**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**

Rev’d Barrington Litchmore

**PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHURCH**

**132 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6**

**TEL: 876-9775971 / 977-6489**

**Website:** [**www.providencemethodistja.com**](http://www.providencemethodistja.com)

**ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**DIVINE WORSHIP**

**1- Nativity**

**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

**8:30 a.m.**

**PREACHER**

*Rev’d Alison Iton*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**PREPARATION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

**Cong: He shall be great to the ends of the earth.**

Leader: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. God’s mercy extends from

 generation to generation.

**Cong: Holy is God’s Name!**

**OPENING HYMN #66 VIP - “O Come all ye faithful”**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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: |  O *come, let us adore him,(rep.3 times)* *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: | **3**. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:Glory to God In the highest: |

**4.** Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

OPENING PRAYERS – INVOCATION **(all):**

**Stir up your power, O God, and come to set us free by the righteousness of your birth in our midst, by the light of your face shining upon us, and by becoming our brother, our friend, our salvation; by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. We pray this in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, mother of us all. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION (L):

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God’s grace, let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **(all):**

**God our Saviour, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary’s song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (L):

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world— not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

**FOURTH SUNDAY ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY - Led by the Crossfield Family**

**Reader 1: "**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).

**Reader 2**: Today we remember Joseph, worn-out traveler 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.

**People: 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.**

**Reader:** 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” verse 1-2**

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.

 **2.** O morning stars, together

Proclaim thy holy birth,

And praises sing to God the King,

And peace to all on earth;

For Christ is born of Mary;

And, gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep

Their watch of wondering love.

**CHILDREN’S HYMN & FOCUS VIP# 60 – ‘De Virgin Mary had a baby boy’ (v1. & chorus)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1**. DE Virgin Mary had a baby boy, *(3 times)*An’ dey say dat his name was Jesus. |  *He come from the glory,* *He come from the glorious kingdom.**(rep. 2 lines)* *Oh yes, Believer, (rep.)* *He come from the glory,* *He come from the glorious kingdom.* |

Time of Praise

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**COLLECT:**

**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

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  to the ends of the earth;
5 and he shall be the one of peace.  If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**Cong.: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading - Magnificat: Luke 1:46b-55 (VIP # 559)

Leader: My soul doth magnify the Lord: And my spirit hath rejoiced in God

my Saviour.

**Cong: For He hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.**

Leader: For, behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

**Cong: For He that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is His**

**Name.**

Leader: And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all

generations.

**Cong: He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered**

**the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

Leader: He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

**Cong: He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.**

Leader: He remembering His mercy: hath holpen His servant Israel.

**Cong: As he promised to our forefathers: Abraham and to His seed for ever.**

Gloria

EPISTLE - Hebrews 10:5-10

5Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; 6 in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God”  (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’ 8When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), 9then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 10And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**Cong.: Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL SELECTION – Youth Choir – ‘Hark the glad sound!’

GOSPEL - Luke 1:39-45

**Glory to You, O God**

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. 45And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ

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

**HYMN# 68 VIP ‘O little town of Bethlehem’ verses 3-4**

**3.** How silently, how silently,

The wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts

The blessings of his heaven;

No ear can hear his coming;

But in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive him still

The dear Christ enters in.

**4.** O holy Child of Bethlehem,

Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in,

Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels

The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us,

Our Lord Emmanuel!

**MESSAGE - Rev. Alison Iton**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Be Magnified!

**1.** I have made You too small in my eyes

O Lord, forgive me;

I have believed in a lie

That You were unable to help me

But now, O Lord, I see my wrong

Heal my heart and show Yourself strong;

And in my eyes and with my song

O Lord, be magnified

O Lord, be magnified

*CHORUS:*

*Be magnified, O Lord*

*You are highly exalted;*

*And there is nothing You can't do*

*O Lord, my eyes are on You*

*Be magnified*

*O Lord, be magnified*

**2.** I have leaned on the wisdom of men

O Lord, forgive me;

And I have responded to them

Instead of Your light and Your mercy

But now, O Lord, I see my wrong

Heal my heart and show Yourself strong;

And in my eyes with my song

O Lord, be magnified

O Lord, be magnified

RECEIVING AND DEDICATION OF TITHES & OFFERING

OFFERING FOR THE FOOD BARREL

Prayer for the celebrants

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray to the Lord saying,

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, you reveal yourself in so many ways, especially in your Son, Jesus Christ. We gather up the prayers of this community for the church, the world, and all in need, confident that you know our deepest thoughts and will refresh our spirits. We pray in the name of the One who transforms principalities and powers and renews the heavens and the earth, Christ Our Saviour.

