

MIDWEEK LENTEN MEDITATION

Taking Care Of
the environment



“Care of Children”

Wednesday 25th March 2020

12:15 – 12:45 p.m.

At Providence Methodist Church
132 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6

Welcome/ Greeting:

Sisters and Brothers, I greet You in the Name of our living Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! Most of our activities within the Providence Circuit have been put on hold, because of the coronavirus. But we are thankful that through the blessings of modern technology, we can share in this Lenten meditation.

We begin by singing of God whose love for us is sure.

Hymn 254 VIP

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Prayer: Gracious God, You created the world, the universe and everything that exists. You placed us, human beings, amid mountains, hills, valleys, flat lands, plants, trees, fruits and flowers, oceans, seas, rivers, lakes, rocks, sandy beaches. You gave us the authority and sacred responsibility to take good care of nature, preserving its beauty and its usefulness. We are mindful that You are bringing into being a new heaven and a new earth. You invite us to be integral to the new creation that You are forming. So today we are asking You to point us to ways and means whereby we may indeed be Your true partners in the process.

Assure us, O God, in the present scheme of things where there is pain and suffering and intense fear brought on by the corona pandemic, that You are in complete control. As we pay attention and take more seriously the constant preaching and pleadings of Your earthly servants, make us Your people determined to maintain our contact with You, through the reading of Your holy Word, through obedience to Your commandments, through fervent prayer, through living lives that are in accordance with Your will and purpose. As Your sons and daughters, help us to be effective stewards in ushering Your kingdom on earth.

Lord, hear our prayer, and let our cry come unto You!
Amen!

Scripture Reading - Matthew 18: 1 – 7

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”² He called a child, whom he put among them,³ and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.⁶ “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.⁷ Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes!

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

MEDITATION: by Rev. Dr. George Mulrain

Prayer:

O God our Creator, we pray for the children of this nation that they may grow up knowing You and Your Son Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

We pray that the congregations may be welcoming to families with little children and that the Sunday Schools may function effectively as they cater for their needs. Inspire the teachers so that what is taught about God's may be reflected in their interaction with the children. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We seek Your anointing for the ones who teach in our basic schools, early childhood institutions, primary and secondary schools, that they may have the patience and grace to be proper role models for the students. May the learning environment be such as would instill in children moral virtues that would enhance the citizens of this land. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Jamaica National Children's Home, that those who are involved in its daily existence, whether as members of the Board of trustees, or staff or children, might be convinced of the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May the efforts at reconstruction after last year's fire meet with success in every aspect.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Finally, dear God, we ask Your blessing upon the various agencies within this land that look after the welfare of children. May they know that in working towards the good for children, they are doing that which accords with Your will. This we pray, in the name of Jesus, who taught us, when we pray to say:

THE LORD'S PRAYER - "Our Father, who art in heaven etc....."

Hymn 527 VIP

1. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

2. Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;

They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

6. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

Benediction