

Order of Worship

INTROIT: "Go Tell It on the Mountain..." [# 61 VIP]- District Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP (All Stand):

M: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

P: **Come into our hearts today.**

M: Open our hearts today, Lord Jesus.

P: **Help us to receive you.**

M: Help us to reach out to each other, Lord Jesus

P: **Illuminate our path this night.**

M: Remind us of the needs of the world, Lord Jesus.

P: **Help us to witness to your Light by serving others.**

ALL: **Sing Glory to God for God's love has been born anew!**

HYMN: "Christians, Awake... The Happy Morn" [# 57 VIP v. 1, 2 & 4]

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| 1. Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love,
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son. | To you and all the nations upon earth;
This day has God fulfilled his promised word,
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.' |
| 2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth | 3. Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;
He that was born upon this joyful day
Around us all his glory shall display;
Saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
Th' eternal praise of heaven's almighty King. |
- John Byrom (1692-1763) alt.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING:

L: Almighty God, how majestic and wonderful you are throughout all creation. We adore you and we bow in honour of your name and we celebrate you alone as Lord and King. The world shines with your glory and greatness. You have revealed your love to us by sending Jesus, our Saviour. He became like us though he is fully God. He lived among us and was touchable and reachable. None can be compared to you O Lord. Out of your great love you sacrificed your only son that we who are underserving may be saved. You sent your Holy Spirit to guide, to teach and to enable us to be holy like you and to live in obedience as you are to the Father. Renew our spirits this day as we celebrate the Christ who came and fill us with love, peace and joy, this day and every day.
AMEN.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

L: Let us in silence confess our sins to God and pray for His forgiveness.

(A period of silence will follow)

L: Gracious and loving God, we bring before you our weaknesses and our fears which dominate our lives. Forgive us for allowing the darkness to consume us.

P: **Forgive us, Lord God Almighty.**

L: Forgive us for reducing the meaning of Christmas to consuming food and buying and receiving material gifts.

P: **Enabling God, forgive and have mercy on us.**

L: Forgive us that we care so little about the needs of others, while we put ourselves first

P: **O merciful God, let your grace consume us Gracious God, we confess our sinfulness before you and before each other. Remove all barriers that divide us, and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. This we pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ. AMEN.**

L: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Hear his gracious word: "Your sins are forgiven."

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: We thank you Lord for being the Light that shines in our hearts. For the light your people have shown into the darkest places of our world this year. We thank you mostly for your son Jesus Christ who was born of Mary and lived amongst us He was a man acquainted with sorrow and with grief. We are grateful to you O Lord that we have the opportunity to sing with the angelic choirs, the songs which give praise to your most glorious name. Thank you for your love poured out on us and thank you for the company of each other, this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" [# 66 VIP]

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| 1. O Come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels: | 3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above:
Glory to God in the highest: |
|---|--|

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

2. True God of true God,
Light of Light eternal,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
Begotten, not created:

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

*Anonymous 17th or
18th Century trans. by
Frederick Oakeley, (1802-80)*

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

COLLECT:

ALL: **Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.**

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 62: 6—12 – Sis. Chenee Riley

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 97 9VIP 623) Led by: Sis. Vilma Waite

L: ¹The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

R: ²Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

L: ³Fire goes before him
and consumes his adversaries on every side.

R: ⁴His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.

L: ⁵The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.

R: ⁶The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples behold his glory.

L: ⁷All servants of images are put to shame,
those who make their boast in worthless idols;
all gods bow down before him.

R: ⁸Zion hears and is glad,
and the towns^[a] of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments, O God.

L: ⁹For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

R: ¹⁰You who love the LORD, hate evil;
he guards the lives of his faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

L: ¹¹Light dawns^[b] for the righteous
and joy for the upright in heart.

