

# Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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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

Cross of Jesus

Sir John Steiner

Greeting

\*Call to Worship

One: O God, I confessed my transgressions to you.

**Many: And you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

One: You are a hiding place for me.

**Many: You surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

One: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

**Many: Be glad in God and rejoice, O righteous;  
shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

\*Hymn

“Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here”

UMH 579

Lord God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for love were made;  
your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed;  
we come, with all our heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
half free, half bound by inner chains, by social forces swept along,  
by powers and systems close confined, yet seeking hope for humankind.

Lord God, in Christ you call our name and then receive us as your own;  
not through some merit, right, or claim, but by your gracious love alone;  
we strain to glimpse your mercy seat and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread, and humble us, and call us friends;  
suffer and serve till all are fed, and show how grandly love intends  
to work till all creation sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Lord God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your joy to share;  
give us your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair,  
and offer all that faith can do, while love is making all things new.

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

\*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 Have Joy in My Heart**

I have joy in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart...  
Jesus gave to me, and no one can destroy it.  
I have joy in my heart; deep, deep down in my heart...

Prayer for Courage to Do Justice (*unison*)

**O Lord,**

**open my eyes that I may see the needs of others;  
open my ears that I may hear their cries;  
open my heart so that they need not be without succor;  
let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,  
nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.  
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,  
and use me to bring them to those places.  
And so open my eyes and my ears  
that I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee. Amen.**

Children's Time

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

Mo wo Nyame bia Ōnto nko na Jada

George Mensah Essilfie

(I have a God who is always awake and never sleeps)

I have a God who neither nods nor sleeps. When I cry out for Him or when I pray unto Him, He answers my prayers and He lives forever. I have a Special God who always stays awake.

He is my Refuge and my fortress. The Father never nods nor sleeps. In my distress, He is my helper/Savior. I have a God in whose name Elijah called for fire. Yes, I have a God.

Elijah's blood should come, Yes, I have a God. Truly, fire descended from the Heavens as was commanded and the fire accomplished the task at hand.

I have a God who neither nods nor sleeps. I have a God who lives forever and always.

\*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 15:1-10

Anthem

UMH 383

"New Beginnings"

Carlton R. Young (1926-2023)

**This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

For by the lie and death of Jesus,  
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference,  
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

**Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.**

In faith we'll gather round the table  
to taste and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.

*The congregation is invited to join the choir on verses 1 and 4.*

Message

Announcement

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
 fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
 Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
 visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
 Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.  
 Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
 end of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
 suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
 Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
 pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
 Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
 changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
 till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## \*Benediction

Postlude

Postlude in A Minor

Christian Heinrich Rinck

## MUSIC NOTES

Sir John Stainer (1840-1901) was an English organist and church composer and a leading early musicologist. As a boy Stainer sang in the choir of St. Paul's Cathedral. At the age of 16 he was appointed organist at the newly opened St. Michael's College, Tenbury, a school for church musicians. Named organist at St. Paul's in 1872, Stainer served in that prestigious position until 1888, when he resigned because of failing eyesight. He was a founder of the (later Royal) Musical Association in 1874 and taught at the National Training School for Music, opened in 1876. Knighted in 1888, Stainer was professor of music at the University of Oxford from 1889 to his death.

Stainer's Romantic church music is now mainly performed in England, although his best-known oratorio, *The Crucifixion* (1887), is also performed in other English-speaking countries. He wrote songs as well as cantatas, services, anthems, and other music for the church service. He also published treatises on the organ and music theory and collaborated on a dictionary of musical terms. Stainer's most lasting contribution is his compilation *Early Bodleian Music*, with musical examples from the 12th to the 16th century, and *Dufay and His Contemporaries* (publication begun in 1898), an edition of 15th-century music prepared with the help of his children. Both publications helped open the way to the study of Medieval and Renaissance music, which during Stainer's time was almost unknown. — Britannica.com

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

Call to Worship – Psalm 32 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.  
 Prayer for Courage to Do Justice – *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 456.  
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