

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

February 12, 2023

Sixth 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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Greeting & Announcement

Prelude

Jubilation on *Lauda Anima*

Alice Jordan 1916-2012

*Call to Worship

One: Choose life!

Many: We will love the Lord our God.

One: Choose life!

Many: We will obey God in all we do.

One: Choose life!

Many: We will hold fast to our God.

One: Choose life!

All: We choose life in God's love!

*Hymn

God Whose Love Is Reigning O'er Us

UMH 100

God, whose love is reigning o'er us, source of all, the ending true;
hear the universal chorus raised in joyful praise to you:
Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship new.

Word of God from nature bringing springtime green and autumn gold;
mountain streams like children singing, ocean waves like thunder bold:
Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation's tale is told.

Holy God of ancient glory, choosing man and woman, too;
Abr'am's faith and Sarah's story formed a people bound to you.
Alleluia, Alleluia, to your covenant keep us true.

Covenant, new again in Jesus, Star-child born to set us free;
sent to heal us, sent to teach us how love's children we might be.
Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, our Savior he!

Lift we then our human voices in the songs that faith would bring;
live we then in human choices lives that, like our music sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

*Praise Songs

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...

Praise, O Praise, My God and King

Praise, O praise, my God and King.
Hymns of adoration, sing;
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful, ever sure ...

Alleluia, Alleluia!
King of Kings and Lord of Lords!
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful ever sure...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

Come, Holy One: teach us your ways, lead us in your paths, guide us on our journey. Speak to us your words of life, for you offer us direction and wholeness when we hear your voice and follow. You bless us with your love, shower us with your grace, and help us grow in faith. We seek you, O God, with all our hearts. Be near us this day. Amen.

Children's Conversation

The Offering

Offertory Music

Mo Mma yenmbo se (Let Us Rejoice)

Nana Kofi Among Darkwa

Let us rejoice, God lives always.
Let us rejoice, He will always fight for us.
Let us rejoice, we will always be victorious.
Alleluia! Uplift and rejoice.

Let us rejoice, Christ our King walks with us always.
Let us rejoice, He will grant us all our needs.
Let us rejoice, we will be victorious.
Alleluia! Uplift and rejoice.

*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

Prayers of the People, & the Lord's Prayer

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH 393

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.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Anthem

Adepa Nyinaa (All good things)

Kwabena Donkor

All Good things are from God. All praises are from God.
If we do not praise you, we will be ungrateful.
You deserve praises, you deserve all the glory, you deserve all the adoration.
Work, children, strength and well-being, wealth and peace are all by your Grace.
If we do not praise you, we will be ungrateful.
All praise and honor are yours always.

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:21-37

Message

Deborah O'Driscoll

*Hymn

O Young and Fearless Prophet

UMH 444

O young and fearless Prophet of ancient Galilee,
thy life is still a summons to serve humanity;
to make our thoughts and actions less prone to please the crowd,
to stand with humble courage for truth with hearts uncowed.

We marvel at the purpose that held thee to thy course
while ever on the hilltop before thee loomed the cross;
thy steadfast face set forward where love and duty shone,
while we betray so quickly and leave thee there alone.

O help us stand unswerving against war's bloody way,
where hate and lust and falsehood hold back Christ's holy sway;
forbid false love of country that blinds us to his call,
who lifts above the nations the unity of all.

Stir up in us a protest against our greed for wealth,
while others starve and hunger and plead for work and health;
where homes with little children cry out for lack of bread,
who live their years sore burdened beneath a gloomy dread.

O young and fearless Prophet, we need thy presence here,
amid our pride and glory to see thy face appear;
once more to hear thy challenge above our noisy day,
again to lead us forward along God's holy way.

*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

Finale Jubilante

Brenda Portman b. 1980

Worship Leaders: Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, James Hoffman, Chris Kerns, William Ness,
Deborah O'Driscoll, Jennifer Quansah, Wesley Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team