**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**

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**ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**CONFIRMATION SERVICE**

FESTIVAL OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“PENTECOST”

“ALDERSGATE”

**Sunday, May 23, 2021**

**8:30 a.m.**

**OFFICIATING**

*Rev’d Dr. George Mulrain, Rev’d Alison Iton*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader:

The Christian Church today celebrates what took place historically on the day of Pentecost. According to Acts, chapter 2, the first four verses: “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

Let us worship God.

**HYMN 156 VIP “OUR blest Redeemer, ere he breathed”**

1. OUR blest Redeemer, ere he breathed

His tender, last farewell,

A Guide, a Comforter bequeathed,

With us to dwell.

2. He came in semblance of a dove,

With sheltering wings outspread,

The holy balm of peace and love

On each to shed.

3. He came in tongues of living flame,

To teach, convince, subdue;

All-powerful as the wind he came,

As viewless too.

4. And his that gentle voice we hear,

Soft as the breath of even,

That checks each fault, that calms each fear,

And speaks of heaven.

5. And every virtue we possess,

And every conquest won,

And every thought of holiness,

Are his alone.

6. Spirit of purity and grace,

Our weakness, pitying, see;

O make our hearts thy dwelling-place,

And worthier thee.

Leader

On this day of Pentecost, we are celebrating the birthday of the Church. The Holy Spirit came in a dramatic way to fulfill God’s promise to be always in the world. Persons were gifted specially, speaking in tongues, as one dramatic manifestation of the divine presence in the world. The Spirit gave other gifts to develop the work of the Church. According to Ephesians 4: 11 - 13 11The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Let us pray.

**Prayer**

God of us all, we adore You for the assurance that You will always be present in the world. When we were wondering about who and what You are, You sent Jesus the Son to be born among us as a baby. During His earthly ministry, You were caring for all sorts and conditions of people in the world that You created.

You taught us that in Jesus, You are a loving and forgiving God. You want us, Your children, to be loving as well. Through human evil, Jesus was put to death on a cross. However, through Your power, He was raised to life and appeared to His disciples for a fixed period. At the opportune time for the Son to be reunited with the Father, Jesus ascended. He is with You now, representing us, interceding on our behalf.

God of love, in spite of our sinful nature, please continue to love and to forgive us. During this time of worship, may we be inspired to change our lives for the better. Come, Holy Spirit! Dwell richly in us, now and evermore.

**Amen**.

CELEBRATING ALDERSGATE

**Leader:**

During the month of May, Methodists across the world celebrate *Aldersgate*.

The name *Aldersgate* may not mean anything to persons, except perhaps for some who live in a certain part of London, England. It is the name of a street.

**Leade**r:

Here is an Extract from the Journal of John Wesley, Founder of Methodism, on May 24th, 1738.

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, **I felt my heart strangely warmed.** I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

**Leader**:

This was John Wesley’s conversion experience on May 24th, 1738.

Three days before, on May 21st, 1738, his brother Rev. Charles Wesley had entered into the joy of salvation.

John and Charles Wesley were **new persons.** They spent the rest of their lives travelling and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ in words, deeds and song.

**COLLECT FOR ALDERSGATE**

**Almighty God, you raised up your servants, John and Charles Wesley, to proclaim anew the gift of redemption and the life of holiness. Pour out your Spirit and revive your work among us; that inspired by the same faith and upheld by the same grace in word and sacrament, we and all your children may be made one in the unity of your Church on earth, even as we are made one in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn 213 VIP “WHERE shall my wondering soul begin?”**

The Wesleys’ Conversion Hymn, May 1738

1. WHERE shall my wondering soul begin?

How shall I all to heaven aspire?

A slave redeemed from death and sin,

A brand plucked from eternal fire,

How shall I equal triumphs raise,

Or sing my great Deliverer's praise?

2. O how shall I the goodness tell,

Father, which thou to me hast showed?

That I, a child of wrath and hell,

I should be called a child of God,

Should know, should feel my sins forgiven,

Blest with this antepast of heaven!

