

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

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.

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

Greeting & Announcement

Prelude

Solemn Melody

Walford Davies 1869-1941

*Call to Worship

One: God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Many: God is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One: My heart shall not fear;

Many: I will be confident.

One: Hear, O God, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

Many: Teach me your way, O God.

One: I believe that I shall see the goodness of God in the land of the living.

Many: Wait for God; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for God!

*Hymn

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

UMH 66

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to the throne thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise the Lord for grace and favor to all people in distress;
praise God, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious now God's faithfulness.

Father-like, God tends and spares us; well our feeble frame God knows;
mother-like, God gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet God's mercy flows.

Angels in the heights, adoring, you behold God face to face;
saints triumphant, now adoring, gathered in from every race.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

*Praise Songs

Me yi N'ayε (I Will Praise Him)

Me yi n'ayε, Me yi Nyamea' γε...

Me yi Nyamea' γε, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah ...

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

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

I Have Joy In My Heart

I have joy in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart...

Jesus gave to me, and no one can destroy it.

I have joy in my heart; deep, deep down in my heart...

God You're So Good

God you're so good. God you are kind.

God you are wonderful. My God, you are excellent...

Excellent is Thy name. Excellent is Thy might.

God you are wonderful. My God you are excellent...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

Loving God, through Jesus you have called us to repent of our sin, to believe the good news, and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom. Like Christ's first apostles, may we hear his call to discipleship, and, forsaking old ways, proclaim the good news of new life to a broken world; through Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Holy Baptism

Elijah Anesu Mawokomatanda

PROFESSION of FAITH

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The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Elijah Mawokomatanda with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Bible.

Do you believe in God the Creator?

I believe in God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend Elijah Mawokomatanda to your love and care.

The congregation responds:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

Amen.

Children’s Conversation

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

Aseda Ndwom (Song of Thanks)

James Varrick Armaah

I will always mention your name to the world.
I will always mention your name to the world,
What you have done for me, what you have done for me.
I will speak of your name to the whole world.

You have changed my life, you have not left me astray
I will sing and praise your name
Thanks always belong to You.

Thanks, thanks, thanks, song of thanks
It is from my heart
Praises, praises, praises, song of praises
It is from my heart,
We have brought them, we have brought them, song of thanks,
Thanks always belong to You.

*Doxology

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-23

Anthem

Kyere me Kwan (Show Me the Way)

Justice G. Francois

Show me the way, show me the way, Almighty God
Show me the way so that I may not get lost
Where are we going? Only you know. Will all be well? Only you know.
Take my hand, lead the way. Almighty God.
Take my hand, lead the way so that I may not stumble.

Message

"Follow the Light"

Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda

*Hymn

"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

UMH 344

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor. *Refrain*

You need my hands, full of caring
through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keep on loving. *Refrain*

You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me. *Refrain*

*Shalom

Mensah Essilfie

God's peace be unto you,
We wish you Shalom!
The peace of God which transcends all
understanding be with you forevermore.

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (v. 1)

UMH 664

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.

Postlude

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Marianne Kim b. 1972

Worship Leaders: Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, William Ness, Debbie O’Driscoll, Jennifer Quansah, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship – Psalm 27 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.
Common Prayer – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 207.
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