

# Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

February 4, 2024

Fifth 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

Prelude

S. Heller, op. 47

Greeting

\*Call to Worship

One: People of God, welcome! Surely God is in this place!

**Many: We come to worship and to rest in God's presence.**

One: Breathe deep for the goodness of God surrounds us.

**Many: The Holy One who sustains the universe is near.**

One: When we are tired, worn down, and carrying heavy burdens, God is with us.

**Many: God strengthens us that we might help carry one another's burdens.**

One: So, let us join together in wonder and thanksgiving for God's love that lifts us up on wings like eagles.

**Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*Hymn

We Sing to You, O God

TFWS 2001

We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth,  
let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth.  
To you, O God, let songs be raised, in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.

We wandered far from home out in a desert land,  
you shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band.  
You kept us safe within your arms and sheltered us against the storm.

You bear us through the world, an eagle to her young,  
who rises on her wings and bears us toward the sun.  
We ride the vaults of light and air and trust in your unfailing care.

O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,  
the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.  
Your word is true, your way is just, you are the God in whom we trust.

\*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...

**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!...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

**Loving God, from the very beginning you blessed creation. You have loved and shielded your people through all joys and trials of life. We come to you this day, rejoicing in the many blessings you have given to us. We open our hearts again to hear your word for us and to gather strength and joy for service in your world. Be with us and bless us again, we pray in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Children's Conversation

Announcements

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

For Your Blessings in My Life

James Varrick Armaah

For your blessings in my life, your glory will never fade away  
Your glory will never fade away, Saviour.  
For your blessings in my life, how can I repay you?  
Your glory will never fade away, Lord of grace.  
  
What song shall I sing? What dance shall I dance?  
What words can I express, Lord of grace?  
For your blessings in my life, how can I repay you?  
I will praise you without end, Lord of grace.

\*Doxology

UMH 94

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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

Anthem

On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas b. 1951

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord  
Who abide in His shadow for life  
Say to the Lord, "My refuge  
My rock, in whom I trust!"

[Chorus]

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand

The snare of the fowler will never capture you  
And famine will bring you no fear  
Under His wings, your refuge  
His faithfulness, your shield [Chorus]

You need not fear the terror of the night  
Nor the arrow that flies by day  
Though thousands fall about you  
Near you it shall not come [Chorus]

For to His angels He's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways  
Upon their hands they will bear you up  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone [Chorus]

\*Gospel Reading

Mark 1:29-39

Message

Soaring

Deborah O'Driscoll

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;  
re clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.

\*Benediction

Postlude

Ye Holy Angels Bright - DARWALL'S 148

Franklin Ritter and *John Darwall*

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

Call to Worship: Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries  
Common Prayer: Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters  
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