

# Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

February 23, 2025

Seventh 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 "Peace" David Hegarty

Greeting

\*Call to Worship

One: Trust in God, and do good; take delight in God.

**Many: Commit your way to God; trust in God, and God will act.**

One: God will make the justice of your cause like the noonday.

**Many: Be still before God, and wait patiently for God.**

One: The salvation of the righteous is from God.

**Many: God is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

**All: God helps them and rescues them from the wicked, and saves them because they take refuge in God.**

\*Hymn

"All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded"

UMH 132

All my hope is firmly grounded in the great and living Lord;  
who, whenever I most need him, never fails to keep his word.  
God I must wholly trust, God the ever good and just.

Tell me, who can trust our nature, human, weak, and insecure?  
Which of all the airy castles can the hurricane endure?  
Built on sand, naught can stand by our earthly wisdom planned.

But, in every time and season, out of love's abundant store,  
God sustains the whole creation, fount of life forevermore.  
We who share earth and air count on God's unfailing care.

Thank, O thank, our great Creator, thru God's only Son this day;  
God alone, the heavenly potter, made us out of earth and clay.  
Quick to heed, strong in deed, God shall all the people feed.

\*Praise Songs

**Joy Like a River**

Joy like a river in my soul...

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

## Osee Praise

Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Praise the almighty God!  
He is worthy of our praise! Oh...  
He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...  
He is worthy of our praise! Halleluyah!

Osee Yee Praise Him Halleluyah!...  
He is worthy of our praise! Oh...  
He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...

## Common Prayer (*unison*)

**O God, we adore you,  
whose name is love.  
In signs and wonders your Son revealed  
the greatness of your saving love.  
You have taught us  
that all our deeds without love are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
the very bond of peace and of all goodness;  
through Jesus Christ. 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

"It is by Your Grace that I am Alive"

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.

\*Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:38-48

Anthem

“Kyrie Eleison”

Earlene Rentz Turner b. 1956

Kyrie eleison. Dona nobis pacem.  
Lord, have mercy. Grant us peace.

Message

Announcement

\*Hymn

“O Young and Fearless Prophet”

UMH 444

O young and fearless Prophet of ancient Galilee,  
thy life is still a summons to serve humanity;  
to make our thoughts and actions less prone to please the crowd,  
to stand with humble courage for truth with hearts uncowed.

We marvel at the purpose that held thee to thy course  
while ever on the hilltop before thee loomed the cross;  
thy steadfast face set forward where love and duty shone,  
while we betray so quickly and leave thee there alone.

O help us stand unswerving against war's bloody way,  
where hate and lust and falsehood hold back Christ's holy sway;  
forbid false love of country that blinds us to his call,  
who lifts above the nations the unity of all.

Stir up in us a protest against our greed for wealth,  
while others starve and hunger and plead for work and health;  
where homes with little children cry out for lack of bread,  
who live their years sore burdened beneath a gloomy dread.

O young and fearless Prophet, we need thy presence here,  
amid our pride and glory to see thy face appear;  
once more to hear thy challenge above our noisy day,  
again to lead us forward along God's holy way.

\*Benediction

Postlude

“Benedictus”

René Dubois

Worship Leaders: 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 37 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.  
Common Prayer – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 212.  
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