

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent
Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

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.

For the safety of every worshipper, please observe the following guidelines regardless of your vaccine status.

- **Wear a mask covering your mouth and nose all the time during worship.**
- **Keep social distancing in your sanctuary seating.**
- **Remain seated as we sing our first hymn and praise songs.**
- **Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.**

Prelude	Two Preludes for Flute & Organ	<i>Robert Powell b. 1932</i>
	<i>Prepare the Way, O Zion</i>	
	<i>Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers</i>	
	In the Bleak Midwinter	<i>Michael Tyree b. 1994</i>
	<i>String Quartet</i>	

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Byungmoo Lee

*Advent Candle Lighting Bertha Amoako and Family

One: The Lord your God is in your midst, rejoicing over you with gladness, renewing you in love.

The first two Advent candles are relit.

Many: In this new light, we give thanks to the Lord.

One: With joy you will draw waters from the wells of salvation.

Many: We will rejoice in the Lord always.

One: We light a third candle to reveal the pathway to faithfulness.

The third Advent candle is lit.

All: As a covenant people we will seek to live in the joy of the Lord.

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
 who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
 The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
 God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
 a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven,
 Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
 the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

Praise Songs

Mema Kuruwa no so (I Will Lift the Cup of Praise)

Mε ma yeyi kruwa so, Mε ma yeyi kruwa so,
 Mε ma yeyi kruwa so...

Hwie nhyira bi fa me me! Hwie W'a yaresa gu me so mε.

English:

I will lift the cup of praise, I will lift the cup of praise, I will lift the cup of praise!...

Pour your blessing in my cup, pour your healing in my cup O Lord...

Ayeyi Wura (You Own Our Praise)

A-ye-yi Wurae' ----A-ye-yi Wurae'
 Ye yi W'aye Na ye Ma Wo so!

English:

You own our praise! You own our praise!

We praise you, Lord, and we lift you high!

Opening Prayer

One: Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.

Let us hear, in lessons from holy scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people.

Let us rejoice, in our carols, anthems and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.

Many: **We celebrate the promise that our lord and savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal dominion. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. But first, we pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the church and its members who are ill and the Church everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.**

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

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 and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson	Isaiah 40:1-11	Cordelia Ferdinand
Anthem	And the Glory of the Lord from <i>Messiah</i> <i>Choir and String Quartet</i>	<i>Georg Handel 1685-1759</i>

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken *it*.

The Second Lesson	Jeremiah 23:3-6	Deborah O'Driscoll
<i>Carol</i>	<i>O Come, Emmanuel</i> <i>String Quartet</i>	<i>Helen Marple-Horvat b. 1964</i>

The Third Lesson	Zechariah 9:9-10	Emily Smith
Anthem	O Come, Emmanuel <i>Choir and Cello</i>	<i>Elaine Hagenberg b. 1980</i> UMH 211

The Fourth Lesson	Haggai 2:6-9	Naa Dromo Aryee
<i>Carol</i>	Love Begotten <i>Flute</i>	<i>William Averitt b. 1948</i>

The Fifth Lesson	Isaiah 35:1-10	Judith Barton
Anthem	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus <i>Soloist, Choir, String Quartet and Flute</i>	<i>Hal Hopson b. 1933</i> UMH 196

The Sixth Lesson	Isaiah 65:17-25	William Ness
Anthem	Great Creator <i>Choir and String Quartet</i>	<i>Karen Marrolli b. 1975</i> based on Isaiah 65

Great Creator ever speaking teach us you are weaving still, painting heaven in its newness, sculpting earth with finest skill. What has come before will vanish as the night fades into morn, bringing daylight into darkness heaven and earth will be reborn.

Great Creator, ever listing to our prayers and to our plight, write in us your new creation, when our weeping turns to sight. Let us see the daylight dawning, when the wolf lies with the lamb, when all people join their voices, singing of the Great I Am. Jerusalem, our happy home, when shall we come to thee? When shall our sorrows have an end? When shall your joys we see?

Great Creator, ever moving over wind and over wave, let our restless hearts find comfort in the call to love and save. Great Creator, as we wait here for the glorious rebirth, use our hearts and hands in service; sculpt your kingdom here on earth.

***The Seventh Lesson**

Matthew 24:29-44

Rev. Byungmoo Lee

Anthem

Gloria

Antonio Vivaldi 1678-1741

Combined Choirs and String Quartet

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Glory to God in the highest.

***Advent Blessing**

May almighty God, by whose providence our savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

Amen.

May Christ whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

Amen.

May you, who rejoice in the first advent of our Redeemer, at his second advent be rewarded with unending life.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever and ever.

Amen.

***Hymn 718**

Lo! He comes, with Clouds Descending

Helmsley

Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.
Hallelujah! Halleluiah! Halleluiah! God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

The dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee, high on thy eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Everlasting God, come down!

Postlude

Toccata on *Helmsley*
Organ

Brenda Portman b. 1980

On your way out you may leave your tithe/offering and attendance slip in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. You can also mail your offering to the church or give online via church website (wesleyworc.org).

* Please stand in body or in spirit

Participants in today's service:

String Quartet:

Arielle Cady Flores, Paul Williams, violin

Lanu Stoddart, viola

Betsy Bronstein, cello

Sharon Wilson, flute

Marjorie Ness, organ and piano

Alesia Tringale, soprano soloist

William Ness, Director of Music

Wesley Festival Choir

Ghanaian Choir

Desmond Cheatham, Ghanaian Choir Director
and keyboard

Many thanks to all who have participated in today's worship service which includes our choirs with guest singers, instrumentalists, readers, technical team, and pastor. All have played an important part in bringing this service to life.

Advent Candle Lighting – by F. Richard Garland, The UMC Discipleship Ministries, Resources,
Advent Wreath Meditations

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