**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**

**FIRST LORD’S DAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**“BAPTISM OF JESUS”**

**Sunday, January 9, 2022**

**8:30 a.m.**

**PREACHER**

*Rev’d Barrington Litchmore*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Introit “As the deer pants for the water”**

As the deer pants for the water,

So my soul longs after you;

You alone are my heart’s desire

And I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength and shield;*

*To you alone may my spirit yield-*

*You alone are my heart’s desire,*

*And I long to worship you.*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

**Resp: This is the house of God and these are the gates of heaven**.

Leader: We have come from different homes and families with different hopes and expectations.

**Resp: We have come to unite our hearts and voices in praise to Our God.**

Leader: Let us praise the Lord!

**Resp: The Lord’s Name be praised.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts; lift up your voices; let us praise the Lord!

**Resp: We will praise our God in his sanctuary.**

**Hymn #5 VIP “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee”** [**Verses 1, 3 & 4]**

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,

God of glory, Lord of Love!

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,

Opening to the sun above.

Melt the cloud of sin and sadness;

Drive the dark of doubt away,

Giver of immortal gladness,

Fill us with the light of day!

Thou art giving and forgiving,

Ever blessing, ever blest,

Well-spring of the joy of living,

Ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our brother,

All who live in love are thine;

Teach us how to love each other,

Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus

Which the morning stars began;

Love divine is reigning o’er us,

Binding all within its span.

Ever singing, march we onward,

Victors in the midst of strife;

Joyful music lifts us sunward,

In the triumph song of life.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 29 (VIP584)

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Cong: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

**Cong: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**Cong: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

**Cong: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord causes the oak to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

**Cong: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

Leader: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

**The Gloria**

PrayerS of Adoration, Confession & Thanksgiving

Praise in Worship

Welcome, Notices & Offertory

OFFERING FOR THE FOOD BARREL

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM MPB pg 81**

* *Halle Adeya Keandra Price*

**Hymn #475 VIP “I think when I read the sweet story of old” [verses 1 &2]**

I think when I read the sweet story of old,

When Jesus was here among men,

How he called little children to his fold,

I should like to have been with him then;

I wished that his hand had been placed on my head,

That his arm had been thrown around me,

And that I might have seen his kind look when he said:

Let the little ones come unto me!

Yet still to his footstool in prayer I may go,

And ask for a share in his love;

And if I now earnestly seek him below,

I shall see him and hear him above.

In that beautiful place he is gone to prepare

For all who are washed and forgiven;

And many dear children are gathering there,

For of such is the kingdom of heaven.

***The Minister shall then pray:***

Minister:

O God our heavenly Father, who in every generation gives new sons and daughters to your Church, we pray that this child now to be baptized may, by the power of the Holy Spirit, daily increase in the knowledge and love of you, through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

***The Institution***

Dearly beloved, as we are about to receive this child into the Church by baptism, let us recall both the promise and the warning of our Lord. The warning is that those who shall cause any one of these little ones to stumble, it were better that a millstone were hanged around their necks and they were drowned in the ocean, (Matt. 18:6), and the promise is that those who receive little children in his name receive the Lord himself.

His promise of grace is boundless. The promise of the Holy Spirit is to you and your children and to all who are afar off (Acts 2:39). He died for all (2 Cor. 5:14-15). And all are in need and within reach of His grace and mercy.

We are given the assurance that this child is also heir to that grace and a partaker of these promises and that he who once took little children in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them, will likewise favourably receive this child and give to her the Holy Spirit that she may become a partaker of his heavenly Kingdom.

Let us therefore hear the Words of Institution as recorded in the First Gospel: “Jesus came and spoke to the eleven disciples, saying, *“All authority has been given to me in heaven and in earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”*

**Amen.**

***The Baptismal Prayer:***

**Father, we thank you that you have created all things and made us in your own image. That after we had fallen into sin you did not leave us in darkness,but sent your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. That by his death and resurrection he broke the power of evil. And that by sending the Holy Spirit you have made us a new creation.**

***The Minister continues:***

Minister: Be present with us Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, that this child now baptized with this water, may die to sin and be raised to the new life in Christ. **Amen.**

***The Promises***

Members of the Body of Christ, who are now in his name to receive this child, will you so maintain the common life of worship and service that he/she and all the children among you maygrow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord?

**Cong: With God’s help, we will.**

***The Minister says to the parents or guardians:***

You have brought this child to be baptized and you will receive her again to be trained in the doctrines, privileges and duties of the Christian religion. I ask you therefore:Will you provide for this your child a Christian home of love and faithfulness?

**Cong: With God’s help, we will**.

Will you help her by your words, prayers and example, to renounce evil and to put her trust in Jesus Christ as her Saviour?

**Cong: With God’s help, we will.**

Will you train and encourage her towards confirmation in the membership of the Church, and to serve Christ in the world?

**Cong: With God’s help, we will.**

Will you, who have come to support these parents, help them in the Christian nurture of this child?

