**THE METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS -**

**JAMAICA DISTRICT**

**Providence Methodist Church**

**Carol Service**

**ON**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021**

**AT**

**5:00 P.M.**

**NARRATOR**

Sis. Marion Ebanks

**LEADER**

Rev’d Dr. George Mulrain

**Organist:**

Bro Godfrey Taylor



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Inspirational Music

**Call to Worship**

We sing of God's mercy and grace shown to all generations. We praise God's constant and never-ending love and faithfulness. We rejoice that God's promise of an anointed one—the Messiah— has been fulfilled and is being fulfilled in every age and culture. O come, O come, Emmanuel—our God is with us—forever!

**Hymn 66 VIP “O Come all ye faithful”**

Oh, come, all ye faithful,

Joyful and triumphant!

Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him,

Born the King of angels;

*Oh, come, let us adore him;*

*Oh, come, let us adore him;*

*Oh, come, let us adore him,*

*Christ, the Lord.*

True God of true God,

Light of Light eternal,

Lo! He abhors not the Virgin’s womb;

Son of the Father,

Begotten, not created

Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation;

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God,

 In the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,

Born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Son of the Father,

Now in flesh appearing;

Prayer

Welcome & Announcements

**The First Sin and Promise of Redemption**

God passes sentence; and he begins where the sin began. Sin began with the serpent. Under the cover of the serpent, the devil is sentenced to be degraded: also to be destroyed and ruined at last by the great Redeemer, signified by the breaking of his head. A gracious promise is here made of Christ, as the Deliverer of fallen human from the power of Satan. Notice is given concerning Christ: His Incarnation; His suffering and death and Christ’s victory over the plan of Satan

**First Reading – Genesis 3: 8 – 15 -** Sis Thelma Powell – Women’s League

8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ 10He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ 11He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ 12The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ 13Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ 14The Lord God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.’

**Hymn 65 VIP- “Joy to the world, the Lord is come”**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

**God’s Promise to Abraham**

After the ram is sacrificed as an offering to God, *the* angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven. This time, instead of commanding Abraham to cease, God pronounces upon Abraham the promise of a great reward for his faithfulness and his obedience.

**Second Reading – Genesis 22: 15 – 18 –** Bro**.** Cecil McCain – Sunday School

15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, 18and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’

**Selection: Away in a Manger** – Sis.Tara Kay Gentles - Sunday School

**The Prophet Isaiah Speaks**

Approximately eight hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah prophesied of Jesus’ coming rule and reign over a new kingdom. In one prophecy, Isaiah gathers together the announcement; the predictions of the birth; the deity; earthly government; his just kingdom and the eternity of Christ. Jesus did not just happen on earth. From eternity God planned to give his only begotten Son to all humankind. Jesus is the Son of God. His name would be beyond all human description; Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

**Third Reading: Isaiah 9: 2 –7 -**Bro. Howard Armstrong – Men’s Fellowship

2 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. 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you
   as with joy at the harvest,   as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden,   and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For a child has been born for us,  a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;  and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Hymn 138 VIP: “O come, O come Immanuel” –** Regeneration Music

**The Announcement:**

Having been visited by the angel Gabriel, Mary was told that she had found favour with God. What favour would Mary experience as Joseph was on the verge of divorcing her? The long and hazardous journey to Bethlehem awaited her. Her baby would be born in a stable, in the harshest of conditions any mother could ever experience. What of the threat of Herod to destroy her first born, a refugee in Egypt and the obscure years of Nazareth. What favour did Mary really find with God? Mary’s favour was not experienced in pleasure, prosperity and prestige as the world often determines. Mary’s favour was discovered in her obedience to God’s will. She humbly agreed to become the mother of the Most High, our Lord Emmanuel.

**Fourth Reading: Luke 1: 26 – 38 –** Bro. Kale Williams – Multimedia Team

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ 34Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ 35The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.’ 38Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

**Carol** - **O Holy Night (verses 1 & 3)** ( Led by Sisters Pauline Findlay & Lilieth Deacon)

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim

**Mary Sings a Song of Praise**

After the marvellous encounter of Mary and Elizabeth, the Holy Spirit inspired Mary to compose a hymn of praise. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary experienced an enlarged view of God’s eternal purpose. Her hymn expresses praise to God for his goodwill toward her. However, she extends her praise describing the ways God has dealt with the righteous throughout the ages. Mary expresses a mood of joy. She affirms that our God is God of justice and God of compassion. He is not afraid to confront individuals and systems of governments which oppress his creation. Nor will our God be indifferent to the needs of the poor and the marginalised. Our God has been faithful concerning his promise to Israel and he has been and will be faithful to all generations.

