

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

March 23, 2025

Third 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

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

ST MARGARET: Albert L. Peace, 1884

Arranged by Craig Courtney

In the style of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: O God, you are my God, I seek you;

Many: My soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you.

One: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary;

Many: Beholding your power and glory.

One: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

Many: My lips will praise you.

One: I will bless you as long as I live;

Many: I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

*Hymn

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

UMH 117

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

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

*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...

God You're So Good

God you're so good. God you are kind.
God you are wonderful. My God, you are excellent...

Excellent is Thy name. Excellent is Thy might.
God you are wonderful. My God you are excellent...

Prayer of Susanna Wesley (*unison*)

**You, O Lord, have called us to watch and pray.
Therefore, whatever may be the sin against which we pray,
make us careful to watch against it,
and so have reason to expect that our prayers will be answered.
In order to perform this duty aright,
grant us grace to preserve a sober, equal temper,
and sincerity to pray for your assistance. Amen.**

Children's Time

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 Anthem

Your Grace and Mercy

Newlove Kojo Annan

Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far,
Lord, had it not been for Your Grace, what would life have been like?
Life has been very rough; but Grace has always been my guide,
Lord, Your Grace has taken care of me to date. (2x)

You never gave the promise that the journey would be easy,
Your Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far!
Your Grace and Mercy is all I need,
Your Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far. (2x)

Abundant Grace, Abundant Grace, Abundant Grace, and having Mercy upon us,
Your Grace and Mercy has brought us thus far!

Your Grace and Mercy, is all I need, your Grace and Mercy
has brought us thus far!

Your Grace and Mercy, Your Grace and Mercy,
Your Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far!

*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 13:6-9

Anthem

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

John Purifoy
(cf. 20th century)

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in his blood.
But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.
For the love of God is broader than the measure of one's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple, we could take him at his word;
And our lives would be more loving in the likeness of our Lord.

Message

Announcement

*Hymn

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

UMH 480

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that sleekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow thru the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

*Benediction

Postlude

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Charles Callahan
ST. ANNE

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

Call to Worship – Psalm 63 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.
A Prayer of Susanna Wesley – *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 528.
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