

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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 Loves Me

Claude Debussy, arr. Fred Boch

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: From the very beginning, God calls us.

Many: God sets us apart with a meaning and a purpose.

One: We come up with excuses to avoid our calls, for we are afraid.

Many: But God reassures us in many and various ways

One: Our hope is in God all of our lives.

Many: God is a rock of refuge.

One: In love, God saves and supports us.

Many: Trusting in God's love, we continually offer our praise!

*Hymn

"God of Love and God of Power"

UMH 578

God of love and God of power, grant us in this burning hour
grace to ask these gifts of thee, daring hearts and spirits free.
God of love and God of power, thou has called us for this hour.

We are not the first to be banished by our fears from thee;
give us courage, let us hear heaven's trumpets ringing clear.
God of love and God of power, thou has called us for this hour.

All our lives belong to thee, thou our final loyalty;
slaves are we whene'er we share that devotion anywhere.
God of love and God of power, thou has called us for this hour.

God of love and God of power, make us worthy of this hour;
offering lives if it's thy will, keeping free our spirits still.
God of love and God of power, thou has called us for this hour.

*Praise Songs

Joy Like a River

Joy like a river in my soul...

***Please stand in body or in spirit.**

Praise, O Praise, My God and King

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*)

Loving God, in the midst of the cacophony of voices that crush our spirit and deny our calling, we come to hear your voice of affirmation. We come to hear your voice calling us to be and do what you have called us to be and do. Let this time of worship quiet our fears and energize us for ministry in and with your beloved world. Let faith abide. Let hope abide. Let love abide—here in this sanctuary, here in our community, here in our world, here in us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Children’s Time

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

TFWS 2128, v. 1

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

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

Adepa Nyinaa (All good things)

K. Donkor

All Good things are from God. All praises are from God. If we do not praise you, we will be ungrateful. You deserve praises, you deserve all the glory, you deserve all the adoration

Work, children, strength and well being, wealth and peace are all by your Grace. If we do not praise you, we will be ungrateful. All praise and honor are yours always.

*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.

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 13

Anthem

Lord of the Dance

UMH 261
John Ferguson 1941-2025

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I’ll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I’ll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came to me and the dance went on. *Refrain*

I danced on the sabbath when I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;
and they left me there on a cross to die. *Refrain*

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;
it’s hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I’d gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. *Refrain*

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that’ll never, never die,
I’ll live in you if you’ll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. *Refrain*

Message

Announcements

*Hymn

“Whom Shall I Send?”

UMH 582

Whom shall I send? our Maker cries: and many, when they hear God’s voice,
are sure where their vocation lies; but many shrink from such a choice.

For who can serve a God so pure, or claim to speak in such a name,
while doubt makes every step unsure, and self confuses every aim?

And yet, believing God who calls knows what we are and still may be,
our past defeats, our future falls, we dare to answer: Lord, send me!

Those who are called God purifies, and daily gives us strength to bend
our thoughts, our skills, our energies, and life itself to this one end.

*Benediction

Postlude

The Glory of the Lord

Colin Mawby

Worship Leaders: Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle,
Ronna Davis, Danielle Ferdinand, Chris Kerns, Debbie O’Driscoll, David Potts,
Jennifer Quansah, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship – adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*.
Westminster John Knox Press, 2014.

Common Prayer – Joanne Carlson Brown, in *The Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright ©
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