

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

November 19, 2023

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost / Thanksgiving 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

“Variations on KREMSER”

Michael Graham

ALERIUS, *Nederlandtsch Gendenckclanck*, 1626

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: I give you thanks, O God, with my whole heart;

Many: I give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and faithfulness.

One: On the day I called, you answered me;

Many: You increased my strength of soul.

One: Though I walk in the midst of trouble;

Many: You stretch out your hand, and your mighty hand delivers me.

One: God will fulfill God’s purpose for me;

Many: Your steadfast love, O God, endures forever.

*Hymn

“We Gather Together”

UMH 131

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

*Praise Songs

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!*

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...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

**O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives,
bringing new life out of destruction,
hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty.
We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole.
Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives,
and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,
that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.**

Children's Conversation

Reception of New Members

Gene Adams, Hanna Vea Austria, Ellen Orofino, Harllen Orofino,
Hurbert Orofino, Antonio Paredes, Juana Andreina Santos

The congregation responds:

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

Announcements

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

Joy in the Morning

Natalie Sleeth 1930-1992

There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day,
for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day.

There'll be peace and contentment evermore,
there'll be peace and contentment evermore,
every heart, every voice on that day will rejoice,
there'll be peace and contentment evermore.

There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere,
there'll be love and forgiveness everywhere,
and the way of the Lord will that day be restored,
there'll be love and forgiveness everywhere.

*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 25:14-30

Anthem

Oye (He Is Good)

James Varrick Armaah

I have heard some good news, he is good, he is good,
I have heard some good news that Jesus is love...
He is good, Father God is good, he is good indeed, he is good, he is good...
Let us all join together and sing a song that He is good, He is good.
My heart is full of praise, and I will sing a song that he is good.

God is good, Father God is good, he is good, he is good indeed.
I will say it again and again, that he is good, he is good, he is good indeed.
Look at me, he has blessed me, he is a good father.
Come to him and he will save you as well.
I will say it again and again, He is good, Father God is good.
He is good indeed, he is good, he is good.

Message

*Hymn

“Where He Leads Me”

UMH 338

I can hear my Savior calling, I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling, “Take thy cross and follow, follow me.”

Where he leads me I will follow, where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow; I’ll go with him, with him all the way.

I’ll go with him through the garden, I’ll go with him through the garden,
I’ll go with him through the garden, I’ll go with him, with him all the way.

Where he leads me I will follow, where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow; I’ll go with him, with him all the way.

I’ll go with him through the judgment, I’ll go with him through the judgment,
I’ll go with him through the judgment, I’ll go with him, with him all the way.

Where he leads me I will follow, where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow; I’ll go with him, with him all the way.

He will give me grace and glory, he will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory, and go with me, with me all the way.

Where he leads me I will follow, where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow; I’ll go with him, with him all the way.

*Benediction

Postlude

“Thanks Be to God”

E.L. Ashford

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

Call to Worship – Psalm 138 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.

Common Prayer – *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 464.

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