3. And shall I slight my Father's love?

Or basely fear his gifts to own?

Unmindful of his favours prove?

Shall I, the hallowed cross to shun,

Refuse his righteousness to impart

By hiding it within my heart?

4. Outcasts of men, to you I call,

Harlots, and publicans, and thieves!

He spreads his arms to embrace you all;

Sinners alone his grace receives:

No need of him the righteous have;

He came the lost to seek and save.

5. Come, O my guilty brethren, come,

Groaning beneath your load of sin!

His bleeding heart shall make you room,

His open side shall take you in;

He calls you now, invites you home:

Come, O my guilty brethren, come!

*Charles Wesley* (1707-88)

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**Epistle Reading: Romans 8: 22 – 27**

**22**We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; **23**and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. **24**For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? **25**But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**26**Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **27**And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**Response: Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Reading: John 15: 26 – 27, John 16: 4b – 15**

**26**“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. **27**You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. **5**But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ **6**But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. **7**Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you;

but if I go, I will send him to you. **8**And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: **9**about sin, because they do not believe in me; **10**about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; **11**about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

**12**“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13**When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14**He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15**All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ

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

**THE SPOKEN WORD**

**ACT OF CONFIRMATION**

Unto Him who loved us and loosed us from our sins in His blood and made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto His God and Father;

***To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

Within the Christian Church - One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic - the Methodist Church cherishes its true place, having been raised up by God to spread Scriptural holiness throughout the world. Within this Methodist communion, these persons here present and now to be named are ready to confirm their allegiance and loyalty to Jesus Christ as Lord and their membership in his Body, the Church.

**CONFIRMANDS**

* Carlene Alexandria **BAILEY**
* Marion **EBANKS**
* Lianne **MELBOURNE**
* Igoni Darrell John **PEPPLE**
* Tuwonimi Kimberly **PEPPLE**
* Boma Sophia **PEPPLE**

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ, we have gathered here to witness your confirmation as members of Christ’s Church. This marks the completion of a process which commenced when you were welcomed into the fellowship of the Church by baptism. You were given opportunities to learn its faith, to share in its worship and to be part of its life and witness. You have heard Christ saying to you, “Follow me” and you have now, by faith, responded to that call. By responding to Christ’s call, you are taking your place among those who in several generations and in many countries have become His servants,His disciples and His friends. To you as to them He has offered and still offers Himself, and in Him all the promises of God are yours. He will not fail you nor forsake you.

You can do all things through Him who strengthens you, and as you continue to trust in Him you can be sure that He will guard what you have committed to Him against that day.

In that confidence and at this high moment we ask you to reaffirm your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ, as we, in His name, confirm your membership in His Body, the Church.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

***Confirmands: I do.***

Do you confirm your response to His call, committing yourself and your possessions to Him as a faithful and obedient steward?

***Confirmands: I do.***

Do you promise to make full and diligent use of the means of grace, to share wholeheartedly in the worship, the witness and the service of the Church and to take up your cross daily for Jesus Christ's sake?

***I pledge myself to join regularly in worship and in fellowship with other Christians,***

***to seek for a deeper experience of Christ,***

***to bear witness to Him in daily life,***

***to seek to win others to Him,***

***to be methodical in prayer and Bible study,***

***to be present at and share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as often as I can,***

***to give a substantial part of my income to His work and to the mission of the Church at home and abroad.***

***I promise to be loyal to the Methodist Church,***

***to support it by my prayers and my participation,***

***and to give personal service to my Church and my community in so far as I am able.***

**THE LAYING ON OF HANDS***(As each confirmand kneels)*

LORD, confirm this your servant \_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit that he/she may continue to be yours for ever.

*(After they have all been confirmed, together they shall stand and the Minister shall then say: )*

In the Name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we recognize each of you as a responsible member of Christ’s Church. May He who knows all our thoughts and desires bless and sanctify you and give you grace to rejoice daily in his salvation and to grow into that maturity in Christ which is perfect love. Amen.

