



The Methodist Church In The Caribbean And The Americas

Connexional Bishop [M.C.C.A] Bishop Everaldo Galbraith, J.P., MTS, B.A., Dip. Min.

Bishop Of The South Caribbean District: Rev. Derick A. Richards, B.A., Dip. Min.

Superintendent Of The Bethel Circuit: Rev. Adrian S. Odle, B.A. (Theology), Dip. M.S., S.T.M.

Mission Statement: *To Make Disciples Of All People, Through The Propagation Of The Gospel, Evangelism Programmes, Promotion Of Godliness And Moral Behaviour In Our Country And To Be A Source Of Charity ((Love) And Support To All We Meet.*

Providence Methodist Church

17th Lord's Day After Pentecost

Sunday, September 24th, 2023

9:00 a.m.



KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE END RESULT

Psalm 105:43 So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing. **105:44** He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples, **105:45** that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.

The Preacher for Today: Marcelle Brathwaite (Rev. Dr.)

Musician: Organist: Bro. Irvin Belgrave

Congregational Stewards: Sisters Linnell Nurse, Rosalind Connell, Susanna Holder, Angela Brewster, Ingrid Stapleton, Brothers Hussein Brewster, Patrick Welch

IT Technicians: Brothers Ryan Eastmond and Clarkson Prescott

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Organ Prelude/Choral Introit

Call to Worship: Psalm 105: 1-6

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

People: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

People: Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Leader: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

People: 105:6 O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Leader: Glory Be to the Father and to the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

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

Opening Hymn (VIP) 500 Morning Has Broken

Verse 1

Morning has broken Like the first morning, Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing Fresh from the Word!

Verse 2

Sweet the rain's new fall Sunlit from heaven, Like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, Sprung in completeness Where his feet pass.

Verse 3

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning Born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation, Praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day!

Opening Prayers (ACTS)

Welcome, Greetings, Announcements, Notices (*Bro. Patrick Welch*)

Receiving and Blessing of Tithes & Offering

Praise In Worship 3 Songs (Providence Worship Team)

Testimonies and Extempore prayer by members of the congregation

Focus on Children and Youth

Ministry by the Choir

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Collect: Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading: Exodus 16:2-15

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not." ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸ And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him--what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD." ⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹² "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" ¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Psalm 105: 37-45

105:37 Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.
105:38 Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.
105:39 He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.
105:40 They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance.
105:41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.
105:42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.
105:43 So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.
105:44 He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
105:45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: PRAISE THE LORD!

The Epistle Reading Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸

and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well--³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace;⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?'⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?'¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Leader: This is the Gospel of Christ

People: Praise Be to Christ Our Lord

Song In Preparation for Sermon: 48 Jesus Is All The World To Me

Verse 1

Jesus is all the world to me, My life, my joy, my all;
He is my strength from day to day Without him I would fall
When I am sad, to him I go, No other one can cheer me so
When I am sad, He makes me glad, He's, my friend.

Verse 2

Jesus is all the world to me, My friend in trials sore;
I go to him for blessings, and He gives them o'er and o'er
He sends the sunshine and the rain, He sends the harvest's golden grain;
Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain, He's my friend.

Verse 3

Jesus is all the world to me, And true to him I'll be;
O how could I this friend deny When He's so true to me?
Following Him I know I'm right, He watches o'er me day and night;
Following Him by day and night, He's, my friend.

Verse 4

Jesus is all the world to me, I want no better friend;
I trust Him now, I'll trust Him when Life's fleeting days shall end.
Beautiful life with such a Friend, Beautiful life that has no end;
Eternal life, eternal joy, He's, my friend.

Sermon: Theme: Keep Your Eyes on The End Result

Psalm 105:43-45 ⁴³So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing. ⁴⁴He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples, ⁴⁵that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.

Introduction: The Story of the Israelites and their complaining spirit...

- Why we need to stop complaining... The story of the complaining King. We become blinded by the circumstances of life when we complain.
 - a. The Uncertainties of Life should keep us living in belief and hopefulness. God is in control only he can see the Dangers Seen and Unseen.
- The dangers of constant complaining instead of believing can keep us stuck in a rut:
The More things Change the More they remain the same: *Concerns and Outcomes of The Women's Seminar - Theme: Go and Bear Fruit, Fruit that Will last: John 15:*
 - a. *Day One Focus on Self A Call: to Refresh, Replenish, Rejuvenate: To know who I Am, Why I Came, To Strengthen My Walk. Check: Our Relationship with God, Our Spiritual Health, For Any Hindrances related to our Ego and major underlying issues: shame, guilt, hurt, unresolved burdens, cantankerous behaviour. Connect: To the Image of God: To understand that our Spiritual Realizations are sometimes not our true selves, To the Bible for transformation not for information. For Self-Care.*
 - b. *Day Two Focus on the Congregation: The Church is a Spiritual Hospital, Problems e.g. The Choir they lead so the devil attacks it first, Classism, Lack of compassion and empathy, too high expectations of Clergy, Resolve Conflicts, Dismantle systems.*
 - c. *Day Three Focus on The Community: The world needs to see Christ in us: We must all be well, We stopped going instead we ask people to come, Going means Meeting, Hindrance (Fightings within and fears without. Witness, Attitudes, systems)*
 - d. Other matters Equality/Equity – Poverty, Abuse, Misinterpretation of the Bible