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

For the church: We pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who gather as we do on this day all over the world in houses, churches, storefronts, in hospital chapels and prisons, and with persons who are dying. Wherever the church is found on frontiers of mission and service, empower its witness to strengthen and stretch the vision of your people.

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

For the earth and all creatures: We pray for the healing and tending of all that you have given us; for water and air, soil and stars; for creatures that roam the seas and those that fly thousands of miles in migration; for mammals and reptiles, insects and microbes in swamps and forests and in our own homes. Show us their beauty and our need for them.

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

For an end to violence, oppression, and injustice: We pray for all who sing with Mary a song of joy for deliverance; for all people who long to hear your promise of Good News; for all peacemakers; for governments that hold at the heart of their work the needs of people otherwise invisible; for all people left homeless and destitute by the greed of others. Lead your people from darkness to light.

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

For Marys and Josephs in every land: We pray for all people who face the enormous vocation of raising children; for biological parents and adopting parents, for grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends; for children who long for a parent’s or guardian’s love and care; for children who will be born today; and especially for those born into hunger and insecurity. Let the light of your desire for our well-being shine through all children.

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

For those we hold dear and those who have asked for our prayers: We pray for everyone who is in any need today: for the lonely; for all people who are anxious at this time of year; for our elders in nursing homes; for people who cannot find work and those whose work is not life-giving for them;for those we name now either out loud or in our hearts … *[names may be called forth*].

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

For our own lives: We pray that Mary’s song of joy and Joseph’s loyalty will be magnified in us. Fill us with the breath of Advent. Stir us to extend ourselves beyond what we thought possible. Show us that like Mary, we need not fear.

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

We remember with thanksgiving the faithful who have gone before us, especially … *[name those recently deceased].*

As your light shines on us through them, guide us to so enlighten others. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great. With the whole church, we cry “Let it be,” trusting in Your word. Amen.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER (sung)**

**CLOSING HYMN # 65 VIP – ‘Joy to the world!’**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **11.** JOY to the world, the Lord is come!Let earth receive her King;Let every heart prepare him room,And heaven and nature sing, *(rep.)*And heaven, and heaven and nature sing. | **2.** Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns! Let all their songs employ;While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plainsRepeat the sounding joy, *(rep.)* Repeat, 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, *(rep.)*

 And wonders, wonders of his love.

**BENEDICTION:**

May the God of justice be your path, the Lord of mercy be your guide, and the Spirit of love be your light, this day and forevermore. Amen.

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**BIRTHDAYS – 19th -** Sis. Gwendolyn Thomas, Sis. Claudette Crooks  Collie, Sis. Marjory Smythe, Bro. Dan Richards; **20th** – Sis. Katherine Pottinger; **21st** – Sis. Dawn Carey; **22nd** – Bro. Mozien  Sutherland ; **23rd** – Sis. Nadia Williams; **25th** – Sis. Carol  Samuel  Johnson, Christina  Armstrong

**TODAY:** **5:00 p.m.** – **CAROL SERVICE.** *Please remember to carry your candles.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mon. Dec 20 6:00 p.m. MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

 MEETING

Tues. Dec 21 6:00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY

Wed. Dec 22 12 Noon PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

**Sat. Dec 25 6:00 a.m. CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE**

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Sun. Dec 26 8:30 a.m. Christmas Sunday service**

Rev’d Charlene Burton

**Fri. Dec 31 10:00 p.m. WATCHNIGHT SERVICE**

 Rev’d Dr. Oral Thomas

**Condolences to:** Sis Clover Brown-Treasure, her children Marla Treasure Graham, and Marleece, Rushane, Errol and Rafael Treasure and their families on the passing of husband, father and grandfather Mr. R. Teasure. The funeral service for Mr. Treasure took place in Gilbraltar, St. Ann on December 15, 2021.

**Thanksgiving Service:** For the late Sis Lesma Brown will be held here at Providence at 10:00 a.m. Interment will be at Dovecot Memorial Gardens.

