

# Order of Worship

## INTROIT HYMN: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus...”

[# 133 VIP, v 1 &4] - District Chorale

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| 1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,<br>Born to set Thy people free;<br>From our fears and sins<br>release us,<br>Let us find our rest in Thee. | 4. By Thine own eternal Spirit<br>Rule in all our hearts alone;<br>By Thine all sufficient merit,<br>Raise us to Thy glorious<br>throne. |
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*Charles Wesley 1707-1788*

## CALL TO WORSHIP: —

L: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God.

**ALL: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.**

L: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest!**

## HYMN “Let Earth and Heaven Combine...” [# 77 VIP]

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| 1. Let earth and heaven combine,<br>Angels and men agree,<br>To praise in songs divine<br>The incarnate Deity,<br>Our God contracted to a span,<br>Incomprehensibly made man.        | Suffice for us that God, we know,<br>Our God, is manifest below.  |
| 2. He laid his glory by,<br>He wrapped him in our clay;<br>Unmarked by human eye,<br>The latent Godhead lay;<br>Infant of days he here became,<br>And bore the mild Immanuel’s name. | 4. He deigns in flesh to appear,<br>Widest extremes to join;<br>To bring our vileness near,<br>And make us all divine:<br>And we the life of God shall know,<br>For God is manifest below.              |
| 3. Unsearchable the love<br>That has the Saviour brought;<br>The grace is far above<br>Or men or angels' thought:  | 5. Made perfect first in love,<br>And sanctified by grace,<br>We shall from earth remove,<br>And see his glorious face:<br>His love shall then be fully<br>showed,<br>And man shall all be lost in God. |

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

**ALL: Holy One, there is no God like you.  
In praise and thanksgiving, we come before you  
ready to learn of your power, ready for restoration and hope in  
our lives. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence**

can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

## SONG OF PENITENCE: “Search Me O God”

*Search me, O God, and know my heart today  
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray  
See if there be some wicked way in me  
Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

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*Let us in silence confess our sins to God and pray for his forgiveness.  
(Silence)*

**ALL: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against each other, in thought and word and deed, in the evil we have done and in the good we have not done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

L: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Hear then the good news. If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Eternal God, we give you our humble and hearty thanks for all the gifts which you have so richly bestowed on our lives. We thank you for the opportunities for bringing messages of hope, peace and love to your people. We thank you for most of all for your salvation which was completed in Jesus Christ. Accept our glad thanksgiving as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## YOUTH FOCUS:

## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### THE COLLECT

**ALL: God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever more. AMEN.**

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 35: 1—10 - Bro. Paul Thorbourne

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 146:5—10 [VIP 654]

*Led by: Sis. Marcia Cohen*

L: <sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

R: <sup>6</sup> **He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.**

L: <sup>7</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets prisoners free,

R: <sup>8</sup> **the LORD gives sight to the blind,  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

L: <sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

R: <sup>10</sup> **The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all  
generations. Praise the LORD.**

## THE GLORIA

L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
R: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world  
without end. Amen.**

EPISTLE: James 5:7—10

- Bro. Keith Nelson

GOSPEL: St. Matthew 11: 2—11

- Sis. Shirley Richards

## HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...” [# 138 VIP]

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| 1. O Come, O come, Immanuel,<br>And ransom captive Israel,<br>That mourns in lonely exile here<br>Until the Son of God appear: | From depths of hell thy people<br>save,<br>And give them vict'ry o'er the<br>grave: |
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### *Refrain:*

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Immanuel***

***Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

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| 2. O come, O come, thou Lord<br>of might,<br>Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's<br>height,<br>In ancient times didst give<br>the law<br>In cloud, and majesty, and awe: |
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| 4. O come, thou Key of David, come,<br>And open wide our heav'nly<br>home;<br>Make safe the way that leads on<br>high,<br>And close the path to misery: |
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| 3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free<br>Thine own from Satan's tyranny; |
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| 5. O come, thou Day-spring, come<br>and cheer<br>Our spirits by thine advent here<br>Disperse the gloomy clouds of<br>night,<br>And death's dark shadows put to<br>flight: |
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trans. by John M. Neale  
(1818—1866) and others

