

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

May 21, 2023

Ascension Sunday

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 *Look, You Saints, the Sight is Glorious*

David Johnson 1922-1987

Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

Look, you saints, the sight is glorious, See the Man of sorrows now;
From the fight returned victorious, Every knee to Him shall bow.
Crown Him! Crowns become the victor's brow.

Greeting

Introit

Look, You Saints, the Sight is Glorious

Bryn Calfaria

*Call to Worship

One: We stand before you, God, with arms reaching for you.

Many: We bow before you, God, with humbled hearts seeking you.

One: We sing before you, God, with voices raised to meet you.

Many: We kneel before you, God, with open souls lifted to greet you.

One: God, in your glory, you have graciously reached for us.

Many: We gather this day, reaching for you. Amen.

*Hymn

“What Gift Can We Bring”

UMH 87

What gift can we bring, what present, what token?

What words can convey it, the joy of this day?

When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we offer in honor and praise?

Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.

Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.

Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,
for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring,
the Word is our promise always, forever;
we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.

This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

*Praise Songs

Mema Kuruwa no so (I Will Lift the Cup of Praise)

Mε ma yeyi kruwa so, Mε ma yeyi kruwa so, Mε ma yeyi kruwa so...

Hwie nhyira bi fa me me! Hwie W'a yaresa gu me so me.

I will lift the cup of praise, I will lift the cup of praise, I will lift the cup of praise!...

Pour your blessing in my cup, pour your healing in my cup O Lord...

Joy Like a River

Joy like a river in my soul...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

Spirit of Life, in whom we live and move and have our being, we worship you. We thank you for your presence among us and in your whole creation. Fill us with your power so that by our words and actions we may give witness to the love of God. Amen.

Children's Conversation

Announcement

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

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful!

David Hogan 1949-1996

O Jesus, king most wonderful! O Conqueror renowned!

O Source of peace ineffable, in whom all joys are found.

O Jesus, light of all below, the fount of life and fire,

Surpassing all the joys we know, all that we can desire.

When once you visit darkened hearts, then truth begins to shine.

Then early vanity departs, then kindles love divine.

You may our tongues forever bless; You may we love alone

And ever in our lives express the image of your own!

May every heart confess your name, forever you adore,

And seeking you, itself inflame to seek you more and more.

We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace, we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.

*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

Postlude

Olivier Messiaen 1908-1992

Prayer of Christ ascending to the Father from *L'Ascension*

Worship Leaders: Rev. Stacey Lanier, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Chris Kerns, William Ness,
Debbie O'Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Chancel Choir, Worship Tech Team

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