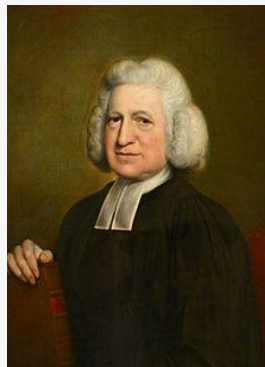


The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA)
Leeward Island District Conference
ANTIGUA CIRCUIT



John Wesley (1703-1791)



Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

**ALDRSGATE LORD'S DAY
CELEBRATION**

Online via Go To Meeting
Lord's Day 24th May, 2020
9:00 am

Officiating:

Bishop Everald Galbraith - *Connexional President*
Rev. Derek Browne - *Circuit Superintendent*
Rev. Relis Martin-Riley - *Circuit Minister*
Rev. Janetta James - *Circuit Deacon*
Rev. Caren Richards-St.Rose - *Local Presbyter*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

RESOLUTION OF THE EIGHTH WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL:

"This World Methodist Council, meeting at Oxford in 1951, commends to the Methodist people everywhere the annual observance of Aldersgate Sunday (the Sunday falling upon or immediately preceding Wesley Day, 24th May) as an occasion for remembering the faith of our founders and for rededicating ourselves in universal fellowship to the spreading of scriptural holiness throughout the world."

Minister: There are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, even that you should be partakers of the divine nature.

Hymn: VIP 395 "Father of everlasting grace"

Sung by Bro. Ato Lewis

Father of everlasting grace,
Your goodness and your truth we praise,
Your goodness and your truth we prove;
You have, in honor of your Son,
The gift unspeakable sent down,
The Spirit of life, and power and love.

Send us the Spirit of your Son,
To make the depths of Godhead known,
To make us share the life divine;
Send Him the sprinkled blood to apply,
Send Him our souls to sanctify,
And show and seal us ever Thine.

So shall we pray, and never cease;
So shall we thankfully confess
Your wisdom, truth, and power, and love;
With joy unspeakable adore,
And bless and praise you evermore,
And serve you as your hosts above:

Till, added to that heavenly choir,
We raise our songs of triumph higher,
And praise you in a nobler strain,
Out-soar the first-born seraph's flight,
And sing, with all our friends in light,
Your everlasting love to man..

Read by Bro. Sam Aymer & Sis. Felicity Aymer

Leader: Let us proclaim the promises of God, declared in Holy Scriptures, and set forth in the sermons of John Wesley. By grace are you saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Res: Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift.

Leader: There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.

Rep.: We walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Leader: You have not received the spirit of bondage again unto fear.

Res: We have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father.

Leader: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirits.

Res: We are the children of God.

Leader: He that is born of God does not commit sin: He cannot sin because he is born of God.

Res: We must be born again.

Leader: Brothers and sisters, now are we the children of God, and it does not yet appear what we are.

Res: We know that we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for our Methodist forefathers.

All Eternal God, we give You humble and hearty thanks for Your servants John and Charles Wesley, and for all those human Instruments through whom You lead them into Your saving truth. We thank You for the power of their preaching, the challenge of their dedicated lives, and the continued inspiration of their hymns. We praise Your holy name for the multitude of those in many lands who through their ministry

have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that we their children may prove worthy of the glorious heritage bequeathed to us, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sisters Lynn & Olinda Payne

Leader: Let us pray for the people called Methodists throughout the world.

All: O Lord God, who revealed Your salvation to our fathers and strengthened them to proclaim Your word to the uttermost parts of the earth, we pray Your blessing upon the people called Methodists in every land. Grant that, their wisdom and faith being deepened in mutual understanding and fellowship, they may be enabled to obey Your call to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world, ever praising You for what You have done, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us ask God's forgiveness for the sins which have marred our witness.

All: Our Heavenly Father, who by Your love have made us, and through Your love have kept us, and in Your love will make us perfect, we humbly confess that we have not loved You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and that we have not loved one another as Christ has loved us. Forgive what we have been; help us to amend what we are; and in Your Spirit direct what we should be; that You may come Into the full glory of Your creation, in us and in all people, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MCCA Celebration Hymn: "God is Faithful"

Sung by Sis. Paulette Hinkson

Come let us join in this celebration
Of faith in God through many a year
Now in each mainland and island nation
Christ crucified is preached without fear

*God is faithful guiding our mission
Through His mercy we are right on track*

***Carrying on the work of those before us
Never tempted to turn back***

We're fully focused doubly determined
That it's the dawn of a brand new day
With the world rid of violence and hatred
As God in Christ leads us all the way

Across the world we make new disciples
We warmly welcome each clan and race
We treat all those who are poor and helpless
With dignity love respect and grace

Let's all arise in each generation
Peace truth and justice shall be our aim
Pursue our mission in word and action
As God's bright future we dare to claim.

