

SHARON & DUNSCOMBE
Moravian Churches - Barbados

HOLY WEEK

PASSION WEEK AND EASTERTIDE

Readings from the Gospels

Tuesday, April 15, 2025
7:00 p.m. Online

Watchword for the Week — *Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 118:4*



ORDER OF SERVICE

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: *My Jesus, My Saviour*

READING OF THE DAILY TEXT — Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Watchword: *Since the wise have rejected the word of the Lord, what wisdom is in them? Jeremiah 8:9*

O give me Samuel's ear!
The open ear, O Lord,
alive and quick to hear
each whisper of thy word;
like him to answer at thy call,
and to obey thee first of all. (609)

Doctrinal Text: *Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 1 Corinthians 1:20*

O give me Samuel's mind!
A sweet unurm'ring faith,
obedient and resigned
to thee in life and death,
that I may read with childlike eyes
truths that are hidden from the wise. (609)

Prayer: You who call us, we ask for true wisdom and purpose. Entrust us with your words of guidance and encouragement. Present us with a call, that, like Samuel, we might be quick to respond and swift to follow. Amen.

HYMN: *Thy Word*

READING FROM PASSION WEEK AND EASTERTIDE:

THE READING FOR TUESDAY

THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES REPROVED — Sis Ingrid Ibrahim

Then addressing the people and his disciples, Jesus said, “The scribes and Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi. You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourself to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.

“Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who shut up the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces, neither going in yourselves nor allowing others to go in who want to.

“Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who pay your tithe of mint and dill and cummin and have neglected the weightier matter of the Law — justice, mercy, good faith! These you should have practised, without neglecting the others. You blind guides! Straining out gnats and swallowing camels!

“Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who clean the outside of cup and dish and leave the inside full of extortion and intemperance. Blind Pharisees! Clean the inside of cup and dish first so that the outside may become clean as well.

“Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who are like whitewashed tombs that look handsome on the outside, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and every kind of corruption. In the same way you appear to people from the outside like good honest men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

210

C.M.

Hosea vi (6), 1-4.

Come, let us to the Lord our God
With contrite hearts return;
Our God is gracious, nor will leave
The desolate to mourn.

2 His voice commands the tempest forth,
And stills the stormy wave;
And though his arm be strong to smite,
’Tis also strong to save.

3 Long hath the night of sorrow reigned,-
The dawn shall bring us light;
God shall appear, and we shall rise
With gladness in his sight.

4 Our hearts, if God we seek to know,
Shall know him and rejoice:
God’s coming like the morn shall be,
Like morning songs his voice.

5 As dew upon the tender herb,
Diffusing fragrance round;
As showers that usher in the spring,
And cheer the thirsty ground:

6 So shall his presence bless our souls
 And shed a joyful light;
 That hallowed morn shall chase away
 The sorrows of the night.

1781. J. Morison.

LAMENT FOR JERUSALEM

— Sis Betty Bowen

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I longed to gather your children, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you refused. So be it! Your house will be left to you desolate, for I promise, you shall not see me any more until you say, ‘Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

THE WIDOW’S OFFERING

— Sis Betty Bowen

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put in more than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.”

THE GREEKS COME TO JESUS

— Sis Candace Barker

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him. “Sir, we should like to see Jesus.”

Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them, “Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain: but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it, anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

We give thee but thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from thee.

2 May we thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as thou blessest us,
To thee our first-fruits give.

3 O, hearts are bruised and dead,
And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs, for whom the Shepherd bled,
Are straying from the fold!

4 To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless,
Is angels' work below.

5 The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christ-like thing.

6 And we believe thy word,
Though dim our faith may be;
Whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
We do it unto thee.

1858. W. W. How.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

— Sis Eula Gibbs

“Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”

A voice came from heaven. “I have glorified it and I will glorify it again.”

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, “It was an angel speaking to him.”

Jesus answered, “It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.” By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The crowd answered, “The Law has taught us that the Christ will remain for ever. How can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”

Jesus then said, “The light will be with you only a little longer now. Walk while you have the light, or the dark will Overtake you’ he who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. While you still have the light, believe in the light and you will become sons of light.” Having said this, Jesus left them and kept himself hidden.

Though they had been present when he gave so many signs, they did not believe in him. And yet there were many who did believe in him, even among the leading men, but they did not admit it, through fear of the Pharisees and fear of being expelled from the synagogue: they put honour from men before the honour that comes from God.

