

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

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

“I Love to Tell the Story”

Robert C. Lau
HANKEY

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Many: God is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One: My heart shall not fear; I will be confident

Many: Teach me your way, O God of my salvation!

*Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

UMH 139

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to this temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigning
bears thee on eagle’s wings, e’er in his keeping maintaining.
God’s care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.
Hast thou not known his sustaining?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.
Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,
spreading the wings of grace o’er thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

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

*Praise Songs

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...

Ayeyi Wura (You Own Our Praise)

A-ye-yi Wurae' ----A-ye-yi Wurae'
Ye yi W'aye Na ye Ma Wo so!
You own our praise! You own our praise!
We praise you, Lord, and we lift you high!

Common Prayer (*unison*)

**O merciful God, in compassion for your sinful children
you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world.
Grant us grace to feel and to lament our share of the evil
that made it necessary for him to suffer and to die for our salvation.
Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation
to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life.
And give us a true longing to be free from sin,
through the deliverance won by Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

Children's Time

Holy Baptism

Yvonne Ekoa Blay-Morkeh

PROFESSION of FAITH

...

The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Yvonne Ekoa Blay-Morkeh with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Bible.
Do you believe in God the Creator?

I believe in God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend Conrad Gibbs to your love and care.

The congregation responds:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

Amen.

Hymn “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry” TFWS 2051

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old,
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

TFWS 2200

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to 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 Music

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.

*Doxology

Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. 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

Luke 13:31-35

Anthem

"The Lord is My Light"

Francis Allitsen (1848-1912)

The Lord is my light, and my salvation, whom, then, shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom, then, shall I be afraid?
Though an host of men were laid against me,
Yet shall not my heart be afraid;

And though there rose up war against me,
Yet will I put my trust in Him.
For in the time of trouble,
He shall hide me in His tabernacle,
Yea, in the secret places of His dwelling shall He hide me,
And set me up upon a rock of stone.

Message

Announcement

*Hymn

“I Love to Tell the Story”

UMH 156

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it life the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

*Benediction

Postlude

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

15th Century English - Callahan

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

Call to Worship – Psalm 27 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.
Common Prayer – *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 336.
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