*Let us join with Mary and repeat this song of praise and affirmation in the words of the Magnificat.*

**Magnificat (Sung): Luke 1:46 – 55 –** Led by Sis Lilieth Deacon

1. ***My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.***
2. ***For he hath regarded the lowliness of his hand-maiden.***
3. ***For behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed.***
4. ***For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name.***
5. ***And his mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all generations.***
6. ***He hath shown strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.***
7. ***He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.***
8. ***He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.***
9. ***He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel.***
10. ***As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, forever.***

**Hymn 60 VIP – “De Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy”**

De Virgin Mary had a baby boy,

De Virgin Mary had a baby boy,

De Virgin Mary had a baby boy,

And dey say that his name was Jesus.

*He come from the glory,*

*He come from the glorious kingdom,*

*O yes, Believer,*

*He come from the glory,*

*He come from the glorious kingdom.*

De angels sang when de baby born,

De angels sang when de baby born,

De angels sang when de baby born,

An proclaim him de Saviour Jesus.

De wisemen saw where de baby born,

De wisemen saw where de baby born,

De wisemen saw where de baby born,

An dey say dat his name was Jesus.

**The Birth in Bethlehem**

The scene opens with Roman trumpets blaring out an imperial order coming from Caesar Augustus when Qurinius was governor of Syria. One powerful man issues an edict and throws the entire world into motion. According to Roman law, Mary was not compelled to accompany Joseph for this tax census. However, such a decision was timely, in particular that she was in the latter stages of a controversial pregnancy; surely the subject of much gossip in Nazareth. One way or another, this young woman was separated from her family and supporting friends. Such poor and lonely beginnings for the Promised One; indeed from an obscure town called Bethlehem the world would experience change and transformation. Behold he was born in a manger, our Lord Emmanuel.

**Sixth Reading: Luke 2:1 -7 – ( Jamaican New Testament)** Sis. Suzanne Taylor – Regeneration Music & Digital Team

Iina dem die de, di Ruoman ruula, Siiza Agostos, gi aada fi rait dong di niem a evribadi iina im kindom. 2(Dis a di fos taim niem a rait dong sins di taim wen Kiriniyos did a ruul uova Siriya.) 3Aal im piipl dem did afi go a di toun we dem baan fi get dem niem rait dong, so di govament kyan taks dem.

4So kaaz Juozif did kom fram Dievid fambili an Dievid did baan iina Judiya, im did afi lef fram Nazaret iina Gyalalii an go a Betliyem iina Judiya. 5Juozif go de wid Mieri fi get dem niem rait dong. Di tuu a dem did ingiej fi marid dem wan aneda an shi did av biebi iina beli. 6Wen dem de de, Mieri tek iin fi av biebi, 7an shi av ar fos pikni, wan bwai. Shi rap im op iina biebi blangkit an put im iina di baks we di animal dem nyam outa, kaaz no spies neva iina di ges ous fi dem.

**Carol - “Run, come quick”**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1**. HE was born on Christmas Day In a land so far awayAnd his mother meek and mild She did love de baby child. |  *Run, come quick**Come gather round de stall**Jesus is born Him born fi one an’ all* |
| **2.** And de three men dat was wise Saw de bright star in de skies So they follow as it led To the manger dat was bed | 3. “Glory be,” de angels sing Little Jesus is de King An’ de pickney dem a sing,Baby Jesus is de King. |

**The Company of the Angels and the Shepherds**

We ponder again upon this holy mystery, this child of Mary. We ponder again,” What child is this?” What child is this whose birth was proclaimed by the angels? The response is revealed in their resounding refrain, “A Saviour who is Christ the Lord.” This calm assurance is repeated in the anthem of the celestial choir; “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” Let the peace of God truly rule the hearts and lives of all who receive him as the Prince of Peace.

