

ORDER OF WORSHIP

INTROIT – COMBINED CHOIR

CALL TO WORSHIP (Congregation stands)

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Cong: And also with you

Leader: We come to worship the Saviour born on Christmas day.

Cong: We come to greet the promised one - the child of Mary.

Leader: We come to adore the King - born a servant in Bethlehem.

Cong: We come to praise the Son of God - our Lord and our brother.

Hymn #65 'Joy to the world'

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear Lord God, there is no one like you. You make the wind blow and the rain to fall. You bring us life when we are feeling 'dead', you bring healing to those who are sick, and you free those who are in bondage. Is there anyone like you? Absolutely, no! You are a God of mighty acts, Praise be to you forever, Amen

**Chorus: There is none like you;
No-one else can touch my heart like you do
I could search for all eternity long, I'd find
There is none like you**

[SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION]

PUBLIC PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgiving God, we confess:
the ways in which we have been caught up in the frenzied spirit of the holidays and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace; the times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires, that we have neglected the voices of your children who cry out for Justice; that in our focus on making the season perfect, we have turned away from the hurting people and broken places in our world that are in need of**

Healing; the times we have dismissed Christmas as a time only for children, and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of Love.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word Become Flesh, our Saviour and King, hear us as we humbly pray. Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Giving God, we thank you for the hope that you give us, the peace that you bestow, the joy you pour into our hearts, and for your love that redeems us and shows us the way. We thank you God for your gift of Jesus your son and that through Him your light has come into the world and made it possible for us to see, and in seeing, to rejoice. Jesus, your truth, your love, your very self, transform all of us who receive you. Loving God, Emmanuel, we thank you for being with us - for allowing your Son to walk with us and to lead us. Grant that the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of which we have heard and spoken of throughout Advent may be fully realized in us as we worship and serve you now and always. Amen.

**Chorus: Thanks, thanks, I give you thanks
For all you have done
I am so blessed, my soul is at rest
O Lord, I give you thanks**

WELCOME

PRAISE IN WORSHIP

THE BAPTISM OF AN INFANT

**A CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN
[Hymn #466 – Away in a manger]**

RESPONSIVE PSALM [PSALM 148]

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Cong: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Leader: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Cong: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

Cong: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed

Leader: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

Cong: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Leader: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Cong: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Cong: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

Cong: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Gloria....

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 63: 7 – 9

Epistle: Hebrews 2: 10 – 18

THE SUNG WORD – COMBINED CHOIR

The Gospel: St. Matthew 2: 13 - 23

Hymn 'Praise de Lord! Shout for Joy!'

THE MESSAGE

Hymn #97 'Thou didst leave Thy Throne'

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TITHES AND OFFERING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Father, you make this holy season radiant with the splendour of Jesus Christ our Light. We welcome him as Lord, the true light of the world. And we pray, O God for

your light to be upon all those we hold before you now in the silence of our hearts and with the words of our lips.

[A brief period of Silence]

After each brief prayer the congregation will respond to 'Lord in your mercy' with the words 'Hear our prayer'.

We think, O Lord, of the inn-keeper who couldn't find room for you in his Inn; and so we remember all those in our families and communities who continue to display 'inn-keeper-like qualities ignoring the needs of the sick, those who mourn, the neglected and the weak. Dear Father, may we cease from cluttering our lives with countless things - things that don't really matter - things that crowd you out, and give attention to those that need you most. **Lord in your mercy.....**

We think, O Lord, of Herod, and all the herods of this world who are hostile, jealous, and hating, all because they are afraid of what your coming might do to them. These attitudes account for the high levels of crime and violence in our land. Dear Father, replace our jealousies with unselfish joy, our fears with hope, and our hates with forgiveness. **Lord, in your mercy.....**

We think, O Lord, of the shepherds who were scorned by others as unskilled labourers and regarded by many as ignorant sinners, but who first heard the music of your coming even while they worked. As your people we continue to discriminate based on our political affiliations, the colour of our skin, our physical addresses, our education and our religion. Dear Father, deliver us from pride that sees ourselves as being better than others, thinks some tasks too menial, and from prejudices that blind us to your glory. **Lord in your mercy.....**

We think, O Lord, of the wise men from the east; who journeyed far to find you and who heeded the dreams that you gave to them. Dear Father, grant to us and to the world, a will like theirs - the will to seek you out despite the obstacles we face, the will and the desire to listen to you while we pursue our dreams, and to worship you and to give you our most precious gifts. **Lord in your mercy.....**

We think, O Lord, of Mary and of Joseph who gave over their lives to you and who did all that you asked of them

so that through Christ Jesus, Emmanuel, you might show your love for the whole world. Dear Father, help all our leaders - religious, political, business, and the head of families, to fully surrender their lives to Christ Jesus as Mary and Joseph did and experience the glory that they received because of their faith in you. **Lord, in your mercy.....**

We think, O Lord, of the Angels who proclaimed the birth of Jesus with a song of joy and who announced that peace comes to all with whom you are pleased. Dear Father, help your people to joyfully proclaim the good news of Christ Jesus through our lives. This year let those who partner with you to love the world [the charities, the social entities], love even more, and those who have never loved before, to start now. **Lord in your mercy.....**

At Christmas each year we are tempted to say, "We have heard all this so many times before; we know the story by heart." Lord, remind us of the difference between knowing the story and knowing the one that the story is about. Help us to see ourselves and our attitudes lived out by the people in the Christmas story and help us to embrace what is good and turn away from what is bad. **Lord, in your mercy.....**

Loving God, touch all whom we have prayed for. Help them and us to remember to put Jesus in his right place so that we all may share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Bring them with us to eternal joy in the kingdom of heaven, where Christ Jesus lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Closing Hymn 'Jesus comes today'

SENDING

Praising God is not enough.
And so we will go to offer practical help to our sisters and brothers.
 Joyful noises do not feed those around us.
And so we will go with Jesus to care for those forgotten by our society.
 Songs of thanksgiving do not replace service.