*(The Right Hand of Fellowship is offered by the Minister and representatives of the Congregation to the newly confirmed, as they receive their Certificates & Membership Tickets)*

**CONGREGATION’S WELCOME TO THE NEWLY CONFIRMED MEMBERS**

We too gladly welcome you as fellow members of the Methodist Church and with you we dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of Almighty God, whose people we are by his saving grace.

*While in the attitude of prayer, a period of silence will be observed after which all will join in singing*

**Hymn 311 VIP  “Lord, in the strength of grace”**

**1.** Lord, in the strength of grace

With a glad heart and free,

Myself, my residue of days,

I consecrate to thee

**2.** Thy ransomed servant

I restore to thee thine own;

And, from this moment, live or die

To serve my God alone

NOTICES

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**Sacrament Of The Lord’s Supper**

**THE THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. 

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, creator and sustainer of life, your majesty and power, your continued blessings, and your great goodness fill us with wonder.

We are unworthy of the pardon that You have in mercy given. We can bring only our thanks, putting our trust in your Son, who alone saves us from evil.

Therefore, in joy, with prophets, apostles, martyrs, and saints of every time and place, we join in giving you praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

God of glory, in thanks we remember how Jesus broke bread and gave the cup to make us partakers of His body and blood, so that He might live in us and we in Him.

God of mercy, in thanks we remember how Jesus invites us to His table, imprinting on our hearts His sacrifice on the cross.

In gratitude we bow before the Righteous One, declaring His resurrection glory, and knowing that His prayers alone make us worthy to partake of His spiritual meal.

Believing Christ’s promise of eternal life, we live in Him and declare:

***Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.***

Almighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that as we receive bread and wine we may be assured that Christ’s promise in these signs will be fulfilled.

We pray that your grace may be given to us and especially to these your servants who have this day taken their place in the witness and service of your Church that you will continually preserve them from the dangers of the world, the flesh and the devil and build them up in works of faith and in lives of holiness,

that through their stewardship of service and witness your love may be spread abroad and your people find blessing and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Eternal God, lift our hearts and minds on high where, with Christ your only Son, and with the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, now and forever.

**To whom with you, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory from all who dwell on earth and in heaven throughout the ages of ages. Amen.**

The bread we break in a sharing in the Body of Christ.

***Amen.***

The Cup of Blessing which we bless is a sharing in the Blood of Christ.

***Amen. There are many of us but we are one Body and we are brothers and sisters in Jesus our Risen Saviour.***

(*Silent Prayer)*

Lord Jesus Christ who said to your apostles, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you”, regard not the failures but the faith of your Church and grant her that peace and unity which is in accordance with Your will, You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

**Lord, we come to your table, trusting in your mercy and not in any goodness of our own. So feed us with the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, your Son, that we may for ever live in Him and He in us. Amen.**

**PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.**

**Hymn 407 VIP “THE Church's one foundation”**

**1.** THE church's one foundation

Is Jesus Christ her Lord;

She is his new creation

By water and the word;

From heaven he came and sought her

To be his holy bride;

With his own blood he bought her,

And for her life he died.

2. Elect from every nation,

Yet one o'er all the earth,

Her charter of salvation

One Lord, one faith, one birth;

One holy name she blesses,

Partakes one holy food,

And to one hope she presses

With every grace endued.

**3.** Though with a scornful wonder

Men see her sore oppressed

By schisms rent asunder,

By heresies distressed;

Yet saints their watch are keeping,

Their cry goes up: How long?

And soon the night of weeping

Shall be the morn of song.

**4.** 'Mid toil and tribulation,

And tumult of her war,

She waits the consummation

Of peace for evermore;

Till with the vision glorious

Her longing eyes are blest,

And the great church victorious

Shall be the church at rest.

**5**. Yet she on earth has union

With God the Three in One,

And mystic sweet communion

With those whose rest is won.

O happy ones and holy!

Lord, give us grace that we,

Like them, the meek and lowly,

On high may dwell with thee.

**BENEDICTION**