**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**

**MCCA YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS LORD’S DAY**

**4- Nativity**

**Sunday, November 28, 2021**

**8:30 a.m.**

***LITURGIST***

*Sis. Sharda Small*

**PREACHER**

*Bro. Michael Boyne*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Introit: “Give Thanks, with a Grateful Heart”** *(*ReGeneration)

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son *(Rept.)*

***And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us*** *(Rept. x2)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We come in God’s presence, bringing our worship.

**Cong: We come in God’s presence, with a sacrifice of praise.**

Leader: We come in God’s presence, with a desire to be restored.

**Cong: We come in God’s presence, to experience renewal.**

Leader: We come in God’s presence, afflicted by the cares of this world.

**Cong: We come in God’s presence to experience healing and deliverance.**

Leader: We come in God’s presence with questions, uncertainties, doubts, and fears about the days ahead.

**Cong: We come in God’s presence to experience God’s assurances.**

Leader: We come in God’s presence with our frailties, hesitancies, and ignorance.

**Cong: We come in God’s presence, to experience the grace that is made perfect when we are weak.**

**ALL: We come expecting to be blessed as we praise You, O God!**

**Hymn: “ALL THINGS WILL BE FINE” *(VIP #16)***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1**. All things will be fineIn my Father’s houseAll things will be fineIn my Father’s houseWhere there’s joy, joy, joy. | ***2.***There will be no sinIn my Father’s houseThere will be no sin In my Father’s houseWhere there’s joy, joy, joy. |
| **3.** Do you want to goIn my Father’s house?Do you want to goIn my Father’s house?Where there’s joy, joy, joy. | **4**.Yes I want to goIn my Father’s houseYes I want to go In my Father’s houseWhere there’s joy, joy, joy. *Anon* |

**ADVENT CEREMONY**

**Reader:** "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." *(Isaiah 9:2, 6)*

**Reader:** Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, unexpected liberator of the people, vulnerable incarnation of the Holiest of Holies, a new Name for God.

**People:** **Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never anticipated.**

**Reader:** On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be.

***(Light a purple candle.)***

**Hymn: "There’s a light upon the mountains" (Stanza 1)**

**1**. There’s a light upon the mountains,

 And the day is at the spring,

 When our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory

 Of the King:

 Weary was our heart with waiting,

 And the night-watch seemed so long:

 But His triumph-day is breaking,

 And we hail it with a song.

**PRAYER OF ADORATION:**

Leader: We praise You, Almighty God, how awesome is Your Name! We bless You, as our Keeper and Preserver. We worship and give You praise as we stand in awe of Your greatness. You are the One who gives power to the faint and strength to the powerless. We look to You because Your name is a strong tower, that the righteous run to and find refuge. We find contentment in You, even as we recognise that when we are stretched beyond our wildest imagination, there is peace and a sense of calm that comes with knowing You.

**ALL: We adore You as Lord and Creator; may our hearts exude all joy when we think of You, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.**

**TIME OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Let us consider, how, as we have been confronted with the challenges brought on by the global pandemic, we have given in to the testing of these days; given up on God’s divine plans for our lives even as our faith waned; lost sight of purpose amidst the difficulties of each passing day; and how in so many ways, we have sinned against God and even among our families, friends and others around us. Let us privately confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness.

*(A time of silence for personal confession)*

**ALL: Father God, who accompanies us along life’s pathway, purify us this day, as we seek to be redirected to the paths of righteousness, to recover from our sinfulness and find joy and peace, through Your resilient Spirit at work in and through us.**

**Song: ‘CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART AND PURIFY ME’** *– Donnie McClurkin*

Create in me a clean heart
And purify me, purify me
Create in me a clean heart
So I may worship Thee *(x3)*

Cast me not away from Thy presence
Please don't take Your spirit from me

And restore the joy of salvation
So that I may worship Thee *(x2)*

**ASURANCE OF PARDON:**

Leader: God’s forgiveness and love abounds today, cleansing, renewing and restoring us into spiritually resilient beings – saved by grace, through faith.

