**THE METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS- JAMAICA DISTRICT PROVIDENCE CIRCUIT**



***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.”*

**DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

Bishop Christine Gooden-Benguche

**CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER**

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**ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**DIVINE WORSHIP**

**14th lord’s day after pentecost**

**Sunday, August 29, 2021**

**8:30 a.m.**

**PREACHER**

*Bro. Seymour Panton*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king: my tongue is the pen of a skilful writer.

**Cong**: **You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever.**

Leader: Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

**Cong**: **You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.**

Leader: All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; from palaces adorned with ivory the music of the strings makes you glad.

**All**: **Daughters of kings are among your honoured women; at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir.**

**Opening Hymn #240 “ I am so glad”**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1 1.** I AM so glad that our Father in heaven  Tells of his love in the Book he has given:  Wonderful things in the Bible I see;  This is the dearest, that Jesus loves me. | *I am so glad that Jesus loves me,*  *Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me,*  *I am so glad that Jesus loves me,*  *Jesus loves even me.* |
| **2.** Though I forget Him, and wander away,  Still Jesus loves me wherever I stray,  Back to his dear loving arms do I flee,  When I remember that Jesus loves  me. | **3.** O if there's only one song I can  sing,  When in his beauty I see the great King,  This shall my song in eternity be,  O what a wonder that Jesus loves  me. |

**4**. If one should ask of me, “How can I tell?”

Glory to Jesus, I know very well;

God's Holy Spirit with mine doth agree,

Constantly witnessing: Jesus loves me.

Prayer

WELCOME

FOCUS ON CHILDREN AND THE YOUTH

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**THE COLLECT:**

**Almighty God, who called Your Church to bear witness that You were in Christ reconciling the world to Yourself, help us to proclaim the good news of Your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to You, through Him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**The Old Testament: Song of Solomon 2: 8 – 13**

8 The voice of my beloved!  Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains,  
 bounding over the hills. 9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.  
Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows,  
 looking through the lattice. 10 My beloved speaks and says to me: ‘Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; 11 for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.   
12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. 13 The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
 and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**Response**: **Thanks be to God**

**The Epistle: James 1: 17 – 27**

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.[\*](javascript:void(0);) 18In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

19 You must understand this, my beloved:[\*](javascript:void(0);) let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. 21Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves[\*](javascript:void(0);) in a mirror; 24for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**Response**: **Thanks be to God**

The Gospel: Mark 7: 1 – 8, 14 & 15, and 21 – 23

**“Glory to You, O God”**

7Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, 2they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. 3(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; 4and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) 5So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’ 6He said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,  
“This people honours me with their lips,  
   but their hearts are far from me;   
7 in vain do they worship me,  
   teaching human precepts as doctrines.”   
8You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’

14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: 15there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’ 21For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, 22adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. 23All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ

**Response**: **Praise be to Christ Our Lord**

**Chorus: Bless Thy Word unto our hearts**

And glorify Thy Name

Glorify Thy Name Lord,

Glorify Thy Name, Lord

Bless Thy Word unto our hearts

And glorify Thy Name

**MESSAGE**

**Hymn # 124 “Jesus has died and has risen again”**

**1.** JESUS has died and has risen again,

Pardon and peace to bestow;

Fully I trust him; from sin’s guilty stain

Jesus saves me now.

*Jesus saves me now! (rep)*

*Yes, Jesus saves me all the time,*

*Jesus saves me now!*

**2**. Sin’s condemnation is over and gone,

Jesus alone knoweth how;

Life and salvation my soul has put on;

Jesus saves me now

**3.** Jesus is stronger than Satan and sin,

Satan to Jesus must bow,

Therefore I triumph without and within;

Jesus saves me now.

**4.** Sorrow and pain may beset me about,

Nothing can darken my brow;

Battling in faith I can joyfully shout:

Jesus saves me now.

NOTICES AND OFFERING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

**Closing Hymn # 457 “One more step along the world I go”**

**1.** ONE more step along the world I go,

One more step along the world I go,

From the old things to the new

Keep me travelling along with you:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;*

*Keep me travelling along with you.*

**2.** Round the corner of the world I turn,

More and more about the world I learn;

All the new things that I see

You'll be looking at along with me:

**3.** As I travel through the bad and good,

Keep me travelling the way I should;

Where I see no way to go

You'll be telling me the way, I know:

**4.** Give me courage when the world is rough,

Keep me loving though the world is tough;

Leap and sing in all I do,

Keep me travelling along with you:

**5.** You are older than the world can be,

You are younger than the life in me;

Ever old and ever new,

Keep me travelling along with you:

**BENEDICTION**

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