

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

September 17, 2023

Sixteenth 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

"Jesus, Lead Thou On"

Paul Manz

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: I will sing to the Lord.

Many: The Lord is majestic in holiness.

One: The Lord is my strength and my might.

Many: The Lord has become my salvation.

One: This is my God, and I will praise God.

Many: This is my God, and I will exalt God.

*Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

UMH 89

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

*Praise Songs

Joy Like a River

Joy like a river in my soul...

Praise O Praise

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*)

Merciful God, you have rescued your children in the past and continue to do so today. We confess that we try your patience with our inconsistencies. We expect you to forgive our grossest sins, but are unwilling to forgive the petty sins of our sisters and brothers. We recount for those closest to us the number of times they have offended us, but forget the numberless times you have forgiven us. We do not have the same tolerance for others as we have for ourselves. Forgive such unevenness, merciful God. Have mercy upon us once more. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. 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

Amman Mma - Children of the World

Children of the World, Children of the World, Praise the Lord for he is the Almighty,
Children of the World, Children of the World, Children of the World,
Praise the Lord for he is Almighty.
He has overcome death when he speaks everything remains calm
He is victorious, we will always worship Him
Children of the World, let us praise the Lord for he is King of Lords
Children of the World, we will sing for Him, We will glorify and praise Him.
We will magnify Him and give him the glory.

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.

Epistle Reading

Romans 14:1-12

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

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.

Message

*Hymn

“Freely, Freely”

UMH 389

God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name, I’ve been born again in Jesus’ name,
 and in Jesus’ name I come to you, to share his love as he told me to.
 He said, “Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give.
 Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live.”
 All power is given in Jesus’ name, in earth and heaven in Jesus’ name,
 and in Jesus’ name I come to you, to share his power as he told me to.
 He said, “Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give.
 Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live.”

*Benediction

Postlude

"Convocation"

Charles Callahan

Commissioned by Middlebury College and dedicated to Dr. Emory Fanning

Worship Leaders: Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, Debbie O’Driscoll,
 David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Sandra Toffay, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team