And so we will go to share the peace of the Spirit with a broken, yet hopeful world.

THE BENEDICTION

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES – 29th – Bro. Jon Hall, Bro. Frederick Hawthorne; **30th** – Bro. Gary Stennett; **31st** – Sis. Fay Nash-Campbell; **JANUARY – 1st** – Sis. Hazel Bennett; **2nd** – Bro. Cedric Cummings; **3rd** – Sis. Vivienne Vassall; **4th** – Sis. Tashana Davidson, Sis. Michelle Simpson, Sis. Udith Sinclair

TODAY: 6:00 p.m. – EVENING SERVICE. Led by the Bible Study Group

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Tues. 31 Dec **10:30 p.m. WATCHNIGHT SERVICE**
 Rev'd Dr. Oral Thomas

FUTURE EVENTS

Sun. 05 Jan	6:00 a.m.	COVENANT SERVICE Rev'd Dr. Alison Iton
	7:45 a.m.	ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL
	8:30 a.m.	COVENANT SERVICE Rev'd Dr. George Mulrain Bro. Jerand Phills
	5:00 p.m.	EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE Sis. Lilieth Deacon
Mon. 06 Jan	6:00 p.m.	PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING
Sat. 11 Jan	9:00 a.m.	ANGER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR
Sun. 16 Feb	5:00 p.m.	ANNUAL CHOIR HYMN FESTIVAL in memory of the late Rev. Dr Byron K. Chambers will be held here at Providence.

WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU OF THE PASSING OF Sis. Dawn Dennison (former Local Preacher) who died last Sunday at Medical Associates. Sincere condolences to her husband, Kenneth, sons Richard and Ronald and other members of her family. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

PLEASE REMEMBER PRAYERFULLY, CALL AND VISIT - 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. Lois Kelly-Miller**, Gordon Town. St. Andrew; **Sis. Pearl Morgan**, 5 Elliott Ave(8), 924-0005; **Sis. Inez Morrison**, Trafalgar Apartments, 1 Caribbean Close, 667-1963 ; **Sis. Gertrude Phillips**, 4 Finchley Close(6), 977-9861; **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 Ina Chambers**, 1 Chambers Lane (6), 978-6398; **Sis. Lilith Johnson**, 29 Hope Mews (6),927-7021; **Sis Mavis Mitchell**, (970 1688); **Bro. Horace Brown**, 8 Halifax Cres, 978-0091; **Sis. Lauris Goldson**, 30 Glendon Circle, 927-0711; **Sis. Clover Treasure**, 816-2424; **Sis. Winsome Jameson**, 453-6983; **Bro. Carlton Brown; Sis. Myra Lynch**, 702-2800, **Sis. Bernice Saunders**, 7 Maynard Dr, Patrick City. **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 Lesma Brown, Sis. Pam Morris, Sis. Muriel Lewis, Sis. Pauline Mason, Sis. Enid Phillips, Sis. Marjory Smythe, Sis. Sadie Mitchell, Sis. Carmen Subaran, Sis. Elaine Rickards, Sis. Mae Polack, Rev'd Claude Cadogan; Sis. Lena Anderson, Sis. Janice Robinson, Sis. Inez Bernard, Bro. Eric King, Rev'd Dr. Rupert Young, Sis. Patricia Welsh, Sis. Gerda Theobalds, Sis. Hazel Cobran, Bro. Roy Thomas**

THIS WEEK'S DEVOTIONAL READINGS FROM "OUR DAILY BREAD"

Sun. 29 Dec	Psalm 104:24-35	What Remains in the Eye
Mon. 30 Dec	Acts 14:21-28	Times of Completion
Tues. 31 Dec	Lam. 3:19-26	Faith-Building Memories
Wed. 01 Jan	Ezra 1:1-11	Beginning Again
Thur 02 Jan	Philippians 3:7-14	Pressing On
Fri. 03 Jan	1 Chron. 29:10-13	Breathtaking Glory
Sat. 04 Jan	John 5:31-40	What Do the Experts say?

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



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 132 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6
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DIVINE WORSHIP SERVICE
 Sunday, December 29, 2019
LORD'S DAY IN THE NATIVITY OCTAVE
 7:30 a.m.

PREACHER
 Sis. Sherlette Rookwood-Brown

6:00 p.m. – Evening Service
 Bible Study Group

MUSICIANS
 Bro. Godfrey Taylor, Bro. Roger Williams
 Sis. Sandra Boyne, Bro. Mozain Sutherland

STEWARDS ON DUTY
 Sis. Cesna McCain, Sis. Sharda Small
 Sis. Pamella McKenzie, Sis. Sobva Pepple