

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

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

In Quiet Mood

Florence Price 1887-1953

Greeting & Announcement

Come and Find the Quiet Center (vs 1)

TFWS 2128

*Call to Worship

One: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Many: Blessed are those to whom God imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

One: God is a hiding place for us.

Many: God surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance.

One: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

Many: Be glad in God and rejoice, O righteous; shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

*Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

UMH 110

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must with the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

*Praise Songs

Ayeyi Wura (You Own Our Praise)

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

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

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...

Lenten Prayer (*unison*)

Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save. Throughout these forty days, by the grace and power of your Holy Spirit cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Children's Conversation

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.

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

Suo Mo Muo (Hold on to Me)

Emmanuel K B Attah b. 1990

Hold on to me, Father, hold on to me always.
Hold on to me, my Lord, hold on to me always.
When I am with you, I am victorious. I owe my success to you.
So, give me patience, blessings and love. Hold on to me.
My Lord, hold on to me always.

*Doxology

UMH 95

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. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Anthem

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Jeffrey Van b. 1941

Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him;
he had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley;
we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us;
we have to walk it by ourselves.

Message

*Hymn

“It Is Well with My Soul”

UMH 377

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

[*Refrain*] It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

[*Refrain*]

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

[*Refrain*]

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.

[*Refrain*]

*Shalom

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

Mensah Essilfie

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

“Shalom to You”

UMH 666

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Charles Callahan b. 1951

Worship Leaders: Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Donna Hirtle, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, William Ness, Debbie O’Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship – Psalm 32 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.
Lenten Prayer – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 242-3.
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