

# Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

January 28, 2024

Fourth 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 Jesus, Lead Thou on Seelenbraeutigam Paul Manz

Greeting

\*Call to Worship

One: Here in the midst of God's people,

**Many: let us give thanks to God with our whole heart!**

One: How wonderful are the things that God has done!

**Many: God's wonderful deeds are well-known. for God is gracious and merciful.**

One: God is faithful and just in all things.

**Many: God has set us free, and offers us an everlasting promise.**

One: Let us give thanks to God with our whole heart!

**All: We come together to worship the God of mercy, justice, and love.**

\*Hymn

"All Who Hunger

TFWS 2126

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.  
Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

\*Praise Songs

**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...

**I Will Lift Up Your Name Higher**

I will lift up your name higher...  
Great Jehovah you are wonderful  
I will lift up your name higher...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

**Dear God, open our ears to hear what you are saying to us today.  
Open our eyes, to see where Jesus' healing love is needed in our world.  
Open our hands, to do your work where we are needed.  
Open our lips, to bring comfort, joy, and laughter to your people.  
Open our minds, to hear new truths about how you work in our world.  
Open our hearts, to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves  
as you love us. Amen.**

Children's Conversation

Announcement

Prayers of the People, & the Lord's Prayer

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH 393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on 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

Metease yi – As Long As I Live

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.

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.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1, 4, 7-13

\*Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

Thomas Quigley cf. 20<sup>th</sup> century

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art -  
 thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
 waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
 I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,  
 thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
 thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
 thou and thou only first in my heart,  
 high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
 may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s sun!  
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
 still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Message

“The Authority of Love”

Rev. Stacey Lanier

\*Hymn

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

TFWS 2146

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?  
 Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,  
 When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:  
 His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
 his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.  
 I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free,  
 for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled,” his tender word I hear,  
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.  
I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to him, from care he sets me free:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.  
I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

\*Benediction

Postlude

Postlude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

Worship Leaders: Rev. Stacey Lanier, Naa Dromo Aryee, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Chris Kerns, Debbie O’Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team