

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

March 19, 2023

Fourth 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.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

Prelude Two Settings of Psalm 23 on Two Hymntunes Franklin Ashdown b. 1942
 Crimond *UMH 136*
 St. Columba *UMH 138*

Greeting

Centering Song "Come and Find the Quiet Center"

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead.
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

*Call to Worship

One: God is our Shepherd, we want for nothing.

Many: God keeps us on the right path and keeps us safe.

One: God is faithful and true.

Many: God is with us, in life and in death.

One: God's kindness and love will always be with us.

Many: We will live forever in your house, O God.

*Hymn

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

UMH 138

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I stayed, but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never,
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house 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'aye Na ye Ma Wo so!

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

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...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Conversation

Announcement

Mission Moment

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 Music

Canon on *Softly and Tenderly*

William Ness

*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

The Lord's My Shepherd

John Rutter b. 1945

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
 He shall feed me in a green pasture,
 and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
 He shall convert my soul and bring me forth
 in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
 Yea, though I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
 For thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
 Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me:
 Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
 But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord, forever.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

*Gospel Reading

John 9:1-9, 13-17, 24-41

Message

*Hymn

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

UMH 454

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
 Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
 Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
 And while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
 Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
 Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
 Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

*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

"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

Searle Wright 1918-2004

Setting of Psalm 23 on *Brother James' Air*

Worship Leaders: Desmond Cheetham, Linda D’Acri, David Dagle, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, William Ness, Debbie O’Driscoll, Betsy Pennino, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Istan Slamet, Chancel Choir, Wesley Ringers, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship – Psalm 23 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.
Common Prayer – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 248.
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