

Order of Worship

INTROIT: "None Other Lamb..." [# 53 VIP] - Saxthorpe Choristers

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather in our different spaces to share in our love of God.

R: **Lord, open our hearts and let us share your Good News.**

L: We gather in our different spaces to share our witness to God's goodness.

R: **Lord, let our lives bear witness through service to your people.**

L: We gather in our different spaces to praise God whose love is eternal.

R: **Lord, open our hearts today to sing your praises. AMEN.**

OPENING HYMN: "We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died..." [# 98 VIP]

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| 1. We sing the praise of Him who died,
Of Him who died upon the cross;
The sinner's hope let men deride:
For this we count the world but loss. | It cheers with hope the gloomy day,
And sweetens every bitter cup. |
| 2. Inscribed upon the cross we see,
In shining letters, 'God is love';
He bears our sins upon the tree;
He brings us mercy from above. | 4. It makes the coward spirit brave,
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;
It takes the terror from the grave,
And gilds the bed of death with light; |
| 3. The cross – it takes our guilt away;
It holds the fainting spirit up; | 5. The balm of life, the cure of woe,
the measure and the pledge of love,
the sinner's refuge here below,
the angels' theme in heaven above. |
- Thomas Killyr (1769—1855)*

PRAYER OF ADORATION:

L: Faithful God, we praise and adore you. We look around us and are amazed and captivated by your creation. We experience your presence in the newness of the day. We honour your Holy name. Lord Jesus, the love of God manifested in human form, we praise and adore you. You lived this life and you connect with us in all the struggles and through your example we can

live abundant lives. We sing praises of honour to your Mighty name. Holy Spirit, giver of life, we praise and adore you. You are the God moving in and around us propelling us into action, drawing us into worship and uniting us into one people. Blessed Trinity, we praise and adore you now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Sisters and brothers, compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we sometimes rebelled. Let us then in this moment renounce our wilfulness and seek God's mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

(Silent Prayer)

ALL: For what we have done or said that would have been better not said or done, Lord have mercy on us. For what we have left undone or unsaid that we should have said or done, Lord have mercy. Almighty God, for whom nothing is impossible you continually work for the abundance of your creation. Take all that we are and all that we have been the times when we have walked in your steps and the times we have turned away transform and renew them in your love and for your kingdom in Jesus Mighty name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Sisters and brothers, hear now the loving truth of God: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned.

R: **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Compassionate God, we come to you as a forgiven people rejoicing for the renewal of life you give us. We thank you for sending Jesus Christ into the world to love us and to save us from our shortcomings. We come into this abundant life empowered by the Holy Spirit to be your agents of reconciliation in this world. We thank you for this day that we can celebrate your love, faithfulness, mercy, and protection in this time of worship. We thank you for the Word you have sent for us and may it bear much fruit in our lives. Take all the honour, praise and thanksgiving, O Jesus. Amen.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT

L: Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid, and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Numbers 21: 4 – 9 - Sis. Valerie Hinds

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 107: 1 – 3, 17 – 22

Led by: Bro. Javed Intiaz (M.I.T.)

L: ¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

R: ²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble

L: ³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

R: ¹⁷Some were sick¹ through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

L: ¹⁸they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

R: ¹⁹Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

L: ²⁰he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

R: ²¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

ALL: ²²And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Gloria Patri...

ALL: **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.**

EPISTLE: Ephesians 2: 1 – 10 - Sis. Marie Miller

GOSPEL: John 3: 14 – 21 - Rev'd Dr. Oral Thomas

HYMN: "O the Bitter Shame and Sorrow..." [# 91 VIP] - Saxthorpe Choristers

SERMON - Rev'd Dr. Oral Thomas

HYMN OF RESPONSE “When My Love for Christ Grows Weak” [#106 VIP]

- 1. When my love for Christ grows weak,
When for deeper faith I seek,
Then in thought I go to thee,
Garden of Gethsemane!
- 2. There I walk amid the shades,
While the lingering twilight fades,
See that suffering, friendless one,
Weeping, praying there alone.
- 3. When my love for man grows weak,
When for stronger faith I seek,
Hill of Calvary! I go
To thy scenes of fear and woe.
- 4. There behold His agony,
Suffered on the bitter tree;
See His anguish, see His faith,
Love triumphant still in death.
- 5. Then to life I turn again,
Learning all the worth of pain,
Learning all the might that lies
In a full self-sacrifice.
- 6. And I praise with firmer faith
Christ who vanquished pain and death;
And to Christ enthroned above
Raise my song of selfless love.

John R. Wreford (1800--1881) alt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TITHES & OFFERING

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- **Bro. Javed Intiaz (M.I.T.)**

L: The Lord be with you

R: **And also with you**

L: In our hour of need

R: **God, hear our cries**

L: Sustaining God, we pray for your Church universal. We pray for your people to be compassionate, ready to stand alongside those who suffer. May Your Church be that beacon of hope and light for those who are struggling mentally, emotionally and financially. Help us to bring healing and restoration to broken people. Continue now more than ever to raise up men and women to answer your call to serve the Church in various capacities. In our hour of need...

R: **God, hear our cries**

L: God of Jamaica, land we love. We bring our nation before you. We place our leaders in Your hands—the Governor General, the Prime Minister, Members of the Cabinet, Leader and Members of the Opposition. We pray that they will heed Your wisdom and guidance as they lead your people in this season of disorientation. May the policies enacted in these times be fair and beneficial to all. God of peace, we pray for your peace to reign across Jamaica. We rebuke the increase in crime and violence in the mighty name of Jesus. Let peace reign wherever there is discord and division.

Let the works of the enemy be shattered by your power Jesus. In our hour of need,

R: **God, hear our cries.**

L: Healing God, we bring the pandemic before you. We ask for healing for those who are affected by the virus. May they feel and experience your touch. We pray that wisdom would prevail and that persons would take the necessary precautions and adhere to the rules set out by the leaders. Help us, O God, to see that we have to think of our neighbours as we seek to fight this virus. God of all knowledge, we pray that you continue to bestow wisdom and knowledge upon the scientists who are continually working on a cure. In our hour of need,

R: **God, hear our cries.**

L: Caring God, we bring before you the needs of all bowing in your presence now. In our hour of need

R: **God, hear our cries.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” [# 100 VIP]

- 1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Words: Isaac Watts 1674- 1748
Music: Edward Miller 1735- 1807*

BENEDICTION:

- **Rev’d Dr. Oral Thomas**



The Methodist Church in the Caribbean
and the Americas (MCCA)

JAMAICA DISTRICT

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”*

**METHODIST VOICES IN WORD AND SONG
TELEVISION MINISTRY**



DIVINE WORSHIP

4th Lord’s Day in Lent
Sunday, March 14, 2021

OFFICIATING CLERGY:

Preacher: **Rev’d Dr. Oral Thomas**
*(President, United Theological College of the
West Indies (UTCWI))*

Liturgist: **Bro. Javed Intiaz (M.I.T.)**

Organist: **Sis. Melrose Davies**

Choristers: **Sis. Yvonne Brown
Sis. Lucette Cargill
Sis. Valerie Hinds
Sis. Marie Miller
Sis. Yvonne Patterson
Bro. Nigel Haye**

District Bishop: Rev’d Christine Gooden Benguche
District Secretary: Rev’d Dr. Wayneford McFarlane

A warm welcome to all worshippers!