🕊 Are we ready to move? The Israelites received from the blessings of God, and in the end they praised Him –

🕊 Our church's Challenge to Reset, Renew, Rebuild

🕊 The truth is we get tired: Paul was feeling that it was time to end but this is his response:

"Philippians 1:21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 1:22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 1:23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 1:24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 1:25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,"

🕊 In the Matthew text the labourers who worked all day and received the same as the last comers felt slighted because they were not looking at the end result God's response reminds us that he knows what he is doing. It may seem harsh, but He responds:

"Matthew 20:15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" 20:16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

- We must stay focused: What do we believe as Followers of Christ – Is there a true need? Do we need to approach it in a Different Way? (Intentional Faith Development) ...Facing the Fluidity of Change... How has our world changed? Climate change earthquakes, (Morocco) floods (China), We Still Need A Saviour!
- **Conclusion:** Let us keep our eyes on the end result: (Intentional Faith Development). Be intentional: Show your Belief, Keep staying abreast of the times and addressing the issues.

Reflection and Commitment

Prayers of Intercession

Closing Hymn 136 Mine Eyes have seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord

Verse 1

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:
He is trampling out the vintage Where the grapes of wrath are stored.
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword: His truth is marching on.
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on. 1/3

Verse 2

He hath sounded forth the trumpet That shall never call retreat.
He is sifting out the hearts of men Before his judgement-seat:
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; Be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Our God is marching on. 2/3

Verse 3

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom That transfigures you and me:
As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free.
While God is marching on. Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! While God is marching on 3/3

BENEDICTION

WELCOME We welcome you to the Providence Methodist Church as we sing, pray and worship God freely. We also welcome our Preacher for today, Rev. Dr. Marcelle Brathwaite.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

CONDOLENCES

The Superintendent Minister, Rev. Adrian S. Odle and the members of the Providence Congregation express sincere condolences to the family of Bro. Dacosta Warde who passed during the last week. He was the ister of Sis Jeanette and uncle of Sis. Brenda Ward. We pray that his soul will rest in peace and God's comforting love and presence will surround his family and friends in this time of grief

PRAYERS

Prayers are requested for our nation and people, those mourning the loss of loved ones as well as the sick and homebound: Sisters: Sylvia Daniel, Verona Trotman, Cynthia Layne and Patricia Felix. Brothers: Wilbert Small and Edward Hughes. We give God thanks and praise for their lives, work and witness in our church and community.

NOTICES

Persons assembled for worship are encouraged to engage in prayer before worship starts. You are invited to pray as you are led by the Holy Spirit.

Bethel Circuit Activities to be held via the Zoom Platform:

Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. – Circuit Pastoral Council meeting.

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. – Bethel Circuit Bible Study.

Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. – Bethel Circuit Prayer meeting.

The South Caribbean District of the MCCA Methodist Training Institute (MTI) will be offering a myriad of online courses. The cost of each course is USD\$140.00 and all members are encouraged to review the Brochure and prayerfully consider registering for one or more of the Courses. The academic year will comprise of two semesters. The commencement of classes will now be on September 25, 2023. All completed registration forms should be submitted to mti@methodistscd.org.

Tuesday, September 26, 2023- the Stewardship Training Program in the Bethel Circuit will commence. The Stewardship Renewal is a program that seeks to challenge members to develop a deeper commitment to God through the use of their time, treasure and talents in building the Kingdom of God and renewing the spiritual life of members and congregations. Kindly note will assume a hybrid format (i.e. face to face and online sessions simultaneously).

Thursday, September 28, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to noon - Sunlight Bible Study at the Providence Church, facilitated by Rev. Pearson Blackman.

Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. – Prayer Fellowship at the Providence Church

Sunday, October 01, 2023, the 18th Lord's Day After Pentecost, join us at the 9:00 a.m. worship service where Bro. Michael Worrell will be the Preacher. The Bible readings are: Exodus 17:1–7. Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16 [VIP 610] Philippians 2:1–13, Matthew 21:23–32

Sunday, October 08, 2023 - The Circuit Birthdays and Anniversaries Celebrations' Service will be held on at the Vauxhall Methodist Church at 4:30 p.m. for birthday and anniversary celebrants for the period of March to August. Kindly note that this will be the final Circuit Birthdays and Anniversaries Celebrations' Service for the church year 2022-2023.

Persons are invited, especially men and young people who would like to join the Ministry of Music, to give their names to any Congregational Steward. We also encourage children of any age to join so that later a Junior Choir may be formed. "Come and let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

Additional information is posted on the notice board or is available on our website at www.provmethchurchbb.com