

# Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

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*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.*

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***Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.***

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Prelude Arabesque Claude Debussy

Greeting

\*Call to Worship

One: Praise God! Glory be to God's holy name!

**Many: With joy and thankfulness, we come to worship our God!**

One: Praise God! Awe and wonder belongs to God!

**Many: With trust and confidence, we come to worship our God!**

One: Praise God! We delight in and praise our God!

**Many: In faith, hope and expectation, we come to worship our God!**

\*Hymn "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" (verses 1, 4, 5, 6) UMH 79

Holy God, we praise thy name; Lord of all, we bow before thee;  
all on earth thy scepter claim; all in heaven above adore thee.  
Infinite thy vast domain; everlasting is thy reign.

Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit: three we name thee,  
though in essence only one; undivided God we claim thee,  
and adoring bend the knee while we own the mystery.

Christ, thou art our glorious King, Son of God, enthroned in splendor;  
but deliverance to bring thou all honors didst surrender,  
and wast of a virgin born humbly on that blessed morn.

Thou didst take the sting from death, Son of God, as Savior given;  
on the cross thy dying breath opened wide the realm of heaven.  
In the glory of that land thou art set at God's right hand.

\*Praise Songs

**We Will Celebrate Our God**

We will celebrate our God! ...

Let his banner be raised, let his glory be seen.

We will celebrate our God! ...

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

## **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*)

**Faithful God,  
you have appointed us your witnesses,  
to be light that shines in the world.  
Let us not hide the bright hope you have given us,  
but tell everyone your love,  
revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. 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

Mo Mma Yenmbo se (Let Us Rejoice)

Nana Kofi Among Darkwa

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.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-2, 7-12, 16

\*Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

Anthem

“Here I Am, Lord”

Ovid Young 1940-2014

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?

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  
Who will speak my word to them  
Whom shall I send?

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 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  
'Til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them  
Whom shall I send?

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

Message

*The United Methodist Church practices Open Communion. All who desire to live in the love and peace of Jesus Christ are welcome to the bread and cup of communion.*

*At the direction of the ushers, come forward using the center aisle to stand or kneel at the communion rail for distribution of the elements. After consuming the elements and private prayer at the rail, you may return to your seat via the side aisles. Please alert the ushers to anyone wishing to be served while remaining seated in the sanctuary.*

*Non-alcoholic grape juice is used, and gluten-free wafers are available.*

Communion Music

"O Bread of Heaven"

César Franck

The Immigrant Apostles' Creed (*unison*)**I believe in Almighty God****Who guided the people in exile and in exodus****The God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,****The God of foreigners and immigrants****I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,****Who was born away from his people in his home,****Who fled his country with his parents****When his life was in danger****When he returned to his own country****He suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,****The servant of foreign power.****Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured****And unjustly condemned to death.****But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,****Not as a scorned foreigner****But to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.****I believe in the Holy Spirit,****The eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,****Who speaks all languages, lives all countries,****And reunites all races.****I believe that the Church is the secure home****For foreigners and for all believers.****I believe that the communication of saints begins****When we embrace all God's people in all their diversity.****I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God,****And in reconciliations, which heals our brokenness.****I believe that in the Resurrection, God will unite us as one people****In which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.****I believe in life eternal,****In which no one will be a foreigner but all will be citizens****Of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

Announcement

You are salt for the earth, O people:  
Salt for the Kingdom of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people:  
Life in the Kingdom of God!  
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,  
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,  
bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people:  
Light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people:  
Shine for the Kingdom of God!  
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,  
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,  
bring forth the City of God!

You are the seed of the Word, O people:  
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,  
Grow in the Kingdom of God!  
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,  
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,  
bring forth the City of God!

You are a blest and a pilgrim people:  
Bound for the Kingdom of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland:  
Love is the Kingdom of God!  
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,  
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,  
bring forth the City of God!

\*Benediction

Postlude

Trumpet Voluntary

Gordon Young

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

Common Prayer – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 210.  
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