**ALL: We give honour and glory to Our King who forgives. Amen.**

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

TIME OF THANKSGIVING & GRATITUDE: 2 VIDEO TESTIMONIES:

MCCA YOUTH PRESIDENT’S VIDEO MESSAGE

TIME OF PRAISE IN WORSHIP*(Praise Team)*

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 30:12-17**- Sis. Leighanne Williams

12 For thus says the Lord: Your hurt is incurable, your wound is grievous.
13 There is no one to uphold your cause,no medicine for your wound,
 no healing for you. 14 All your lovers have forgotten you; they care nothing for you;
for I have dealt you the blow of an enemy, the punishment of a merciless foe,
because your guilt is great, because your sins are so numerous.
15 Why do you cry out over your hurt? Your pain is incurable.
Because your guilt is great, because your sins are so numerous, I have done these things to you. 16 Therefore all who devour you shall be devoured,
 and all your foes, every one of them, shall go into captivity; those who plunder you shall be plundered,  and all who prey on you I will make a prey. 17 For I will restore health to you,  and your wounds I will heal, says the Lord,
because they have called you an outcast:‘It is Zion; no one cares for her!’

 Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

 **Cong: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

24 Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. 25Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one.

 26So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; 27but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

 Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

 **Cong: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:28-30 (JNT)** Sis.Francine Williams

 **Glory to You, O God**

28“Aal a unu we taiyad an bordn dong unu kom tu mi an mi wi mek unu get fi res.

29 Jos laka ou di kou tek di wudn yuok pan dem shuolda, a so unu fi tek op di sitn dem we mi tel unu fi du, an tek iin wa mi a tiich, kaa mi wi tek taim wid unu, an mi riili ombl, an unu wi get fi res unu suol.

30 Kaaz di sitn dem we mi a tel unu fi du, dem iizi an di luod we mi de gi unu — lait.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ

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

**SERMON: RUN YOUR OWN RACE**

THE RESPONSE

REGENERATION: HOLD ON

NOTICES*,* TITHES & OFFERING*(Offering is in aid of Youth Work, Congregation, District and Connexion)*

**Hymn of Commitment: “SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD” *(VIP #151a)***

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me,

Mould me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

**INTERCESSION: #SpiritualResilience**

Leader: As we reflect on the proclaimed Word of God today, and the situation across the Caribbean and Americas, and the wider world, as leaders seek to identify and implement measures to aid our societies to return to some semblance of normalcy and ease the financial and emotional burdens that the pandemic and natural disasters have forced us to endure, let us spend some time in prayer for direction and God’s intervention. Let us pray that God will make our people, particularly our youth and young adults – spiritually resilient in this season, so we’ll experience recovery, renewal and refreshing.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**MCCA YOUTHIN FOCUS**

Leader: What is the Motto of MCCA Youth, to which we subscribe?

**Y/YA: Setting examples in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity.**

*(1 Timothy 4:12)*

Leader: In the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is

 leading us on this Road to Recovery, and

 enabling us to live in Spiritual Resilience, let us

 declare our **MCCA Youth Pledge** as members

of this family.

**Y/YA: MCCA YOUTH PLEDGE:**

Accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour:

I pledge wholeheartedly to be a Godly example to others in every area of my life. I trust in God to equip me as I serve the Church and my community daily, so that the Kingdom of God is extended through my commitment, readiness, and diligence – so help me God.

**Closing Hymn: I’M ON FIRE FOR JESUS *(VIP #476A, VERSES 1&3)***

 ***I’M on fire for Jesus, I’m aflame for Jesus.***

 ***There’s a fire burning in my heart;***

 ***Every thought and action fuelled by his passion,***

 ***I’m ablaze and burning in my heart.***

**1.** Jesus Christ lived upon the earth

 with us Immanuel!

 Doing such good throughout the earth,

 there is so much to tell.

 Oh! How he bled upon the cross

 and died because of us!

 God raised him up, Jesus today

 lives and is here to stay.

 ***I’M on fire for Jesus, I’m aflame for Jesus.***

 ***There’s a fire burning in my heart;***

 ***Every thought and action fuelled by his passion,***

 ***I’m ablaze and burning in my heart.***

**3.** I’m on the move, on the right track

 with none to hold me back.

