

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

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 "What Child is This" Fred Bock
ENGLISH MELODY

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: Christ is born! Give him glory!

Many: Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!

One: Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!

Many: O earth, sing to the Lord!

All: O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

*Hymn "Joy to the World" UMH 246

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Praise Songs

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...

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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 almighty God, by the birth of your holy child Jesus
you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness.
Grant that in his light we may see light.
Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people,
so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us.
and that we may have the ever brightening hope of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children’s Time

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

For Your Blessings in My Life

James Varrick Armaah

For your blessings in my life, your glory will never fade away
Your glory will never fade away, Saviour.
For your blessings in my life, how can I repay you?
Your glory will never fade away, Lord of grace.

What song shall I sing? What dance shall I dance?
What words can I express, Lord of grace?
For your blessings in my live, how can I repay you?
I will praise you without end, Lord of grace.

*Doxology

THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication

Hymn Singing

O Come, All Ye Faithful

stanzas 1&2

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come Ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, no created; (Refrain)

Angels We Have Heard on High

stanzas 1&3

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

*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 2:1-12

Anthem

Tie! Tie! Abɔfo Reto Dwom -
Hark! Hark! The Angels are Singing

Sam Asare Bediako

Hark! Hark! The Angels are singing,
Hark! Hark! The Angels are singing,
Hark! The Savior is born for us,
The sheep of the Lord has been born unto us
Hark! Jesus, The Savior has brought peace
Hark! Jesus, the Savior has brought happiness.

Hark! Hark! The Messiah is born
Hark! Hark! He is Bethlehem.
Hark! Hark! Glory in the highest,
Peace is here on earth.
He is our Savior,
He has brought happiness,
Hark! Jesus, the Savior has brought peace,
Hark! Jesus, the Savior has brought happiness.

Hymn Singing

O Little Town of Bethlehem

stanzas 1&4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Angels from the Realms of Glory

stanzas 1&3

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: (Refrain)

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

stanzas 1&3

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Message

*Hymn

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

UMH 671

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for thy gospel’s joyful sound.
May the fruits of thy salvation in our hearts and lives abound;
ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

*Benediction

Postlude

"In Excelsis Deo"

Lee Ellis

Based on an Old French Carol

Worship Leaders: Desmond Cheetham, Linda D’Acri, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee,
Debbie O’Driscoll, Jennifer Quansah, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 179.

Common Prayer – *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 277.

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