

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

April 6, 2025

Fifth 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

Aria from *Rinaldo*

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: Blessed are you, O God; teach me your statutes.

Many: Do not let me stray from your commandments.

One: I will meditate on your precepts;

Many: I will fix my eyes on your ways.

One: I will delight in your statutes;

Many: I will treasure your word in my heart.

*Hymn

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

UMH 103

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; O help us to see
‘tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

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

*Praise Songs

Ayeyi Wura (You Own Our Praise) *[Feel free to sing in either language]*

A-ye-yi Wurae' ----A-ye-yi Wurae'
Ye yi W'aye Na ye Ma Wo so!

*You own our praise! You own our praise!
We praise you, Lord, and we lift you high!*

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...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

**Almighty God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim your reign of love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. 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

Aseda – Thanks

J. G. Koomson

Aseda (sE no), Aseda (sE no), Aseda nka Nyame wo sor
Ayeyi nye ntonton sE wo Abɔ sor Nyame a EyE KEse (kE se)
wonsa no ndwuma dzi adanse (ampa) dE EyE Nyame a ye som woa ɔfa ta.

Thanks be to Him, Thanks be to Him, Thanks be to God on high, (2x)
You are worthy of praise and adoration
Lord of the All you are great
Truly, all your handiworks bear witness that you are
God who is worthy to be worshipped.

*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.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

*Gospel Reading

John 12:1-8

Anthem

Give Me Jesus

Larry L. Fleming (1936-2003)

O, when I am alone, give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.
O, when I come to die, give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.
And when I want to sing, give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

Message

Holy Communion

"The Great Thanksgiving"

UMH 13-14

The United Methodist Church practices Open Communion. All who desire to live in the love and peace of Jesus Christ are welcome to the bread and cup of communion. At the direction of the ushers, come forward using the center aisle to stand or kneel at the communion rail for distribution of the elements. After consuming the elements and private prayer at the rail, you may return to your seat via the side aisles. Please alert the ushers to anyone wishing to be served while remaining seated in the sanctuary. Non-alcoholic grape juice is used, and gluten-free wafers are available.

Communion Music

Adagio

C. Gurlitt (1820-1901)

The Immigrant Apostles' Creed (*unison*)

I believe in Almighty God

Who guided the people in exile and in exodus

The God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,

The God of foreigners and immigrants

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,

Who was born away from his people in his home,

Who fled his country with his parents

When his life was in danger

When he returned to his own country

He suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,

The servant of foreign power.

Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured
And unjustly condemned to death.
But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,
Not as a scorned foreigner
But to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,
Who speaks all languages, lives all countries,
And reunites all races.
I believe that the Church is the secure home
For foreigners and for all believers.
I believe that the communication of saints begins
When we embrace all God's people in all their diversity.
I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God,
And in reconciliations, which heals our brokenness.
I believe that in the Resurrection, God will unite us as one people
In which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.
I believe in life eternal,
In which no one will be a foreigner but all will be citizens
Of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Announcement

*Hymn

"Blessed Assurance"

UMH 369

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
 O what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
 born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long;
 this is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
 visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
 angels descending bring from above
 echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long;
 this is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
 I in my Savior am happy and blest,
 watching and waiting, looking above,
 filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

*Benediction

Postlude

Postlude in A Minor

V. Klaus (1805-1881)

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

Call to Worship – Psalm 119 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.
Common Prayer – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 249.
The Immigrant Apostles’ Creed - Attributed by Rev. Jose Luis Casal
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