Jesus declared publicly: “Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I, the light, have come into the world, so that whoever believes in me need not stay in the dark any more. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them faithfully, it is not I who shall condemn him, since I have not come to condemn the world, but to save the world. He who rejects me and refuses my words has his judge already: the word itself that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day. For what I have spoken does not come from myself; no, what I was to say, what I had to speak, was commanded by the Father who sent me, and I know that his commands mean eternal life. And therefore what the Father has told me is what I speak.”

*O Jesus Christus, wachs' in mir.
1780. J. C. Lavater.*

O Jesus Christ, grow thou in me,
And all things else recede;
My heart be daily nearer thee,
From sin be daily freed.

2 Each day let thy supporting might
My weakness still embrace;
My darkness vanish in thy light,
Thy life my death efface.

3 In thy bright beams, which on me fall,
Fade every evil thought;
That I am nothing, thou art all,
I would be daily taught.

4 Make this poor self grow less and less,
Be thou my life and aim;
O make me daily, through thy grace,
More worthy of thy name.

5 Daily more filled with thee my heart,
Daily from self more free;
Thou, to whom prayer did strength impart,
Of my prayer hearer be.

6 Let faith in thee and in thy might
My every motive move,
Be thou alone my soul's delight.
My passion and my love.

1860. Elizabeth L. Smith.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

— Sis Deborah Inniss

Jesus left the Temple and as he was going away his disciples came up to draw his attention to the Temple buildings. And one of them said to him, “Look at the size of those stones, Master! Look at the size of those buildings!”

And Jesus said to him, “You see these great buildings? Not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.”

And while he was sitting facing the Temple, on the Mount of Olives, Peter, James, John and Andrew questioned him privately. “Tell us, when is this going to happen and what sign will there be that all this is about to be fulfilled?”

PERSECUTION OF THE DISCIPLES

— Sis Marcia Straker

Then Jesus began to tell them, “Take care that no one deceives you. Many will come using my name and saying, ‘I am he’ and they will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this is something that must happen, but the end will not be yet. For nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes here and there; there will be famines. This is the beginning of the birth pangs. Be on your guard: they will hand you over to sanhedrins; you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear Witness before them, since the Good News must first be proclaimed to all the nations. And when they lead you away to hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what to say; no, say whatever is given to you when the time comes because it is not you who will be speaking: it will be the Holy Spirit. Brother will betray brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise against their parents and have them put to death.

“You will be hated by all men on account of my name. Many will fall away; men will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise; they will deceive many and, with the increase of lawlessness, love in most men will grow cold; but the man who stands firm to the end will be saved.

I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only thee,
Trusting thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

2 I am trusting thee for pardon:
At thy feet I bow,
For thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

3 I am trusting thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Every day and hour supplying
All my need.

4 I am trusting thee for power:
Thine can never fail;
Words which thou thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

5 I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall:
I am trusting thee for ever,
And for all.

1874. Frances R. Havergal.

THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

— Sis Sheila Legall

“This Good News of the kingdom will be proclaimed to the whole world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come. If anyone says to you then, ‘Look, here is the Christ,’ or, ‘He is there,’ do not believe it; because the coming of the Son of Man will be like lightning striking in the east and flashing far into the west. In those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven. Take the

fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.

BE ON THE ALERT

— **Sis Cora Cumberbatch**

As it was in Noah's day, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood, people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be the same as it was in Lot's day: people were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but the day Lot left Sodom, God rained fire and brimstone from heaven and it destroyed them all. It will be the same when the day comes for the Son of Man to be revealed, Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of this life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home and left his servants in charge, each with his own tasks, and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!"

309

777.3.

'Christian, seek not yet repose,'
Hear thy guardian angel say;
Thou art in the midst of foes;
Watch and pray.

2 Principalities and powers,
Mustering their unseen array,
Wait for thy unguarded hours:

Watch and pray.

3 Gird thy heavenly armour on;
Wear it ever, night and day;
Ambushed lies the evil one:
Watch and pray.

3 Hear the victors who o'ercame;
Still they mark each warrior's way;
All with one clear voice exclaim,
'Watch and pray.'

4 Hear, above all, hear thy Lord,
Him thou lovest to obey;
Hide within thy heart his word,
'Watch and pray.'

5 Watch, as if on that alone
Hung the issue of the day;
Pray that help may be sent down:
Watch and pray.

1839. Charlotte Elliott.

REFLECTION — Rev. Ezra Parris

PRAYER

HYMN: *Take My Life*

BENEDICTION