

SHARON & DUNSCOMBE
Moravian Churches - Barbados

HOLY WEEK
PASSION WEEK AND EASTERTIDE
Readings from the Gospels

Monday, April 3, 2023
7:00 p.m. Online

Watchword for the Week — *And being found in human form, Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Philippians 2:7, 8*



ORDER OF SERVICE

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

READING OF THE DAILY TEXT — Monday, April 3, 2023

Watchword: **I keep my eyes always on the Lord.** Psalm 16:8 NIV

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. (719)

Doctrinal Text: **Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame.** Hebrews 12:2

Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord,
by the pow’r of grace divine;
let my soul look up with a steadfast hope
and my will be lost in thine. (607)

Prayer: When our eyes wander from you, Lord, we see only the brokenness of human striving and despair. Yet, even on that bleak horizon, we also see your arms stretched out on the cross. We see you, Lord, beginning and ending everything with love. Amen.

HYMN — *Ancient Words*

READING FROM PASSION WEEK AND EASTERTIDE:

THE READING FOR MONDAY

THE FIG TREE

— Sis Evelyn Greenidge

Next day, as they were leaving Bethany, he felt hungry. Seeing a fig tree in leaf some distance away, he went to see if he could find any fruit on it, but when he came up to it he found nothing but leaves; for it was not the season for figs. And he addressed the fig tree. “May no one eat fruit from you again,” he said. And his disciples heard him say this.

THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE — Sis Evelyn Greenidge

So they reached Jerusalem and he went into the Temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling there; he upset the tables of the money-changers and the chairs of those who were selling pigeons. Nor would he allow anyone to carry anything through the Temple. And he taught them and said. “Does not Scripture say: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples? But you have turned it into a robbers’ den.’”

In the daytime he would be in the Temple teaching, but would spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives. And from early morning the people would gather round him in the Temple to listen to him. The chief priests and the scribes, with the support of the leading citizens, tried to do away with him, but they did not see how they could carry this out because the people as a whole hung on his words.

There were also blind and lame people who came to him in the Temple, and he cured them. At the sight of the wonderful things he did and of the children shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’ in the Temple, the chief priests and the scribes were indignant. “Do you hear what they are saying?” they asked him.

“Yes,” Jesus answered, “Have you never read this: ‘By the mouths of children, babes in arms, you have made sure of praise?’”

231

S.M.

O Come, my Saviour, come,
And claim my heart as thine;
Make it the humble, happy home
Of peace and love divine.

2 Cast out the carnal mind,
The world and sin cast out;
Pluck out the eye that looks behind,
Scatter all fear and doubt.

3 My lukewarmness rebuke,
Self and its workings quell,
And chase from every secret nook
The brood of death and hell.

4 Thy Spirit and thy blood
Cleanse my polluted heart;
Yea, let the purifying flood
Reach to the inmost part.

5 Create my heart anew,
An upright spirit give;
My soul with light and love endue,
And bid me rise and live.

6 O come, my Saviour, come,
And let my spirit be
Thy blood-bought, consecrated home,

A temple fit for thee.

1863. *W. Edwards.*

FAITH AND PRAYER

— **Sis Ismay Straker**

And when evening came he went out of the city. Next morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered to the roots. Peter remembered. “Look, Rabbi,” he said to Jesus, “the fig tree you cursed has withered away.”

Jesus answered, “Have faith in God. I tell you solemnly, if anyone says to this mountain: ‘Get up and throw yourself into the sea,’ with no hesitation in his heart but believing that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. I tell you therefore: everything you ask and pray for, believe that you have it already and it will be yours. And when you stand in prayer, forgive whatever you have against anybody, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your failings too.”

THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

— **Sis Ismay Straker**

They came to Jerusalem again, and as Jesus was teaching in the Temple the chief priests and the scribes and elders came to him and said, “What authority have you for acting like this? And who gave you this authority?”

“And I,” replied Jesus, “will ask you a question, only one; if you tell me the answer to it, I will then tell you my authority for acting like this. John’s baptism: where did it come from, heaven or man? Answer me that.”

