

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

March 6, 2022

First 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.

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 the hymns and praise songs.**
 - **Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.**
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Prelude

Lenten Voluntary on *St. Christopher*
Pleading Savior
Psalm 130

William Ness, organ
Alice Jordan 1916-2012
Emma Lou Diemer b. 1927
Emma Lou Diemer b. 1927

Greeting & Announcement

*Call to Worship

Gary Robinson, Liturgist

One: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to God,

Many: "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

One: Those who love me, I will deliver, says God.

Many: I will protect those who know my name.

One: When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble.

Many: I will rescue them and honor them, and show them my salvation.

Hymn

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

TFWS 2112

Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; he had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley; we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us; we have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial; you have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you; you have to stand it by yourself.

* Please Stand in Body or in Spirit

Common Prayer (*unison*)

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted, but did not sin. We ask your blessing as we begin our Lenten journey. Give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit. Let us see through the triviality and deception which accumulate in our daily living, and rediscover our spiritual truth, that with integrity and vulnerability we may worship you with humble wonder and joy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Songs

Desmond Cheatham, keyboard

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!...

Praise, O' praise, my God and King

Praise, O praise, my God and King.
Hymns of adoration, sing;
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful, ever sure...

Alleluia, Alleluia!
King of Kings and Lord of Lords!
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful ever sure...

Children's Conversation

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

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.

Anthem

O Lord, I Call to You

Jayne Southwick Cool b. 1947

...look upon me with compassion.
Calm my disquiet within hear my voice when I call to You.

[Refrain]

Out of the depths I carry unto you; let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy,
for I am bent down from the weight of my sin; but with you is forgiveness and love.

O Lord, I wait for you; my spirit longs for your coming.
Turn darkest night into day; comfort me as I wait for you.

[Refrain]

O Lord, I hope in you, my undying course of assurance;
your word is faithful and sure, so I place all my hope in you.

[Refrain]

Full redemption and unfailing love. Amen.

Holy Communion

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the One who delivers us.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God. You brought all things into being and called them good. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When you gave your Child Jesus Christ to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Through your Child Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

* Please Stand in Body or in Spirit

Hymn

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

TFWS 2158

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

[*Refrain*] Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snare, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

[*Refrain*]

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

[*Refrain*]

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.

Benediction

Postlude

Domine Jesu

Jeanne Demessieux 1921-1968

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).

Prelude Note: An annual celebration was begun last year of women composers by the Royal College of Organists in England and the Society of Women Organists on the nearest Sunday to International Women's Day, 8 March, as Woman Composer Sunday. In our service today four women composers are represented of whom three are American and one is French.

Call to Worship – Psalm 91 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press

Common Prayer – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 242. ALT.

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