

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

October 15, 2023

Twentieth 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

Liturgical Prelude No. 1

George Oldroyd

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: Come, let us enter this time of worship with great joy!

Many: Let us celebrate the goodness of God!

One: Let all the people shout and praise God's name!

Many: Happy are all those people who feel the peaceful presence of God!

One: Let us rejoice!

Many: Let us shout with joy!

One: Let us open our hearts to God.

Many: O God, accept our praise and turn our hearts toward you.

*Hymn

Gather Us In

TFWS 2236

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness, vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings, 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.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

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.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

*Praise Songs

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...

Ayeyi Wura (You Own Our Praise) [*Feel free to sing in either language*]

A-ye-yi Wurae' ---- A-ye-yi Wurae'
Ye yi W'ayε Na ye Ma Wo so!

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

Litany for Laity Sunday

One: From the beginning, God entered into covenant with the human family:
with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah,
Moses, Deborah, Ruth, and Jeremiah.

Many: **Through baptism, Jesus Christ calls us into the covenant
and makes us ministers of Christ's righteousness.**

One: All Christian ministry is Christ's work of outreaching love.
It demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion,
witness and service, celebration and discipleship.

Many: **All Christians are called to Christ's servanthood in the world,
to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.**

One: The Church, as the community of the new covenant,
participates in Christ's ministry of grace.

Many: **It stretches out to human needs
wherever service may convey God's love and ours.**

One: In our ministry of servanthood is this ultimate concern:

Many: **that all may be renewed in the image of their Creator,
and that all Christians are called to minister
in deeds and words that heal and free. 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

Metease yi – As Long As I Live

Sam Asare Bediako

It is by Your grace that I am alive.
God, You have done a lot for me.
My Lord, I owe you thanks.
I will sing and give you adoration.
Whatever I have belongs to you.
It is by your Grace that I am still alive.
My Lord, I owe you thanks.
I will sing and give you adoration.

*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.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

Anthem

Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart

Lani Smith 1934–2015

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong men and maidens meek,
Raise high your free, exulting song, God’s wondrous praises speak.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

With voice as full and strong as ocean’s surging praise,
Send forth the hymns our fathers loved, the psalms of ancient days.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Yes, on thro' life's long path, still chanting as we go,
From age to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.
Still lift your standard high, and march in firm array,
As warriors thro' the darkness toil till dawns the golden day.

Praise him who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore,
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God for evermore.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing. Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

*Gospel Reading Matthew 22:1-14

Message Responding to God's Invitation Deborah O'Driscoll

*Hymn Here I Am, Lord UMH 593

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

*Benediction

Postlude Voluntary on *Hymn to Joy* Al Travis

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

Call to Worship: Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters

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