

Order of Worship

WELCOME

L: A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us on this first Lord's Day after the sixth of January, observed as Epiphany, or the manifestation of new born baby Jesus to the Gentiles as the Light of the World. Equally celebrated on this first Lord's Day after Epiphany is the baptism of Jesus by John in the River Jordan.

Please join me in the responses of our Call to Worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

P: **For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;**

L: but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

P: **The sun shall no longer be your light by day,**

L: nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night;

P: **but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.**

HYMN "Let Earth and Heaven Agree..." [# 52 VIP]

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| 1. Let earth and heaven agree,
Angels and men be joined,
To celebrate with me
The Saviour of mankind;
To' adore the all atoning Lamb,
And bless the sound of Jesu's
name. | 'Tis all their happiness to gaze,
'Tis heaven to see our Jesu's
face. |
| 2. Jesus, transporting sound!
The joy of earth and heaven;
No other help is found:
No other name is given;
By which we can salvation
have!
But Jesus came the world to
save. | 4. His name the sinner hears,
And is from sin set free;
'Tis music in his ears,
'Tis life and victory;
New songs do now his lips
employ,
And dances his glad heart for
joy. |
| 3. Jesus, harmonious name!
It charms the hosts above;
They evermore proclaim,
And wonder at his love; | 5. O for a trumpet voice,
On all the world to call!
To bid their hearts rejoice
In him who died for all!
For all my Lord was crucified,
For all, for all my Saviour died!
<i>Charles Wesley (1707- 1788)</i> |

PRAYER OF ADORATION

L: We adore You, Almighty God who from the founding waters created the earth. We praise and give You the glory that from the waters of a virgin's womb, Your blessed Son was given to the world. We rejoice because this Jesus gave honour to the waters of

the river through which penitent sinners were baptized by John. We bow in admiration of our Lord's humility. He did not need to, but He subjected himself to baptismal waters, thereby identifying fully with sinful humanity. We are impressed that through this symbolic act He demonstrates fully that He is worthy to represent us before the throne of grace.

L: *Let each of us make confession in our hearts before God.*

PERSONAL CONFESSION: *(Pause for a few moments in silence)*

GENERAL CONFESSION:

L: Please join me now in a general confession.

ALL: Merciful God, we confess our failure to follow You in all our doings and in all our thoughts. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, Your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about are our own problems, our needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, o Lord our God. Help us to yearn for Your presence. Pour baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve You. Wash away all jealousy, greed, and any negative thoughts and actions that stand in the way of our truly being the people You have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints as guided by Your Spirit. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully and for all eternity. Let us rejoice, dear friends, and know that we are forgiven, as we seek to lean on our all-powerful God for strength and support. This is the Good News of our Lord.

P: **Amen. Thanks be to God**

PRAISE TIME:

- *Led by: Bro. Leslie Francis (Saxthorpe)*

CHILDREN AND YOUTH FOCUS

- **Bro. Victor Mcsweeney**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT FOR THE FIRST LORD'S DAY AFTER EPIPHANY:

ALL: Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son; by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 43: 1 – 7 - Sis. Colette Chai (Saxthorpe)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 29

Led by Rev'd Dr. Karen Durant-McSweeney

L: ¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

R: ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

L: ³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

R: ⁴**The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

L: ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

R: ⁶**He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

L: ⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

R: ⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

L: ⁹The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say,
"Glory!"

R: ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

L: ¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

EPISTLE: Acts 8: 14 – 17

- **Sis. Yvonne Brown (Saxthorpe)**

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: LUKE 3: 15 – 17 & 21 - 22 - **Rev'd Dr. George Mulrain,**

Supernumerary Minister, Providence

Leader: This is the Gospel of Christ

People: Praise be to Christ, our Lord.

HYMN: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry..." [# 139 VIP]

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| 1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of
kings! | For Christ to come and enter
there. |
| 2. Then cleansed be every Christian
breast,
And furnished for so great a
guest!
Yea, let us each our heart prepare | 3. For thou art our salvation.
Lord,
Our refuge, and our great
reward;
Without thy grace we waste
away
Like flowers that wither and
decay. |

5. To heal the sick stretch out thy hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let thy light restore
Earth's own true loveliness
once more.

6. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Holy Ghost, for evermore.

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
trans. by **John Chandler**
(1806-76) and others

SERMON:

- Rev'd Dr. George Mulrain
(Supernumerary Minister, Providence Circuit)

HYMN: "Come Down, O Love Divine..." [# 147 VIP]

1. Come down, O Love divine,
Seek out this soul of mine,
And visit it with your own
ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, your holy
flame bestowing.

3. Let holy charity
My outward vesture be,
And lowliness become my
inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings
weeps with loathing.

2. O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes, in its
heat consuming;
And let your glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the
while my path illuming.

4. And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of
human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes
his dwelling.

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)
Trans.by:
Richard F. Littledale (1833-90)

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/OFFERTORY AND
BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERING**

PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION:

L: Let us pray. *Gracious God our Heavenly Father, we pray for the leaders of nations and especially those in the Caribbean and the Americas where you have called us to serve, that they may make wise decisions in response to the ongoing issues being raised by the current pandemic; we also pray for the other issues which are threatening the lives and livelihood of persons as well as the peace and harmony in our families, communities, and nations.*

Our confidence is in Christ who hears our prayer.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: We pray for those responsible for the education and ongoing nurture of the children and youth of the nation, including parents and teachers, that they may be patient and loving in the discharge of their duties; Our confidence is in Christ who hears our prayer.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: We pray for all citizens, that they may work together to tackle common problems occasioned by recklessness on the roads, by the selfish desire to become rich at anybody's expense, by scant regard for that which constitutes law and order; Our confidence is in Christ who hears our prayer.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: We pray for the ongoing witness of the church, as a baptized community, dedicated towards building a people who are holy and righteous, resilient to face any challenge, that we may ever seek to hear the voice of God's approval. Our confidence is in Christ who hears our prayer.

P: Thanks be to God. In Christ alone, we shall be saved. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: "'TIS So Sweet to Trust in Jesus..." [# 415 VIP]

1. 'TIS so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take him at his word,
Just to rest upon his promise,
Just to know, "Thus saith the
Lord."

'Neath the healing, cleansing
flood!

Refrain:

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust
him!
How I've proved Him o'er
and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him
more!**

3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in
Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease,
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest and joy and
peace.

4. I'm so glad I learned to trust
thee,
Precious Jesus, Saviour,
Friend;
And I know that thou art with
me,
Wilt be with me to the end.

Louisa M. R. Stead
(1850-1917)

2. O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing
blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge
me

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:

*"Building a Resilient People: Church, Community and
Nation"*

**METHODIST VOICES IN WORD AND SONG
TELEVISION MINISTRY**



1st Lord's Day after Epiphany
(Baptism of Our Lord)

Sunday, January 9, 2022

DIVINE WORSHIP

OFFICIATING CLERGY:

Liturgist: **Rev'd Dr. Karen Durant McSweeney**
Warden, United Theological College
of the West Indies (UTCWI)

Preacher: **Rev'd Dr. George Mulrain**
(Supernumerary Minister, Providence Circuit)

Organist: **Sis. Collette Chai**

Choristers: **Sis. Yvonne Brown**
Sis. Lucette Cargill
Sis. Valerie Hinds
Sis. Marie Miller
Sis. Yvonne Patterson
Bro. Nigel Haye

Praise Leader: **Bro. Leslie Francis**

District Bishop: Rev'd Christine Gooden- Benguche
District Secretary: Rev'd Dr. Waynford McFarlane

A warm welcome to all worshippers!