

Order of Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

INTROIT: **“O come, O come, Immanuel” [# 138 VIP] - Choir**

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:
- R: **The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**
- L: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:
- R: **The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!**
- L: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:
- R: **The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!**
- ALL: **O come, let us worship the Lord, for God has done wondrous things!**

HYMN OF ADORATION: “Praise to the Lord the Almighty...” [#28 VIP]

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| 1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters, draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration. | He like a mother doth speed,
Spreading the wings of grace
o'er thee. |
| 2. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
Who with his love doth befriend thee. | 4. Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph,
all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth his light,
Chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with his mercy surrounding. |
| 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
Fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee,
Then to thy need | 5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for aye we adore him.

Joachim Neande (1650-80)
Trans. by Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) and
Rupert E. Davies (1909-) v.3 |

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

CHORUS: **“Create in Me a Clean Heart...” (Sung Softly)**

<i>Create in me a clean heart, Oh God And renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, Oh God And renew a right spirit within me.</i>	<i>Cast me not away from thy presence, Oh Lord And take not thy Holy Spirit from me... Restore unto me, the joy of Thy salvation And renew a right spirit within me.</i>
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- L: Awesome God, you have made all of creation and each cell of our bodies. You know our thoughts and you know our sins. hough we desperately try to hide our mistakes, our weaknesses, our embarrassments, you know our very human-ness and vulnerabilities. We come to acknowledge them before you.

(Silence to be observed for personal prayers)

We ask for your forgiveness for being inconsistent to living our commitment to You; for being stumbling blocks to others who desire to walk more fully in Your will; and for misusing all together the gifts You have given us for extending your kingdom. Even as you know the limits of our human capabilities, we know the unlimited power of your love. Forgive us, cleanse us, make us whole.

- R: **Forgive us loving God for doubting Your power to make good use of our offerings to You in worship; for being timid in offering our gifts in the care of others; and for not taking opportunities to develop the gifts You have given to us.**

(Silence to be observed for personal prayers)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Based on Psalm 139, 1 Corinthians 6)

- L: The God who has made us will never desert us. The God of creation is creating still, making us new. The God whose love gave us the gift of Jesus Christ is the same God whose love forgives and sustains us. **Amen.**

HYMN: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing...” [# 63 VIP]

1. Hark! The herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Refrain:

**Hark! The herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

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| 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, | 3. Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise children of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Charles Wesley (1707—1788) |
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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (Fourth Sunday in Advent)

- L: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David" (Luke 2:1,3-4).
- L: Today we remember Joseph, worn-out traveller and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.
- P: **Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kingdom of God.**
- L: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty.

*(Light two purple candles, the rose candle,
and the last purple candle.)*

HYMN: 68 VIP “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs 1 & 3)

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| 1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight. | 3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive
him still
The dear Christ enters in. |
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Phillips Brooks (1835—1893)

PRAISE IN WORSHIP - Pastor Wayne Stewart & Sis. Chavae Stewart
(Red Hills Congregation, Western St. Andrew Circuit)

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT:

ALL: Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Micah 5: 2 - 5a - Sis. Chavae Stewart, Red Hills

Magnificat: Luke 1: 46b - 55 (VIP # 559) – Pastor Wayne Stewart

EPISTLE: Hebrews 10: 5 -10 - Sis. June Satchell-Logan

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 39 – 45 - Sis. Joan Murphy

SERMON: - Pastor Dr. Wayne Henry

RESPONSE (Affirmation of faith) “This We Believe”

All: *I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way. I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God’s crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.*

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ’s people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the “promised land” of God’s future.

Because Christ has called me in this I truly believe. Amen

— written by Bruce Prewer,

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ OFFERTORY/ BLESSING OF TITHES & OFFERING

HYMN: “Standing on the Promises” [# 207 VIP]

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| 1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Thro’ eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God. | 2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God. |
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Refrain:

**Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises
of God my Saviour;
Standing, standing,
I’m standing on the promises
of God.**

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| 3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord, Overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,
Standing on the promises of God. |
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4. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord, Overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,
Standing on the promises of God.
Russell K. Carter (1849—1926)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- Leader:** God of all peoples, we bring the cares of the people before you. We long for, and pray for, the light of God in Christ Jesus to drive back the darkness of human error, misery and evil.
- Men:** Where people are lost and fed-up in acquiring too much material possession, where addiction to alcohol, other drugs, and gambling is causing ruin, we pray for the hope of epiphany.
- Women:** Where dictators rule without mercy or wisdom, where democracies are manipulated by the rich and powerful, we pray for the justice of epiphany.
- ALL:** **Where the church dodges its evangelical mission, where the church evades its social and political responsibility, we pray for the truth of epiphany.**
- Youth:** Where youth see no prospect in the future and so contemplate suicide, where the long-term unemployed exist without hope, where gangs become the choice we pray for the light of epiphany.
- Women:** Where the terminally ill face death fearfully, where people without purpose face life despairingly, we pray for the love of epiphany.
- Leader:** Most holy Friend, to you all souls are precious; please take from our eyes the scales of prejudice or indifference, that we may increasingly share your awareness of the neglected and abused people, and do all we can to make your love real to them. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Sung)

CLOSING HYMN: “Joy to the World...” [# 65 VIP]

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| 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And
heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and
nature sing. | Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding
joy. |
| 2. Joy to the world, the Saviour
reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills
and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, | 3. He rules the world with truth
and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his
love. |
- Isaac Watts (1674-1748)**

BENEDICTION



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”*

METHODIST VOICES IN WORD AND SONG
TELEVISION MINISTRY



4th Lord’s Day in Advent

Sunday, December 19, 2021

DIVINE WORSHIP



OFFICIATING:

Preacher: Pastor Dr. Wayne Henry, CD, JP
Lay Preacher, Western St. Andrew Circuit

Liturgist: Pastor Wayne Stewart
Lay Preacher, Western St. Andrew Circuit

Organist: Sis. Marcia Cohen
(Red Hills Congregation)

Praise Team: Sis. Chavae Stewart
Pastor Wayne Stewart

District Bishop: Rev’d Christine Gooden Benguche
District Conference Secretary: Rev’d Dr. Wayneford McFarlane

A warm welcome to all worshippers!