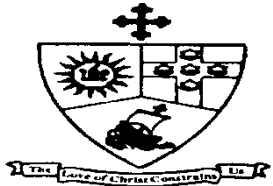




**THE METHODIST CHURCH IN THE  
CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS-  
JAMAICA DISTRICT PROVIDENCE  
CIRCUIT**



*District Theme:*

*"SPREADING SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS TO REFORM THE  
NATION -----BEGINNING WITH ME"*

**DISTRICT PRESIDENT**  
Bishop Christine Gooden-Benguche  
**CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENT**  
Rev'd Dr. George Mulrain

**PROVIDENCE CIRCUIT  
ON-LINE WORSHIP SERVICE  
SUNDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2020  
AT 8:30 A.M.**

*Preacher- Rev. Dr. George Mulrain*

**READERS**

*Bro. Newton Amos  
Sis. Sydna Amos  
Sis. Alexia McPherson  
Sis. Yvonne Beckford  
Sis. Myrtle Patterson*

**ORGANIZATION**

*Providence Digital Media Team*

**Theme: Prepare**

**WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to all who join us in worship. This is the second Lord's Day in Advent, the season when we are reminded to be prepared for the Second Coming of Him who first came to earth as a baby, even Jesus Christ, Son of God. Please remember that today's liturgy includes the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, so if you are in your homes, have the necessary elements of bread and wine (or its drink substitute) appropriately covered on a small table.

**Advent Candle Liturgy:** led by Mr. & Mrs Newton Amos:  
**CLEAN-UP CREW**

Reader One: Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company that will come.

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

**(TWO PURPLE CANDLES ARE LIT)**

Reader One: So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that company is coming.

**HYMN #133 VIP**

1 COME, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free,  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart,

3 Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne. Amen.

**PRAYER of Adoration, Confession & Forgiveness**

Great God, through whom the earth, the heavens, the sun, moon, stars and planets came into being, we praise and adore You on this second Advent Sunday. You sent Your Son Jesus Christ into the world to declare Your love for us. We await patiently the occasion when He shall return for the second time.

As we worship, we bow ashamedly, because we neglected to be a source of strength and comfort to those in need within our community including the Church, the Body of Christ. We have not witnessed sufficiently for You during the past week. We have even been called "Sunday Christians" as persons looking on are not impressed that week in week out, we honour You with our lives. We go merrily along, carrying out our regular chores but we do not spare a thought for what You did by sending Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son to live among us, to minister to our needs and to alert us to expectations that You have of us. When we reflect upon our relationship with You, we are bound to admit that we have tried but not hard enough. We are not reliable as Your sons and daughters. You have been journeying with us and offering protection from harm and danger, but we have done very little to merit Your care.

Merciful God, we request pardon for our sinfulness. Forgive us for being such poor ambassadors. We call Your name, make empty promises to follow the example of Jesus, we invoke the Holy Spirit when it is convenient for us; but we could be doing so much more that would be beneficial to humanity and merit Your approval. In seeking and accepting Your forgiveness, we ask that You do not give up on us. Please continue to work in and through us so that eventually our lives may reflect completely that we are men and women made in Your divine image and likeness.

Bless this time of worship. May there be something special for every person who participates, for we pray in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our soon coming King. Amen.

**WORD TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
"PEACE"**

Boys and girls, during the season of Advent, there are four buzz words that are mentioned everywhere – hope, peace, joy and love. If you followed last Sunday's worship, you would know that the preacher, Sis. Lilieth Deacon, spoke about 'hope'. Today, I point you to the word "Peace". When

Jesus came the first time, he was referred to as the Prince of Peace. Peace is an inner feeling that we have when we are satisfied that everything is okay. Peace is not just a matter of not hearing noise. In fact, there can be a lot of noise around, but you may feel comfortable, safe, and secure. Jesus on one occasion was in a boat with his disciples and there was a storm which caused winds to howl, the boat to rock. The disciples were scared. Jesus, meanwhile, was fast asleep. He was at peace. One way whereby people do the opposite of peace is when they

1 LET there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth,  
the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator,  
children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other  
in perfect harmony.

NOTICES

COLLECT FOR THE SECOND LORD’S DAY IN ADVENT

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40: 1– 11 read by Sis. Alexia McPherson (Providence Methodist Early Childhood Institution)

1 Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD’s hand  
double for all her sins.  
3 A voice cries out:  
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”  
6 A voice says, “Cry out!”  
And I said, “What shall I cry?”  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
7 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
8 The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
9 Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;<sup>[a]</sup>  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,<sup>[a]</sup>  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”  
10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.  
This is the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

quarrel. If someone was of a different nationality, Jesus was not the type to quarrel or say unkind things about them. Today, as followers of Jesus, we should not reject persons who are of a different colour of skin, or who might not be as clever as you are. If we follow the example of Jesus, we would treat everybody with respect as we try to live peaceably with everyone. There is a beautiful hymn that says “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

HYMN #286

2 Let peace begin with me;  
let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take,  
let this be my solemn vow:  
to take each moment  
and live each moment  
in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me.

RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13 led by

Sis. Yvonne Beckford

1 LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.  
2 You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.  
8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.<sup>[a]</sup>  
9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.  
10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
12 The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
13 Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE EPISTLE, 2 Peter 3:8–15a

8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you,<sup>[a]</sup> not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.<sup>[a]</sup>

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of

holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening<sup>[a]</sup> the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup> But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

This is the Word of the Lord      Thanks be to God.

**THE GOSPEL Mark 1:1–8** , read by Sis. Myrtle Patterson  
(Providence Methodist Early Childhood Institution)

Glory to You, O God.  
1 The beginning of the good news<sup>[a]</sup> of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,<sup>[c]</sup>

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,<sup>[d]</sup>  
who will prepare your way;  
<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared<sup>[e]</sup> in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And 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. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He 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. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with<sup>[f]</sup> water; but he will baptize you with<sup>[g]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of Christ  
Praise be to Christ our Lord.

**SERMON: “Prepare” – Rev. Dr. George Mulrain**  
**ANTHEM “Jesus is Coming Again” by the CHANCEL CHOIR**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**  
Dear God, in the light of the current world situation, we are conscious that several persons are feeling that the usual celebrations at this time of the year ought to be postponed. We are aware nevertheless that You are in control. It is You who sent Jesus Christ in the first instance to declare Your love and ownership of the world. It is You who determine the

1 MAKE me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
Where there is injury, your pardon. Lord;  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you:  
  
O Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

(during which you may set aside the Offering for some aspect of the church's ministry)

THE THANKSGIVING  
The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them up unto the Lord.

occurrence of that great event when the Christ shall put in his second appearance. The second Advent can come at any time when we least expect, therefore we are to continue celebrating. We are not to cease in our efforts to point men, women and children to the truth of Your presence, to the mission and ministry of the Son and to the ongoing influence of the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives.

Our prayers are lifted to You, loving God, for the world in which we live, that it may eventually be the place where kingdom values are evident everywhere. As we pray for peace, love and justice, we spare our thoughts for those who are engaged in helping our local communities to achieve them. Anoint those in the political arena who have a decisive role in the government to bring about positive results in this regard. We pray for those in civic authority that they may be energized and not feel demoralized even as critique might be levelled against them in the exercise of their duties. We lift up health professionals and all who are working assiduously to bring the corona pandemic under control. We ask You to inspire all who are committed to fighting against any form of disease, so that an environment of health and indeed one of “total wellbeing” might be a reality in our time. We are conscious, dear God, that it is not only high-profile persons who share the responsibility. It is a large cross section of persons for whom we now pray – teachers, home makers, civil servants, secretarial staff, those in administration, sanitary workers, taxi and bus drivers, engineers, agriculturists, farmers, police officers, lawyers – dear God, there are so many categories of workers, too numerous to mention, for whom we are asking Your blessing and guidance as they discharge their respective duties for the good of us all.

We intercede for preachers and ministers of the Gospel in every church in this land. For them we seek ongoing anointing, so that they may make plain the Word of God for the present situation. May bishops, ministers, stewards, class leaders, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders be committed to the task. Inspire the church with prophets who will devise the ways and means whereby the new normal that is with us might be creatively dealt with. Convict with the power of the Gospel those in our midst who delight in breaking the law, to the detriment of human lives. Stay the hand of those intent upon using the knife and the gun to inflict pain on others. May we in this land we love witness a lessening of crime and violence, that we may breathe air that is physically and spiritually pure. Visit with Your love the sick, sad and lonely. Comfort those who mourn the loss of loved ones. May the peace which we associate at this time of the year be at the background of all that will take place during this year's Advent and Christmas. These mercies we humbly ask of you, in none other name save that of Jesus Christ, our living Lord and Saviour. Amen.  
THE LORD'S PRAYER      [Caribbean Praise CD – Track #6](#)

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**HYMN VIP 287**  
2 Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
And where there's sadness, ever joy:  
  
3 Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving to all men that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right and fitting so to do.  
Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the Universe,  
And blessed is your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
Who, on the night in which he was betrayed,  
Took bread into his holy hands  
and looking up to heaven,  
Gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying,

“Take this and eat it. This is My Body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! Therefore, Father, in obedience to his command we do this in remembrance of him, praying that you will accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Grant that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we who receive your gifts of bread and wine may share in the Body and Blood of Christ and become united with him.

And, as we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, we pray that you will bring us with your whole creation to your heavenly kingdom. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

#### **Prayer of humble access**

Lord, we come to your table, trusting in your mercy and not in any goodness of our own. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table, but it is your nature always to have mercy, and on that we depend. 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.

Silence is kept for a space.

Let us humbly partake of the elements.

For eating the Bread:

The Body of Christ, broken for us. Amen.

For drinking of the Cup:

The Blood of Christ shed for us. Amen.

After having partaken, the following thanksgiving prayer:

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all mankind. Amen.

#### **HYMN #138 VIP (NB. IN THIS VERSION THE VERSES ARE ALL SUNG BUT NOT IN THE SAME ORDER AS APPEARS IN THE VIP)**

1 O COME, O come, Immanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe:

3 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people  
save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the  
grave:

4 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery:

5 O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

#### **The Benediction**



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