

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

Native American Ministries Sunday

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

Tranquility

Gilbert M. Martin

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: Sing praises to God, O you faithful ones;

Many: Give thanks to God's holy name.

One: O God, you have turned my mourning into dancing;

Many: You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

One: My soul praises you and not be silent.

Many: O God my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

*Hymn

"Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

UMH 304

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choicest; heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

*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!

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

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...

Native American Ministries Sunday Prayer (*unison*)

Holy God, the Creator and Sustainer, thank you for making your presence known to all peoples in the midst of creation. We remember today the ministries with Native American people, tribes and communities. We commit ourselves to living out the covenant we have made with you and with one another. We commit to respect the created world in its vast variety. We commit to honor the life you create in its many shapes and forms. We commit to love sisters and brothers who are like us and who are very different from us. In the name of Christ we pray. 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 Mma Yenmbo se
(Let Us Rejoice)

Nana Kofi Ampong Darkwa

Let us rejoice, God lives always. Let us rejoice, He will always fight for us. Let us rejoice, we will always be victorious. Alleluia! Uplift and rejoice.

Let us rejoice, Christ our King walks with us always. Let us rejoice, He will grant us all our needs. Let us rejoice, we will be victorious. Alleluia! Uplift and rejoice.

*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!

*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.

Anthem

“Worthy Is the Lamb”

Pepper Choplin (b. 1957)

Clothed in righteousness, robed in glory, holy is the Lord of hosts.
Blessing and honor, glory and power to Him who reigns upon the throne.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor and praise for evermore.
I heard the voice of many angels, they were gathered 'round the throne.
They were ten thousand times ten thousand, all the angels joined as one.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor and praise for evermore.
Bring Him honor and praise for evermore. Amen.

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

“One Bread, One Body”

John B. Foley (1978)

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 reconciliation, 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

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

UMH 344

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
 looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
 you only asked me to follow humbly.
 O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
 and while smiling have spoken my name;
 now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
 by your side I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions;
 my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
 you will find there my nets and labor.
 O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
 and while smiling have spoken my name;
 now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
 by your side I will seek other seas.

You need my hands, full of caring
 through my labors to give others rest,
 and constant love that keep on loving.
 O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
 and while smiling have spoken my name;
 now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
 by your side I will seek other seas.

You, who have fished other oceans,
 ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
 my loving friend, as thus you call me.
 O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
 and while smiling have spoken my name;
 now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
 by your side I will seek other seas.

*Benediction

Postlude

The Throne Room from *Star Wars*

John Williams

MUSIC NOTES

"The Throne Room is all about getting into the presence of God. We all have Jesus inside of us, but there's something about the posture of our hearts and our willingness to really lay down all the distractions and the concerns and stress and everything else and shift our perspective and mindset to be on Him and to lift our eyes to Him. No matter what's going on, what I'm facing, there is one place—it's Him and His presence—where I can get peace, where I can get answers, where I can get everything, I need. It's also the place where we should be visiting and checking in on a regular basis. A relationship with God includes consistency and quality time and complete access to Him and His presence any time of day at any moment no matter where I am. All I have to do is shift my perspective and put my attention on Him." - Kim Walker-Smith, American singer, songwriter, worship leader, and recording artist.

What is the meaning of "may the 4th be with you"? The date originated from the pun "May the Fourth be with you", from the Star Wars catchphrase "May the Force be with you." Even though the holiday was not created or declared by Lucasfilm, many Star Wars fans have chosen to celebrate the holiday. The first recorded reference of the phrase being used was on May 4, 1979, the day after Margaret Thatcher was elected as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Her political party, the Conservatives, placed a congratulatory advertisement in the evening news saying, "May the Fourth Be with You, Maggie. Congratulations!"

Star Wars was created with religious overlay connotations, drawing from various spiritual traditions, including Methodism, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity.

May 4 will occur next on a Sunday in the year 2031.

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

Call to Worship – Psalm 30 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.
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