

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

March 9, 2025

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.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

Prelude Largo G.F. Handel

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: You who abide in the shadow of the Most High, 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: When they call to me, I will answer them.

One: I will rescue them and honor them.

Many: I will show them my salvation.

*Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

UMH 110

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same,
and he must with the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

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

*Praise Songs

Joy Like A River

Joy like a river in my soul...

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!...

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God, we have to admit that we don't like Ash Wednesday. We would rather skip the penitence and soul-searching of Lent and skip right to the joy of Easter morning.

The world teaches us that mistakes are awful and should be covered up at all cost. We learn to blame others instead of owning up to what we do and the pain we inflict.

Lord God, give us the strength in this time of Lent to ask for forgiveness for the hurt we cause and the mistakes we make. Remind us that the difficulties of life form and shape us. Teach us how to turn back to you, to love our neighbor, and to reach out to those who suffer.

Loving God, we know Jesus spent forty days in the desert preparing for his ministry to the world. We ask that you use these forty days of Lent to prepare us for our mission to the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

Children's Time

Holy Baptism

Conrad Robert Gibbs

PROFESSION of FAITH

...

The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Conrad Gibbs with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Bible.

Do you believe in God the Creator?

I believe in God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend Conrad Gibbs to your love and care.

The congregation responds:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

Amen.

Hymn

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

TFWS 2051

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old,
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

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

Amman Mma – Children of the World

Children of the world, children of the world, praise the Lord, for He is a mighty King.
Children of the world, children of the world, praise the Lord, for He is a mighty King.
He has conquered death. When He speaks, everything remains still. He is a conqueror. We will worship Him always.
Children of the world, children of the world, praise the Lord, for he is a mighty King.
Children of the world, go! We will sing for Him. We will shout praises unto Him. We will magnify Him always. We will give him all the glory and honor.

*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 4:1-13

Anthem

"On Eagle's Wings"

Michael Joncas b. 1951

Refrain

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.

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!" *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

Message

Announcement

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.

*Benediction

Postlude "Largo in c minor" Frédéric Chopin

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

Call to Worship – Psalm 91 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.
Prayer of Confession – *Worship & Song: Worship Resources*, Abingdon Press, 2011, 14.
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