**Seventh Reading: Luke 2:8 – 14**– Sis. Pauline Findley - Choir

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
   and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

**Selection:** Chancel Choir

**The Shepherds Journey to Worship**

Despite the humble birth and lowly beginnings, God brings glory and honour to Jesus. This joyous event was not announced to the powerful and the popular but to the lowly and the least. The shepherds were the first to witness this glorious mystery. They hastened to Bethlehem, which was not merely a small town but an eternal experience. Let us too experience Bethlehem as we join in worship, praise and thanksgiving to the One who came and remains with us, our Saviour, Lord and King.

**Eighth Reading: Luke 2: 15 – 20 –** Sis Audrey Rodney-Robinson (Preacher)

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Hymn 59 VIP: “While Shepherds watched their flocks by night”**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

"Fear not", said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind"

"To you, in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
The Savior who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign"

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands
And in a manger laid"

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, and thus
Addressed their joyful song

"All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease"

**The Visit of the Magi**

What joy these wise men experienced upon the sight of the star! What amazement when they discovered that a cottage was the King’s palace and his poor mother, the only attendant. However, they did not allow themselves to be disoriented and confused. Having discovered the King of kings, they willingly offered their costliest treasures; gifts of gold for the King who would reign forever and ever; frankincense for the Priest of the highest order and myrrh to anoint the body of One who would rise triumphantly over death and all its powers.

**Ninth Reading: Matthew 2:1 – 11 –** Bro. Calvin Sutherland (Multimedia team)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’ 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Hymn 73 VIP - “We Three Kings of Orient are”**

*Verses 1 – 4 will be rendered by three brothers. The congregation will join in the refrain after each verse and will sing verse 5 following with the final refrain.*

***O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.***

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.**

**Selection** –**Sing We Now of Christmas** – Voices at Dawn

**The Word Became Flesh:**

This is the essence of the Christmas story; a story not confined to a baby in a manger in the ancient land of Israel. Each of the Gospels begins with the account of Jesus’ origins. Mark introduces Jesus as an adult. He reported that Jesus was a man from Nazareth. His coming fulfilled the arrival of God’s salvation as was foretold by the prophet Isaiah. The accounts of Matthew and Luke begin earlier still. Jesus’ very conception and birth is grounded in the prophecies of old and God’s will to deliver humanity.

John, however, in his account of Jesus as the Word points Jesus to the beginning of time itself. Jesus as the Divine Word was not only with God at the beginning but was God.

**Tenth Reading: John 1: 1 – 14**

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

**Carol – “Sing de chorus, clap yuhhan”** Sis.Renee Nesbeth Praise team)

*Sing de chorus, clap yuh han
Beat de Congo, pl ay de pan
Spread de news to all the land
That Jesus is born
Jesus de Saviour is born*

Do you know de story
How de King of glory
Came to earth a Baby born in a manger
But de worl’ then did not know
That ’twas God on earth below
And treat the Son of God on earth like a stranger.

O great God above us
Truly, you do love us
Your cords of love around us no one can sever
May we always do your loving heart
Sing your praise and glorify you forever.

Do you know de story
How de King of Glory
Came to earth a Baby born in a manger
But de worl’ then did not know
That ’twas God on earth below
And treat the Son of God on earth like a stranger.

**Prayer & Benediction**

Lighting of Candles

 

 **Recessional Carol - “I for Jesus, you for Jesus”**

Jesus come today, for a poor, poor man like me.
Salvation come my way, my soul set free.
Jesus come for all, and we must hear His call.
Open up your heart today, and let it be.

*Nuh matter if you t’ief, or if you dread,
Of if yuh have a crown pan yuh head.
Nuh matter if you have no heart at all,
Jesus bring love for one and all.
Sing it children.*

*I for Jesus, you for Jesus,
All for Jesus, fall for Jesus,
Come to Jesus.
Jesus come for one, he come for all.*
Jesus come for I, see manger where He lie.
See cross where He must die, for a wretch like me.
For God so loved the world,
Man, woman, boy and girl.
He gave His Son for you, His Son for me.

Jesus Christ today, the same as yesterday.
The one, the only way, the King for me
Let it come to pass, mankind find love at last.
Just as it was time past, so let it be.