*WORDS: George Mulrain, 1946 - & George Roberts, 1956 -
MUSIC: George Roberts, 1956 -*

Bro. Lionel Walker

Leader: Let us pray for a catholic spirit.

All: God of our fathers, who have made the Methodists of the world to be one people, we pray for a catholic spirit that we may walk the royal way of universal love. Take from us all false pride of names and sects and parties, that we may be the friends of all, the enemies of none. Teach us to long for the welfare of all Christian people, to spend and be spent on their behalf, until all hurtful divisions are destroyed and Christ is all in all, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us unite in the prayer which makes of one family all the faithful on earth and in heaven.

The Lord's Prayer *(to be said)*

Time of Praise in Worship .. led by Rev. Derek Browne

"God is good, God is good"

God is good, God is good,

God is good to me how can I let him down,

How can I let him down, how can I let him down,

He's been so good to me.

He picked me up, and he turned me around,
He plant my feet on higher ground,
How can I let him down, how can I let him down,
He's been so good to me.

He saved my soul, and he made me whole,
He saved my soul from sin, how can I let him down,
How can I let him down, how can I let him down,
He's been so good to me.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul"

Bless the Lord, O my soul, And all that is within me, Bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, And all that is within me, Bless his holy name.

He has done great things, He has done great things,
He has done great things, Bless his holy name.

Welcome & Greetings: Bro. Clare Browne (Circuit Steward)

Roll Call of Congregations: A person chosen from each congregation *will share a sentiment to introduce his/her congregation, after which, the person appointed by the congregation will sing one verse of the selected Wesley hymn.*

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ebenezer | 7. Gilbert Memorial |
| 2. Cassada Gardens | 8. Baxter Memorial |
| 3. Freemansville | 9. Parham |
| 4. Bolans | 10. Barrett Memorial |
| 5. Freetown | 11. Sawcolts |
| 6. Bethesda | |

The Reading of the Old Testament Lesson: Ezekiel 36:22-32, 37

Read by Sis. Tashana Spencer

²² Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³ I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when through you I display

my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸ Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ I will save you from all your uncleannesses, and I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰ I will make the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field abundant, so that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. ³¹ Then you shall remember your evil ways, and your dealings that were not good; and you shall loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominable deeds. ³²

³⁷ Thus says the Lord GOD: I will also let the house of Israel ask me to do this for them: to increase their population like a flock. ³⁸ Like the flock for sacrifices, ^[a] like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed festivals, so shall the ruined towns be filled with flocks of people. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 80: 1-15 ...

Read by Sis. Tehrica Benta & Sis. Sheredith Weston

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.**

Item: MHB 564 ... “Father, I dare believe” (one verse)

Bro. Dayton Samuel on behalf of MCCA Men

FATHER, I dare believe
Thee merciful and true:
Thou wilt my guilty soul forgive,
My fallen soul renew.

The Reading of the Epistle: Revelation 3:7-13

Read by Bro. Philmore Andrew

The Message to Philadelphia

⁷“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens:

⁸“I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but are lying—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰Because you have kept my word of patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. ¹¹I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹²If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. ¹³Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Children's & Youth Focus:

Bro. Malik McCoy

Item: VIP 314 .. “A Charge to keep I have” One Verse

Sung by Sis. Paulette Isaac on behalf of MCCA Women

A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.

Presentation of John Wesley's Journal:

Read by Sis. Patrice Forde – Circuit Young Adults Secretary)

Let us now recall the experience which in the providence of God called into being the Methodist Church, as it is recorded for us in the Journal of John Wesley for 24th May, 1738.

"By the Grace of God I resolved to seek faith unto the end, by absolutely renouncing all dependence, in whole or in part, upon my own works of righteousness [and] by adding to the constant use of all the other means of grace continual prayer for this very thing, justifying faith; a full reliance on the blood of Christ shed for me; a trust in Him as my Christ, as my sole justification, sanctification, and redemption.

I continued thus to seek it..... till Wednesday, May 24th. I think it was about five this morning that I opened my Testament on those words 'There are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, even that ye should be partakers of the divine nature.' Just as I went out, I opened it again on those words, 'Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.' In the afternoon I was asked to go to St. Paul's. The anthem was 'Out of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord...'

