

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

August 24, 2025

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Morning Has Broken

Franklin D. Ashdown

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: The Lord is our rock and our refuge.

Many: God is our fortress in times of trouble.

One: The Holy One saves us from the hand of the wicked.

Many: God delivers us from our foes.

One: Christ heals us from our infirmities.

Many: The Spirit frees us from the chains that bind us.

All: God is our refuge and our strength.

*Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

UMH 139

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to this temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning
bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining.
God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.
Hast thou not known his sustaining?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.
Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,
spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

***Please Stand in Body or in Spirit**

Common Prayer (*unison*)

Eternal God, you knew us before we were conceived. You called us as your own while we were still in our mothers' wombs. Keep watch over us, we pray, for we long to return to your ways. Restore our confidence in times of doubt, for we yearn to be the people you would have us to be. Grant us the confidence to go forth unafraid, that we might bless the world through your presence in our lives. Amen.

The Children's Mini Harvest

*Praise Songs

Joy Like a River

Joy like a river in my soul...

Osee Praise

Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Praise the almighty God!

He is worthy of our praise! Oh...

He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...

He is worthy of our praise! Halleluyah!

Osee Yee Praise Him Halleluyah!...

He is worthy of our praise! Oh...

He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...

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...

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...

Prayer Time

Call to Prayer

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

TFWS 2120, refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,

blow through the wilderness calling and free;

Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,

Wind, Wind on the sea.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (You are invited to pray in the language of your choice.)

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.

Offertory Music

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! 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.

Psalter

Psalms 71

UMH 794

Response: *O Lord, you are my hope, my trust, Lord, from my youth.*

¹ In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame!

² **In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me, and save me!**

³ Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

⁴ **Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.**

⁵ For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

⁶ **Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My
praise is continually of you.**

Response: *O Lord, you are my hope, my trust, Lord, from my youth.*

⁷ I have been as an example to many; for you are my strong refuge.

⁸ **My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day.**

⁹ Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
forsake me not when my strength is spent.

¹⁰ **For my enemies speak concerning me,**
those who watch for my life consult together, saying

¹¹ **"God has forsaken him; pursue and seize him, for there is no deliverer."**

¹² O God, be not far from me;

O my God, make haste to help me!

Response: *O Lord, you are my hope, my trust, Lord, from my youth.*

*Gospel Reading

John 14:1-7, 15-19

Message

“Superstar”

*Hymn

Marching to Zion

UMH 733

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

[Refrain] We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad. *[Refrain]*

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. *[Refrain]*

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. *[Refrain]*

Announcements

*Hymn

I'll Fly Away

TFWS 2282

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away;
to a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away,

[Refrain] I'll fly away, Oh Glory I'll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away;
like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away. *[Refrain]*

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away;
to a land where joy shall never end, I'll fly away. *[Refrain]*

*Benediction

Postlude

Exalt His Name

Charles Cooke

Call to Worship and Common Prayer: *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025*

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

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***Please Stand in Body or in Spirit**