R: ¹²Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

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: Philippians 2: 5—11 - Bro. Paul Thorbourne

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1—20 - Rev'd Maxine Forrest Edwards (Supt. Minister, Frankfield & Manchester Circuits)

HYMN "Come and Join the Celebration. . ." [# 58 VIP]

Refrain:
Come and join the celebration,
It's a very special day;
Come and share our jubilation,
There's a new King born today!

1. See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem, Gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lay before them:

2. Wise men journey, led to worship by a star, Kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so,
3. God is with us', round the world the message bring, He is with us, 'Welcome', all the bells on earth are pealing:

Valerie Collison (1933-)

MESSAGE: - Rev'd Maxine Forrest Edwards

(Supt. Minister, Frankfield & Manchester Circuits)

HYMN "He Was Born on Christmas Day..." [# 64 VIP]

1. He was born on Christmas Day In a land so far away And his mother meek and mild She did love de baby child.
2. And de three men dat was wise Saw de bright star in de skies So they follow as it led To the manger dat was bed.

Refrain:
Run, come quick
Come gather round de stall
Jesus is born
Him born fi one an' all

3. "Glory be," de angels sing Little Jesus is de King An' de pickney dem a sing, Baby Jesus is de King.

Babe O'Brien (1909-1992)
Arranged Noel Dexter

- ❖ ANNOUNCEMENTS
- ❖ OFFERTORY
- ❖ BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Father God, we pray for those who at Christmas are made more aware of their loneliness. For those who have no loved one or family with whom to celebrate, for those whose families are far away. We pray for those to whom Christmas brings sharp memories of happier times.

R: Christ be with them and grant them consolation.

L: Father God, we pray for our family, friends and neighbours, who are sick or aged and unable to celebrate in corporate worship as we are able. For those who have to work in hospitals, nursing homes and private residences caring for these sick or aged especially in these times.

R: Christ be with them and grant them healing and strength.

L: Father God, we pray for the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas. For Everald, our Connexional Bishop, Christine, our District Bishop, and for all Presbyters, Deacons, Preachers, Stewards, Class Leaders and other Office bearers.

R: Be with them Lord, and grant that they will serve faithfully.

L: Father God, we pray for those who have no regard or interest in worshipping you. For those who are frustrated, careless, angry and own-way. For those who are involved in committing criminal activities, all forms of abuse and selling illicit substances and seem to be living without a purpose, wasting away their lives.

R: Christ be with them and grant them transformation and peace.

L: Father God, we pray for our community with its varied activities and objectives especially at this time. We pray for all Members of Parliament, the Senate, Judiciary and the business community.

R: Christ may your presence be ever evident and grant that persons may experience salvation and live in love and harmony. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

HYMN "Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing" [# 63 VIP]

1. Hark! The herald-angels sing Offspring of a virgin's womb. Glory to the new-born King, Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Peace on earth, and mercy mild, Hail, the incarnate Deity! God and sinners reconciled. Pleased as man with us to dwell, Joyful, all you nations, rise, Jesus, our Immanuel: 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.

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold him come,
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)

BENEDICTION:

L: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the wise men, and the peace of the Christ child.

And the blessings of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, your loved ones and all those for whom you pray, now and forevermore. **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

METHODIST VOICES IN WORD AND SONG TELEVISION MINISTRY



CHRISTMAS SUNDAY



Festival of The Nativity
Sunday, December 25, 2022

PARTICIPATING CLERGY:

Preacher: Rev'd Maxine Forrest Edwards
Supt. Minister, Frankfield & Manchester Circuits

Liturgist: **Sis. Vilma Waite**
Lay Preacher, Manchester Circuit

Organist: **Sis. Melrose Davies**

- Choristers:**
- Sis. Patricia Beecher
 - Sis. Nesta Palmer
 - Sis. Fay Bowen Nelson
 - Sis. Shirley Richards
 - Sis. Marcia Cohen
 - Sis. Chenee Riley
 - Sis. Cecile Davis
 - Bro. Orville Manning
 - Sis. Barbara Hylton
 - Bro. Paul Thorbourne
 - Sis Colleen Nembhard

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

Jesus is Born!