

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost / Harvest 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

"In Harvest Time"

Walter R. Clarke

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: We gather together as a people who come from different backgrounds and cultural expressions, celebrating God's gift of diversity in the church and in the world.

Many: We come together, giving thanks for the gift of community and for the blessing of sharing in a common life together.

One: For the gift of community, and the signs of God's abundant love, let us lift our voices in grateful praise.

Many: We join together in reaping a harvest of joy, a harvest of peace, a harvest of righteousness, and a harvest of hope.

*Hymn

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

UMH 66

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to the throne thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise the Lord for grace and favor to all people in distress;
praise God, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious now God's faithfulness.

Father-like, God tends and spares us; well our feeble frame God knows;
mother-like, God gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet God's mercy flows.

Angels in the heights, adoring, you behold God face to face;
saints triumphant, now adoring, gathered in from every race.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

*Praise Songs

Me yi N'aye (I Will Praise Him)

Me yi n'aye, Me yi Nyamea' ye...

Me yi Nyamea' ye, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah...

I will praise God, I will praise my God...

I will praise my God, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah...

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

I Have Joy

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...

Unto the Lord Be the Glory

Unto the Lord be the glory. Great things He has done...
Great things He has done. Greater things He will do. Unto the Lord be the glory. Great things He has done...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

**Gracious God,
we humbly thank you
for all your gifts so freely given:
for life and health and safety,
for work and rest and friendship,
and for the wonder of creation.
Above all, we praise you for our Savior, Jesus Christ,
for his death and resurrection,
for your life-giving Spirit
and the hope of sharing in your glory.
Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Nana Kofi Ampong Darkwa

Mo Mma yenmbo se (Let Us Rejoice)
Let us rejoice, God lives always.
Let us rejoice, He will always fight for us.
Let us rejoice, we will always be victorious.
Alleluia! Uplift and rejoice.

Let us rejoice, Christ our King walks with us always.
Let us rejoice, He will grant us all our needs.
Let us rejoice, we will be victorious.
Alleluia! Uplift and rejoice.

*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 20:1-16

Anthem

Austin C. Lovelace 1919–2010

What Shall I Render to My God

What shall I render to my God for all His mercy’s store?
I’ll take the gifts He hath bestowed and humbly ask for more.
The sacred cup of saving grace I will with thanks receive,
And all His promises embrace and to His glory live.
My vows I will to His great name before His people pay,
And all I have, and all I am, upon His altar lay.
Thy lawful servant, Lord, I owe to Thee whate’er is mine.
Born in Thy family below and by redemption Thine.
Thy hands created me, Thy hands from sin have set me free,
The mercy that hath loosed my bands hath bound me fast to Thee.
Praise Him, ye saints, the God of love who hath thy sins forgiv’n,
Till gathered to the church above, we sing the songs of heav’n.

Message

Anthem

Giving Praise

Newlove Annan

When the morning guilds the sky with the beauty of the sun;
when the li’l birds sing their joyful, joyful praise!
With a heart so pure and true, with my eyes fixed in the sky,
I will sing may Jesus Christ be praised. May Jesus Christ be praised.
All praise and honor to him for evermore!

Word of Welcome, Esi Korsah, the Vice President of the Ghanaian Association

Kofi and Ama: Celebrate the day of your birth

Water Blessing and Opening of the Auction

(Water plays an important role in our daily human lives and in our witness of faith. The blessing of the water today is only a symbolic act to remind us of how God has used water to bless us and nourish us in life and in faith. During Harvest, the focus is not on the water but on our response characterized by our giving. Those who bid for the water are bidding for the privilege and honor to lead us in opening the Harvest offering celebrations. Because water is prevalent in all our lives, God's blessings belong to us all.)

Appeal for Funds

(Please follow the instructions of the Harvest Masters of Ceremony. Pray about the offering amount you are called to give and let the Harvest Masters of Ceremony know when your offering amount is appealed for.)

Sanctuary Auction

Closing Remarks

*Hymn

"Now Thank We All Our God"

UMH 102

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

*Benediction

Postlude

"Jubilate"

Earnest H. Sheppard

****Everyone is invited to the celebration of International Lunch after worship.****

Worship Leaders: Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Chris Kerns, Esi Korsah, Byungmoo Lee, Debbie O'Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Common Prayer – *Worship & Song: Worship Resources*, Abingdon Press, 2011, 211. ALT.
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2023 Harvest

Co-Chairpersons

Madam Dorothy Mensah (Ghana)

Mr. Maxwell Agyemfra (Nana Sompahene)

Supporters

Mr. and Mrs. Kojo Aggor

Mr. and Mrs. Padmore Amoako

Councilor Moe Bergman

Mr. and Mrs. Yedu Biney

Nana Boadi

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Antwi-Bosiako

Councilor Candy Carlson

State Rep. Dan Donahue

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State Representative Jose A. Rivera

Councilor George Russell

District Councilor Kate Toomey

Rev. and Mrs. Ofori

Mr. Romeo Vacus

Ms. Susan Williams

State Representative Jon Zlotnik

Mfantseman Kuw