 Forward I go, fearing no foe,

 there’s nothing that I lack.

 This kindled flame within my heart

 has spread and won’t go out;

 I’m all aflame

 I’ll never tire

 blessed with this sacred fire.

**SENDING FORTH**

Leader: Go forth into the world, with confidence that as children of God, on this road to recovery, we are not alone, and Yahweh is not through with us yet! Go forth with commitment to the mission of being spiritually resilient, by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in you.

**Cong: We go reassured by God, that we are on this road to recovery and will land safely, as long as our hearts and minds are fixed on spiritual resilience. *Amen.***

**BIRTHDAYS & Anniversaries – 30th –** Sis. Simeca Alexander, Sis. Sashareen Taylor; **December** – **1st** – Sis. Beverlie Baugh; **2nd** – Sis. Muriel Lewis, Sis. Ashley Philips; **3rd** – Sis. Velta turner, Sis. Gail Hepburn, Sis. Kahyna  Ridley; **4th** – Sis. Doret Solomon, Sis. Hazel Cobran

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Tues. Nov 30 6:00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY

Wed. Dec 01 12 Noon PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Sun. Dec 05 8:30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION**

Rev’d Dr. Oral Thomas

Mon. Dec 06 6:00 p.m. PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

**The Harvest Committee**  sincerely thanks everyone who so generously contributed  harvest gifts to the Food Barrel. Your gifts are much appreciated!

**HACO -** Hope Area Churches Organization Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at Christian Life Fellowship, Gordon Town Road. A notice will be given when the Zoom link is available. Please confirm your attendance by contacting the Secretary: Mrs. Joan Witter at church06@cwjamaica.com

**Harvest Take-Out Lunch -** The Fundraising Committee announces the Harvest Take-Out Lunch on Friday, December 3, 2021. Menu includes Barbeque Chicken, Curry Goat, Roast Pork, Escovitch Fish with Bammy. Meals will be served with Rice & Peas and Tossed Salad. Cost is $1,800.00 each. Meals will be available from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**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**. 8764462475

Daily between **4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m** 8763157643

Generally available except on Mondays. 8769271439

**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. 28 Nov Psalm 9:1-2, 7-10 A Sincere Thank You

Mon. 29 Nov Isaiah 6:1-10 Hazardous Materials

Tues. 30 Nov Ephesians 4:11-14 Carefully Crafted

Wed. 01 Dec Romans 8:31-39 Is There Hope?

Thur 02 Dec 2 John 1:1-11 The Flip Side of Love

Fri. 03 Dec Matthew 6:19-21 The Lost Envelope

Sat. 04 Dec 1 John 3:19-24 Free from Condemnation

**PASTORAL LETTER**

Greetings on this first Lord’s Day of Advent 2021!

And a special welcome to our Youth and Young adults as the lead us in worship today under the theme ‘Road to Recovery – Spiritual Resilience’.

We give God thanks and praise for the gift of the opportunity to traverse another Advent, anew. I pray that it will be a journey of expectancy and hope as if pregnant with the Lord in our wombs. AndI also pray for a journey of faithful alertness to the promised yet unannounced return of our Lord and Saviour amidst the distressing signs of our times.

Imagine with me that at this time Mary would have been far advanced in her pregnancy and nearing delivery in the midst of heavy oppression under Roman rule. Indeed, as foretold by Jeremiah, a righteous branch (Jeremiah 33:15) would spring up from David through her womb to execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Some of us may have thought that the pandemic would have slowed the rate of pregnancies across the world as prospective parents would make the choice to wait. But God has ordained fertility as babies continue to be born in the midst of the seeming barrenness and distress of our context (Luke 21:34). Also, the ordained fertility of acts of kindness, compassion, justice, and solidarity have been bursting forth from the wombs of those who have chosen to experience these birth pangs in the midst of the need.

As we wait, watching the signs every day, let us pray with the psalmist (25:4-5), that we and the gifts which fill our wombs may display God’s ways, teachings and truths – as God is our salvation and our hope.

And may the Lord make each of you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we, your pastoral staff, abound in love for you. And may the Lord so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints (1 Thessalonians 3: 12). Amen.

Rev. Alison Iton