**Cong: With God’s help, we will.**

Let us pray:

Almighty and Immortal God, the aid of all who are in need, the helper of all who come to you for refuge, the life of those who believe and the resurrection of the dead: we call upon you for this child, whom we bring to you in this Holy Sacrament.Receive her, O Lord, as you have promised by your well-beloved Son, saying, *Ask and you shall have, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you*; so give to us who ask, let us who seek find, open the gate to us who knock, that this child may become and ever remain Christ’s true disciple, and may at last attain to the eternal kingdom which you have promised, by Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son, Jesus Christ, shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home, bless, we pray you, the home of this child, and grant wisdom andunderstanding to all who shall have the care of her, that she may grow up in your constant fear and love; through the same your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Merciful God and Heavenly Father, give wisdom and grace to the parents of this child, that they may train her and all their other offspring in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and in the truths ofyour holy word; through Jesus Christ, our Only Mediator and Redeemer. **Amen.**

***The Baptism***

***The Minister then addresses the parents of the child:***

What then do you request for this your child?

***That she may be baptized.***

Name this child.

*Halle Adeya Keandra Price*

*Halle Adeya Keandra Price*, I baptize you with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

By Baptism we receive this child into the fellowship of Christ’sChurch and pray that she may not be ashamed to hold fast the faith of Christ crucified, to fight against evil, and to persevere as Christ’s faithful soldier and servant to her life’s end. **Amen.**

**Congregation: The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.**

***The Petitions***

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that this child may continue to partake of the Holy Spirit, may grow in grace and may profit thereby unto salvation.

**Amen.**

Grant that the parents of this child may have grace to set before her the example of godly living and by their prayers, Christian instruction and wise counsels be the ministers of God to him/her for good. **Amen.**

Grant that this Church may be endowed with heavenly wisdom that it may nurture the children received by Holy Baptism into your Nameand by constant care and vigilance, guide them in the way of truth and peace. **Amen.**

***Benediction***

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. **Amen.**

**The Collect**:

**Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: We pray that by the power of your Spirit you will complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

Old Testament: Isaiah 43: 1 – 7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. 4 Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. 5 Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 6 I will say to the north, ‘Give them up’, and to the south, ‘Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.’

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**Response: Thanks be to God**

Gospel: Mark 1: 1 – 11

 **Glory to You, O God**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way; 3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 “Prepare the way of the Lord,  make his paths straight” ’, 4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ

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

**The Sermon**

**Prayer**

**Hymn # 300 VIP “Saviour from sin, I wait to prove”**

1. Saviour from sin, I wait to prove

That Jesus is thy healing name;

To lose, when perfected in love,

What’er I have, or can or am.

I stay me on thy faithful word:

The servant shall be as his Lord.

1. Answer that gracious end in me

For which thy precious life was given;

Redeem from all iniquity,

Restore, and make me meet for heaven;

Unless thou purge my every stain,

Thy suffering and my faith are vain.

1. Didst thou not die that I might live

No longer for myself, but thee,

Might, body, soul, and spirit give

To him who gave himself for me?

Come then, my Mater and my God,

Take the dear purchase of thy blood.

1. Thine only devoted servant claim

For thine own truth and mercy’s sake;

Hallow in me the glorious name;

Me for thine this moment take,

And change and throughly purify;

Thine only may I live and die.

**Benediction**

**Leader:** As you depart, remember whose you are. When you pass through the waters, our God will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned and the flame shall not consume you. Go with the peace of Christ.

**Response: Amen! Thanks be to God.**

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**Congregational Meeting**

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**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES – 9th** – Bro. Milton Vassall; **13th** – Sis. Carmen Allicock, Sis. Shirley Wallace-Pinnock;

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mon. Jan 10 6:00 p.m. FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tues. Jan 11 6:00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY

Wed. Jan 12 12 Noon PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Sun Jan 16 8:30 a.m. DIVINE WORSHIP**

Rev’d Alison Iton

**Mon. Jan 17 6:00 p.m. MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

 **MEETING**

**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

**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. 09 Jan Matthew 7:24-27 The Leaning Tower

Mon. 10 Jan 2 Timothy 1:6-14 Here Be Dragons?

Tues. 11 Jan Matthew 2:1-12 The Only King

Wed. 12 Jan Psalm 146 A Lifestyle of Praise

Thur 13 Jan Matthew 9:27-38 Everyone Needs Compassion

Fri. 14 Jan Psalm 90:4,12-15 Slowing Down Time

Sat. 15 Jan Job 38:4-11 Perfectly Placed

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**PASTORAL LETTER**

Greetings to All

Our education system has faced several challenges during the past two years of online classes. The Covid-19 pandemic moved us into a space where face to face classes became an abnormal phenomenon. Among the buzz words associated with the pandemic, we hear much being said about learning loss and learning gap. These are cited as effects of online classes with great inequities in terms of access to stable internet and compatible device. National goals for the education of our children seem unattainable given the disparities in resources available to the various learners. Those who can afford it seek to engage private tutors.

God, the Master Teacher, has always advocated for personalized learning with a tutor who forms relationships with God's children, a tutor who is available every minute of the day (Jer. 31:33, John 14:26). As we seek to learn of Christ, let us make good use of God's learning resources - the word of God and the Holy Spirit. No request is overlooked in the distribution; we only need to utilize them fully. Christians should aspire to meet God's learning goals - that all may "come to unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:13). Private tutoring is available free of cost.

Hear God's invitation for private tutoring - I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. (Psalm 32:8) God's learning goals for those who are followers of Christ are attainable. "His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" 2 Petee1:3. Let us make time for daily tutoring sessions with the word of God and the Spirit of God. Meditate on God's word day and night. Ask the Spirit to teach you all truth. Every child of God can learn, every follower of Christ can grow by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ's Service

Rev'd Charlene Burton