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

On this momentous day Charles Wesley was an invalid in the house of John Bray in Little Britain, also in Aldersgate Street. He was a triumphant invalid, however, for three days earlier, on Whitsunday, 21st May, he himself had entered into the joy of salvation, and had written one of his earliest hymns under the inspiration of this experience. In his Journal for 24th May he wrote: "Towards ten, my brother was brought in triumph by a troop of our

friends, and declared.' I believe! 'We sang the hymn with great joy, and parted with prayer."

Let us now sing the Wesley' Conversion Hymn.

Hymn: VIP 213 .. "Where shall my wondering soul begin"

Sung by Sis. Barbara Matthews

1 Where shall my wondering soul begin?
How shall I all to heaven aspire?
A slave redeemed from death and sin,
A brand plucked from eternal fire,
How shall I equal triumphs raise,
Or sing my great Deliverer's praise?

2 O how shall I the goodness tell,
Father, which Thou to me hast showed?
That I, a child of wrath and hell,
I should be called a child of God,
Should know, should feel my sins forgiven,
Blessed with this antepast of Heaven!

3 And shall I slight my Father's love?
Or basely fear His gifts to own?
Unmindful of His favors prove?
Shall I, the hallowed cross to shun,
Refuse His righteousness to impart,
By hiding it within my heart?

4 Outcasts of men, to you I call,
Harlots, and publicans, and thieves!
He spreads His arms to embrace you all;
Sinners alone His grace receives;
No need of Him the righteous have;
He came the lost to seek and save.

5 Come, O my guilty brethren, come,
Groaning beneath your load of sin,
His bleeding heart shall make you room,

His open side shall take you in;
He calls you now, invites you home;
Come, O my guilty brethren, come!

The Church in Fellowship .. Passing of the Peace

(Please use the Chat to say something that you miss about not being able to Worship face to face - in Chapel - for the last 10 weeks)

Sharing of Testimonies (Brief and to the point)

Hymn: VIP 402 .. "All praise to our redeeming Lord"

Sung by Sis. Paulette Hinkson

All praise to our redeeming Lord, Who joins us by His grace;
And bids us, each to each restored, Together seek His face.

He bids us build each other up And, gathered into one,
To our high calling's glorious hope, We hand in hand go on.

The gift which He on one bestows, We all delight to prove;
The grace through every vessel flows, In purest streams of love.

E'en now we think and speak the same, And cordially agree;
Concentred all, through Jesus' Name, In perfect harmony.

We all partake the joy of one; The common peace we feel;
A peace to sensual minds unknown, A joy unspeakable.

And if our fellowship below In Jesus be so sweet,
What heights of rapture shall we know When round His throne we meet!

The Reading of the Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 9:14-16 ..

Read by Sis. Sonyia Grant

The Question about Fasting

¹⁴ Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, ¹⁴ but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷ Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins

burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

THE SERMON: **THE MINISTERS**

Hymn VIP 186 *"All to Jesus I surrender"*

Sung by Bro. Ato Lewis

All to Jesus I surrender;
all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
in his presence daily live.

All to Jesus I surrender;
make me, Savior, wholly thine;
let me feel the Holy Spirit;
truly know that thou art mine.

**I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.**

**I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.**

All to Jesus I surrender;
humbly at his feet I bow,
worldly pleasures all forsaken;
take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power;
let thy blessing fall on me.

**I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.**

**I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.**

Minister: Let us, in common with our brothers and sisters the people called Methodists in every land, now dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of Almighty God.

All: Almighty God, who raised up Your servants John and Charles Wesley to proclaim anew the gift of redemption and the life of holiness, be with us their children, and revive Your work among us; that inspired by the same faith, and upheld by the same grace in Word and Sacrament, we and all your people may be made one in the unity of Your church on earth, even as in heaven we are made one in You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements: Sis Susan Matthias (Circuit Steward)

Blessing of Tithes, Offerings & Gifts / blessing of Birthday & Anniversary Celebrants

Hymn: VIP 232 "O Thou, who camest from above"

Sung by Sis. Barbara Matthews

1. O Thou who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart
Kindle a flame of sacred love
Upon the mean altar of my heart.

2. There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

3. Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work and speak and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.

4. Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete

Benediction

Hymn ...VIP 188 ... " And can it be that I should gain"

1 And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

2 'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies:
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

3 He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!

4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

5 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.