

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: Where can I go from your spirit?

Many: Or where can I flee from your presence?

One: If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

Many: If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

One: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

Many: See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

*Hymn

“Gather Us In” (verses 1, 2, 4)

TFWS 2236

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreaming,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
gather us in the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
gather us in the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light-years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*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...

I Will Lift Up Your Name Higher

I will lift up your name higher...

Great Jehovah you are wonderful
I will lift up your name higher...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we are impatient with your timing. We want immediate judgment on the sins of others, though not on our own. The time of our own suffering seems endless, but the duration of deprivation for others we can shrug off. We want instant recognition of our achievements, but are jealous of the honors afforded others. Forgive the pride that proposes that we know better than you do what should be done and when, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who did your will. Amen.

Children's Conversation

Holy Baptism

Skylar Ryann Polin

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 Skylar Ryann Polin with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she 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 Skylar Ryann Polin 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.

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

Amman Mma – Children of the World

Children of the world, children of the world,
praise the Lord, for He is a mighty King.

Children of the world, children of the world,
praise the Lord, for He is a mighty King.

He has conquered death. When He speaks, everything remains still.
He is a conqueror. We will worship Him always.

Children of the world, children of the world,
praise the Lord, for he is a mighty King.

Children of the world, go! We will sing for Him. We will shout praises unto Him. We will magnify
Him always. We will give him all the glory and honor.

*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! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Passing of Peace

“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.

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Anthem

Osoro Nka – Let the Heavens Speak

Newlove Anna

Let the Heavens speak and let the earth respond
to what Jesus has done for his children,
Let the Heavens rumble and let the earth respond
to what Jesus has done for his children,
He has saved us from the hands of the enemy
He has been victorious for his children
Let us always rejoice, let us sing to glorify what Jesus has done for his children.

Message

We are God’s people, the chosen of the Lord,
born of the Spirit, established by the Word.
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Christ we stand;
O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God’s loved ones, the Bride of Christ, our Lord,
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured.
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given;
O let us share each joy and care and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.

We are the body of which the Lord is Head,
called to obey Christ, now risen from the dead.
God wills us be a family diverse, yet truly one;
O let us give our gifts to God and so shall God’s work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit’s dwelling place,
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God’s grace.
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire;
yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light and to inspire.

*Benediction

Postlude

Worship Leaders: Janet Amoako, Judith Barton, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Chris Kerns,
Byungmoo Lee, Samuel Long, Debbie O’Driscoll, Jennifer Quansah, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship – Psalm 139 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.
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