And they argued it out this way among themselves, “If we say from heaven, he will retort, ‘Then why did you refuse to believe him?’; but if we say from man, we have the people to fear, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So their reply to Jesus was, “We do not know.”

And he retorted, "Nor will I tell you my authority for acting like this.

366

C.M.

Increase our faith, beloved Lord,
For thou alone canst give
The faith that takes thee at thy word,
The faith by which we live.

2 Increase our faith; so weak are we
That we both may and must
Commit our very faith to thee,
Entrust to thee our trust.

3 Increase our faith; on this broad shield
All fiery darts be caught,
We must be victors in the field,
When thou for us hast fought.

4 Increase our faith; for thou hast prayed
That it should never fail;
Our steadfast anchorage is made
With thee, within the veil.

5 Increase our faith; that unto thee
More fruit may still abound;
That it may grow exceedingly,
And to thy praise be found.

6 Increase our faith, O Saviour dear,
By thy sweet sovereign grace,
Till, changing faith for vision clear,
We see thee face to face.

THE TWO SONS

— **Sis Julicia Hinds**

“What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, ‘My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not go,’ but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, ‘Certainly, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did his father’s will?”

“The first,” they said.

Jesus said to them, “I tell you solemnly; tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did, Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.

THE WICKED TENANTS

— **Sis Julicia Hinds**

“Listen to another parable, There was a man, a land-owner, who planted a vineyard: he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; he then leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. But when the tenants saw the son they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance.’ So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

They answered, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants, who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives."

Jesus said to them, "I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit." When they heard his parables, the chief priests and the scribes realised he was speaking about them, but though they would have liked to arrest him they were afraid of the crowds, who looked on him as a prophet.

288

4.10.10.10.4.

Come, labour on:

Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain,
While all around him waves the golden grain,
And to each servant does the Master say,
'Go work today'?

2 Come, labour on:

Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
To young and old the joyful tidings bear;
Redeem the time: its hours too swiftly fly;
The night draws nigh.

3 Come, labour on:

Away with gloomy doubt and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here;
By hands the feeblest can our God fulfil
His righteous will.

4 Come, labour on:

No time for rest till glows the western sky,
While the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
And a glad sound comes with the setting sun,

‘Servant, well done.’

5 Come, labour on:

The toil is pleasant, the reward is sure;
Blessèd are those who to the end endure;
How full their joy, how deep their rest shall be,
O Lord, with thee!

1859. *Jane L. Borthwick.*

THE GREAT BANQUET

— Bro. George Best

Jesus began to speak to them in parables once again. “There was a man who gave a great banquet, and he invited a large number of people. When the time for the banquet came, he sent a servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come along: everything is ready now.’ But all alike started to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have bought a piece of land and must go and see it. Please accept my apologies.’ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen and am on my way to try them out. Please accept my apologies.’ Yet another said, ‘I have just got married and so am unable to come.’ The servant returned and reported this to his master. Then the householder, in a rage, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in here the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ ‘Sir,’ said the servant, ‘your orders have been carried out and there is still room.’ Then the master said to his servant, ‘Go to the open roads and the hedgerows and force people to come in to make sure my house is full; because, I tell you, not one of those who were invited shall have a taste of my banquet’.”

415

664.6664.

Christ for the world! we sing:

The world to Christ we bring
With loving zeal;
The poor, and them that mourn,
The faint and overborne,
Sin-sick and sorrow-worn,
Whom Christ doth heal.

2 Christ for the world! we sing:
The world to Christ we bring
With fervent prayer;
The wayward and the lost,
By restless passion tossed,
Redeemed at countless cost
From dark despair.

3 Christ for the world! we sing:
The world to Christ we bring
With one accord;
With us the work to share,
With us reproach to dare,
With us the cross to bear
For Christ our Lord.

4 Christ for the world! we sing:
The world to Christ we bring
With joyful song;
The new-born souls, whose days,
Reclaimed from error's ways,
Inspired with hope and praise,
To Christ belong.

