

# Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

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*At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.*

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*For the safety of every worshipper, please observe the following guidelines regardless of your vaccine status.*

- **Wear a mask covering your mouth and nose all the time during worship.**
  - **Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.**
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Prelude

Fanfare on *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*  
Overture to *Messiah*

William Ness, organ  
Branda Portman b. 1980  
Georg Handel 1685-1759  
string quartet and organ

Greeting & Announcement

\*Advent Candle Lighting

Chris and Earl Flagg

One: Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. God will come and save you."

**Many: The light of God's presence comes to redeem.**

*[The first two Advent candles are relit.]*

One: The Mighty One has done great things: holy is the name of God.

**Many: Our spirits will rejoice in God our Savior.**

One: We light a third candle to show the Holy Way of God.

*[The third Advent candle is lit.]*

**All: We will walk faithfully in the way of joy and gladness.**

\*Hymn

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

UMH 209

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,  
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;  
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven,  
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,  
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;  
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

\*Praise Songs

Desmond Cheetham, keyboard  
Jennifer Quansah, lead singer

**Me yi N'aye (I Will Praise Him)** [Feel free to sing in either language]

Me yi n'aye, Me yi Nyamea' ye...  
Me yi Nyamea' ye, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah ...

*English:*

I will praise God, I will praise my God...  
I will praise my God, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah...

**Ayeyi Wura (You Own Our Praise)** [Feel free to sing in either language]

A-ye-yi Wurae' ----A-ye-yi Wurae'  
Ye yi W'aye Na ye Ma Wo so!

*English:*

You own our praise! You own our praise!  
We praise you, Lord, and we lift you high!

Common Prayer (*unison*)

Chris Flagg

**O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted, let your herald's urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom. Before the advent of the One who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit, let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice, and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ. We ask this through the One whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*Hymn

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

UMH 196

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Danielle Ferdinand

Anthem

Every Valley

Wesley Choir  
David Potts, director  
John Ness Beck 1930-1987

|               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Second Lesson | Jeremiah 23:3-6   | Linda D’Acri  |
| Duet          | Come, O Lord, Emmanuel                                  | Abigail Borchelt and Steven Small<br>Joseph M. Martin b. 1959             |
| Third Lesson  | Zechariah 9:9-10  | Osei Ansah  |
| Solo          | Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion from <i>Messiah</i> | Abigail Borchelt, soprano<br>Georg Handel                                 |
| Fourth Lesson | Micah 5:2-4   | Margaret Watson   |
| Anthem        | A Spotless Rose   | Wesley Chancel Choir<br>Scott Taylor, soloist<br>Herbert Howells 1892-198 |
| Fifth Lesson  | Isaiah 35:1-10  | Chris Flagg   |
| *Hymn         | “Toda la Tierra” (All Earth Is Waiting)                 | UMH 210   |

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,  
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,”  
for his name is “God with us,” our brother shall be,  
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;  
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.  
He is now coming closer, so com all and see,  
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,  
yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today,  
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

#### The Offering

Offertory Solo

What Child Is This?

Lira Cady, harp  
Laura Erb 20<sup>th</sup> c.

\*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

\*Prayer of Dedication

|                 |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Sixth Lesson    | Isaiah 65:17-25  | Desmond Cheetham   |
| Anthem          | Great Creator  | Wesley Choir<br>Karen Marroli b. 1975  |
| *Seventh Lesson | Luke 1:26-38   | David Potts  |
| Trio            | Magnificat from <i>Christmas Oratorio</i>  | Abigail Borchelt, Steven Small, David Potts<br>Camille Saint-Saens 1835-1921 |
| *Eighth Lesson  | Matthew 24:29-44   | Byungmoo Lee   |
| Anthem          | Keep Your Lamps  | Wesley Choir<br>André Thomas b. 1952   |
| *Hymn           | “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”  | UMH 718  |
|                 | <p>Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;<br/> thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.<br/> Hallelujah! Halleluiah! Halleluiah! God appears on earth to reign.</p> <p>Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;<br/> those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,<br/> deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.</p> <p>The dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears;<br/> cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;<br/> with what rapture, with what rapture,<br/> with what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars!</p> <p>Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee, high on thy eternal throne;<br/> Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own.<br/> Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Everlasting God, come down!</p> |  |
| *Benediction    |  |  |
| Anthem          | Tollite Hostias from <i>Christmas Oratorio</i>   | Wesley Choirs<br>Camille Saint-Saens   |
| Postlude        | Ukrainian Bell Carol   | String quartet<br>Mykola Leontovych 1877-1921<br>arr. Michael Tyree b. 1994  |

Participating today:

Arielle Cady, violin, Christopher DeAndrade, violin, Joseph Simcox, viola  
Patrick Chatham, cello, Lira Cady, harp, Dimmick Taylor, drums  
Deborah O’Driscoll, organ

Advent Candle Lighting – by F. Richard Garland, The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries.  
Common Prayer – *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. 252 ALT.  
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