**Opportunities for Medical Service to the Church -** Faydene Methodist Home for Senior Citizens in Vineyard Town urgently requires the assistance of a Registered Nurse to volunteer a once-per-week visit, and a Doctor to similarly offer a once-per-quarter visit, to help review the medical condition of the 15 residents. Please contact the church office if you are able to help

**Our Daily Bread 2022** – Copies of the Devotional “Our Daily Bread” are now available at the Church Office. Cost $500.00

**ON LINE GIVING FOR THE WORK OF OUR CHURCH -** Due to the restrictions to assist to contain the spread of the Corona Virus, many faithful Providence members have not been able to attend in person worship regularly, or none at all. At a time such as this, to facilitate and maintain the strong support for the work of our church , please spread the word that **Tithes and Offerings** from members can be deposited directly to the Church’s Bank Account . The information is listed below:

**Name of Account** Providence Methodist Church

**Bank**  National Commercial Bank

**Branch**  Matilda’s Corner –Liguanea – Kingston 6

**Account No.** 371007857

Please call the Church Office ( 8769775971 or 8769776489) or email

providencemeth@cwjamaica.com, to provide your name, amount and the date of the deposit so that the source of the funds can be identified. Members may also continue to drop off tithes and offerings at the Church Office.

**Introducing the prayer line –** Persons desirous of prayer may call the **Prayer line.** Mondays between **12 Noon – 2:00 p.m**. 876-927-5222;

 Daily between **10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon**. 876-4462475

 Daily between **4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m** 876-3157643

 Generally available except on Mondays. 876- 9271439

**PLEASE REMEMBER PRAYERFULLY- Sis. Laurel Bruce**, 15 Deanery Ave, 928-1873; **Sis. Verona Cameron**; **Sis. Helen Chambers,** 34 Charlemont Drive. 927-0747; **Sis . Keturah Forrest**, 10 Old Henry Lane (6), 927-5395; **Sis**. **Pearl Morgan**, 5 Elliott Ave(8), 924-0005; Sis**. Gertrude Phillips**, 4 Finchley Close(6), 702-2947; **Sis. Violet Tapper, 1 Phadrian Ave, (6)**; **Sis. Cynthia Walsh**, 11 Ravinia Mews (6), 927-0275; **Sis. Jean Andrade,** 14 Roseneath Ave. 946-2769; **Sis. Lauris Goldson,** 30 Glendon Circle, 927-0711**; Sis. Clover Treasure**, 669-1709**; Sis. Bernice Saunders**, 7 Maynard Dr, Patrick City. **Sis. Lena Anderson,** 876-977-0201**; Bro. Hubert Bartholomew,** 876-8263319; **Sis. Grace Boyne, Sis. Joyce Bolton, Sis. Alma Smith, Sis. Verna George, Sis. Isolene Livingstone**, **Sis. Beryl Miles; Bro. Lester Palmer**, **Sis. Gwendoline Thomas**, **Sis. Sybil Francis, Sis. Pam Morris, Sis. Muriel Lewis, Sis. Pauline Mason, Sis. Enid Phillips, Sis. Marjory Smythe, Sis. Sadie Mitchell, Sis. Carmen Subaran, Sis. Mae Polack**; **Sis. Janice Robinson, Sis. Inez Bernard, Bro. Eric King, Rev’d Dr. Rupert Young, Sis. Gerda Theobalds, Bro. Roy Thomas, Sis. Carmen Allicock, Sis. Minna McLeod**, **Sis. Hazel Bennett**, **Sis Ivy Holder, Bro. Trevor Weston; Sis. Nora Strudwick**

**THIS WEEK’S DEVOTIONAL READINGS FROM “OUR DAILY BREAD”**

Sun. 19 Dec 2 Corinthians 2:17-3:6 Written On the Heart

Mon. 20 Dec Nehemiah 6:1-9 Failure is Impossible

Tues. 21 Dec Luke 2:4-14 The Giver‘s Delight

Wed. 22 Dec 1 John 3:1-3 The Father’s Blessing

Thur 23 Dec Luke 2:15-19 A String of Yeses

Fri. 24 Dec Luke 2:25-33 A Christmas Visitor

Sat. 25 Dec 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 Growing into Giving

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**PASTORAL LETTER**