**SERMON:** – **Rev'd Stephen Mullings** (*Superintendent Minister, Spanish Town and Port Antonio Circuits*)

**HYMN “Saviour Like a Shepherd Lead Us...” [# 338 VIP]**

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|---|---|
| 1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,<br>Much we need Thy tender care;<br>In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,<br>For our use Thy folds prepare:<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>Thou hast bought us, Thine we are. | 3. Thou hast promised to receive us,<br>Poor and sinful though we be;<br>Thou hast mercy to relieve us,<br>Grace to cleanse, and pow'are to free:<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>Early let us turn to Thee;<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>Early let us turn to Thee.   |
| 2. We are Thine; do Thou befriend us,<br>Be the guardian of our way;<br>Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,<br>Seek us when we go astray:<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>Hear, O hear us when we pray;<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>Hear, O hear us when we pray.             | 4. Early let us seek Thy favor;<br>Early let us do Thy will;<br>Blessed Lord and only Savior,<br>With Thy love our beings fill:<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>Thou hast loved us, love us still;<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>Thou hast loved us, love us still.<br><br><b>Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847)</b> |

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

- L:** We pray for the Church: that she may be a sign of God's light and goodness in our world, and a beacon of hope for the most vulnerable everywhere. We pray especially for members who have fallen in faith, continue to reach out to them that they may return to you in spirit and truth. Lord, in your mercy...
- P: Hear our Prayers**
- L:** We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognize the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given. May we hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy. Lord, in your mercy...
- P: Hear our Prayers**
- L:** We pray for Nation, may we develop the attitudes to fight against injustice, corruption and violence against all people. We ask you to help our leaders to work together with us, to make Jamaica the place where people will want to live, work and raise families. Lord, in your mercy...
- P: Hear our Prayers**
- L:** We pray for our Children and the Youth of our nation. Give us guidance and help us as parents and guardians to protect our children and create safe spaces for them to grow and enjoy life. May You grant us the courage and love to reach out to our

neighbours, giving them hope for the future and protection through our prayers and action. Lord, in your mercy...

**P: Hear our Prayer**

**L:** We pray for all those who hunger, in our own community and communities around the world. May You grant them the hope, strength and support to overcome the challenges of poverty. May you equip us to do what we can in our communities. Lord, in your mercy...

**P: Hear our Prayer**

**L:** We pray for ourselves: that our prayer life may be improved, and our reading of the scriptures become more consistent. Through these actions, may God deepen our love for our sisters and brothers as ourselves, and enable us to demonstrate this by words of encouragement and actions that bring hope. Lord, in your mercy...

**P: Hear our Prayer**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

- ❖ **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- ❖ **OFFERTORY**
- ❖ **BLESSING OF TITHES & OFFERING**

**CLOSING HYMN “Battle Hymn of the Republic...” [# 136 VIP]**

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|---|---|
| 1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;<br>He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;<br>He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:<br>His truth is marching on: | He is sifting out the hearts of all before the judgement seat:<br>O be swift my soul to answer Him;<br>Be jubilant, my feet!<br>Our God is marching on:   |
| <b>Refrain:</b><br><b>Glory, glory, hallelujah!</b><br><b>Glory, glory, hallelujah!</b><br><b>Glory, glory, hallelujah!</b><br><b>His truth is marching on.</b>   | 3. In the beauty of the lilies<br>Christ was born across the sea,<br>With a glory in His bosom<br>that transfigures you and me;<br>As He died to make men holy,<br>Let us live to make all free,<br>While God is marching on: |

*Julia W. Howe (1819—1910)*

2. He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;

**BENEDICTION**



**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**



**DIVINE WORSHIP**

3<sup>rd</sup> Lord's Day in Advent

**Sunday, December 11, 2022**

**PARTICIPATING CLERGY:**

- Preacher:** **Rev'd Stephen Mullings**  
*(Superintendent Minister – Coke Circuit)*
- Liturgist:** **Sis. Marcia Cohen**  
*(Member, Western St. Andrew Circuit)*

**Organist:** **Rev'd Stanley Griffin**

**Choristers:**

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • <b>Sis. Fay Bowen-Nelson</b> | • <b>Sis. Colleen Nembhard</b> |
| • <b>Sis. Marcia Cohen</b>     | • <b>Sis. Shirley Richards</b> |
| • <b>Sis. Barbara Hylton</b>   | • <b>Bro. Keith Nelson</b>     |
| • <b>Sis. Barbara Hylton</b>   | • <b>Bro. Paul Thorbourne</b>  |

**District Bishop:** Rev'd Christine Gooden- Benguche

**District Secretary:** Rev'd Dr. Wayneford McFarlane

*A warm welcome to all worshippers!*