S. Wolcott, d. 1886.

TAXES TO CAESAR

— Sis Tara Hoyte

Then the Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap him in what he said. So they waited their opportunity and sent agents to pose as men devoted to the Law and to fasten on something he might say and so enable them to hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor. These came and said to him, “Master, we know that you are an honest man, that you teach the way of God in all honesty and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man’s rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

But Jesus was aware of their malice and cunning and replied, “You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.”

They handed him a denarius and he said, “Whose head is this? Whose name?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

He then said to them, “Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar — and to God what belongs to God.”

As a result they were unable to find fault with anything he had to say in public. His answer took them by surprise and they were silenced and went away.

291

64.64.10.10.

I lift my heart to thee,
Saviour divine,
For thou art all to me,
And I am thine:
Is there on earth a closer bond than this,
That my belovèd’s mine, and I am his?

2 Thine am I by all ties,
But chiefly thine,

That through thy sacrifice
Thou, Lord, art mine:
By thine own cords of love, so sweetly wound
Around me, I to thee am closely bound.

3 To thee, thou dying Lamb,
I all things owe;
All that I have and am,
And all I know:
All that I have is now no longer mine,
And I am not my own; Lord, I am thine.

4 How can I, Lord, withhold
Life's brightest hour
From thee; or gathered gold,
Or any power?
Why should I keep one precious thing from thee,
When thou hast given thine own dear self for me?

5 I pray thee, Saviour, keep
Me in thy love,
Until death's holy sleep
Shall me remove
To that fair realm, where, sin and sorrow o'er,
Thou and thine own are one for evermore.

1871. C. E. Mudie.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD — Sis Evelina King-Harper

Then some Sadducees — who deny there is a resurrection — came to him and they put this question to him, “Master, we have it from Moses in writing, if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no child, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first married a wife

and then died leaving no children. The second married the widow, and he too died leaving no children; with the third it was the same, and none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman herself died. Now at the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be, since she had been married to all seven?"

Jesus said to them, "Is not the reason why you go wrong, that you understand neither the scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, men and women do not marry; no, they are like the angels in heaven. Now about the dead rising again, have you never read in the Book of Moses, in the passage about the Bush, how God spoke to him and said: 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and of Jacob'? He is God, not of the dead, but of the living. You are very much mistaken."

381

C.M.

We cannot think of them as dead
Who walk with us no more;
Along the path of life we tread
They have but gone before.

2 The Father's house is mansioned fair
Beyond our vision dim;
All souls are His, and here or there,
Are living unto Him.

3 And still their silent ministries
Within our hearts have place,
As when on earth they walked with us
And met us face to face.

4 Ours are they by an ownership
Nor time nor death can free;

For God hath given to love to keep
Its own eternally.

1882. F. L. Hosmer.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT — Sis Khalia Doughty

One of the scribes, who had listened to them debating and had observed how well Jesus had answered them, now came up and put a question to him: “Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?”

Jesus replied, “This is the first: ‘Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord and you must love the Lord our God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is: ‘You must love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The scribe said to him, “Well spoken, Master, what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.”

Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

And after that no one dared to question him anymore,

THE WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY — Bro. Andrew Lowe

At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, “Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by

stoning. What have you to say?" They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him.

But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again.

When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she replied.

"Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus; "go away, and don't sin anymore."

238

76.76.76. 74. With Refrain.

I was sinking deep in sin,
Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within,
Sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea
Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me,
Now safe am I.

*Love lifted me, Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me!*

2 All my heart to Him I give,
Ever to Him I'll cling,

In His blessed presence live,
Ever His praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true,
Merits my soul's best songs,
Faithful, loving service too,
To Him belongs.

3 Souls in danger, look above,
Jesus completely saves,
He will lift you by His love,
Out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea,
Billows His will obey,
He your Saviour wants to be,
Be saved today.

1912. James Rowe.

REFLECTION — Rev. Ezra Parris

PRAYER

HYMN # 284 — *O Thou Who Camest From Above*

BENEDICTION