ,  
   In divine revelation of His love,  
   Be transformed, Oh my people, from your sin  
   And eat and drink and live!
2. He is lifted to the throne on high  
   And will come again to rule all the world  
   The saints who sleep in Christ shall rise  
   Rejoice O Zion and be glad.
3. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world.   
   ‘He who comes to me   
   I shall not turn away’.
4. Come you faithful, to the paradise of God,   
   To the marriage feast of the Lamb. Eat manna from the tree of life;   
   You are washed in the Blood of Christ!

**Norbert Farrell (1943- )**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER** *(pages 95 – 97 MPB)*

**Closing Hymn: “Forth in Thy Name…” [# 306 VIP]**

1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,   
   My daily labour to pursue,   
   Thee, only thee, resolved to know   
   In all I think, or speak, or do.
2. The task thy wisdom has assigned   
   O let me cheerfully fulfil,   
   In all my works thy presence find,   
   And prove thy good and perfect will.
3. Thee may I set at my right hand,   
   Whose eyes my inmost substance see,

And labour on at thy command,   
And offer all my works to thee.

1. Give me to bear thy easy yoke,   
   And every moment watch and pray,   
   And still to things eternal look,   
   And hasten to thy glorious day;
2. For thee delightfully employ   
   Whate'er thy bounteous grace has given,   
   And run my course with even joy,   
   And closely walk with thee to heaven.

**Charles Wesley (1707—1788)**

**BENEDICTION**

L: My brothers and sisters, go in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit into a world in need of God’s love. Go and live out your faith. **THREEFOLD AMEN.**

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

Jamaica District

**DISTRICT 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”***



**15th Lord’s Day After Pentecost**

**Sunday, September 5, 2021**

**SERVICE OF WORD**

**& SACRAMENT**

**Preacher**

**& Celebrant:** Bishop Christine Gooden Benguche

*(District President)*

**Liturgist:** Rev’d Dr. Wayneford McFarlane   
*(District Conference Secretary)*

**Organist: Sis. Melrose Davies**

**Choristers:**

* **Sis. Yvonne Brown**
* **Sis. Lucette Cargill**
* **Sis. Marie Miller**
* **Bro. Nigel Haye**

**District President**: Bishop Christine Gooden-Benguche

**District Conference Secretary**: Rev’d Dr. Wayneford McFarlane

*A blessed welcome to all worshippers on   
 this beautiful Lord’s Day!*