

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Harvest Sunday

September 28, 2025

Fifteenth 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.

***Please Stand in Body or in Spirit When You See the ***

Prelude

Pastorale

Ronna Davis, organ

J. Newell, composer

Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

Centering Music

As We Gather

A Cappella

Michael Fay & Thomas Coomes, composers

**As we gather may your Spirit work within us
As we gather may we glorify Your name
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship
We'll be blessed because we came.
We'll be blessed because we came.**

***Call to Worship**

One: How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

ALL: For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.

One: God makes us new in God's Spirit!

ALL: Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.

One: Come, let us worship and be thankful.

ALL: Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God! AMEN.

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Refrain*

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

***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...

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

The blessings of each day, food to eat, clothes to wear, contentment with all we have whether rich or poor. This is life in your kingdom. How difficult, Lord to walk along this road, when the world tempts us with much that which desire, but do not need. Forgive our weakness and teach us again to know the contentment of having enough and sharing not only from our riches but also from our poverty. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Moment of Silence for Personal Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

God Is Forgiveness

Pastor Nizzi

God is forgiveness.
Dare to forgive and God will be with you.
God is forgiveness.
Love and do not fear.

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

Pastor Nizzi

The Lord's Prayer

(You are invited to pray in the language of your choice to celebrate our diversity.)

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.

*Gospel Reading

Luke 16:19-31

The Rich Man and Lazarus

See Ivory Insert

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'

This is the Word of God for us the people of God. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Anthem

Chancel Choir

On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas, composer

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

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering

Offertory Music

Ghanaian Choir

Your Grace and Mercy

Newlove Kojo Annan, composer

Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far,
Lord, had it not been for Your Grace, what would life have been like?
Life has been very rough; but Grace has always been my guide,
Lord, Your Grace has taken care of me to date.

You never gave the promise that the journey would be easy,
Your Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far!
Your Grace and Mercy is all I need,
Your Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far.

Abundant Grace, Abundant Grace, Abundant Grace, and having Mercy upon us,
Your Grace and Mercy has brought us thus far!
Your Grace and Mercy, is all I need, your Grace and Mercy
has brought us thus far!

Your Grace and Mercy, Your Grace and Mercy,
Your Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far!

***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**

Pastor Nizzi

***Passing of Peace**

Shalom

Mensah Essilfie, composer

God's peace be unto you,
We wish you Shalom!
The peace of God which transcends all
understanding be with you forevermore.

Prayer of Remembrance

Isaac Kwame Eshun-Famiyeh (1945-2025)

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul!
It is well with my soul!
It is well, it is well with my soul!
2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
It is well with my soul!
It is well, it is well with my soul!

“THE HARVEST FESTIVAL”

Word of Welcome

Gifty Bentum-Asante, Secretary of the Ghanaian Association and Co-Lay Leader

Kofi and Ama: Celebrate the day of your birth

Praise, O Praise, My God and King

Praise, O praise, my God and King.
Hymns of adoration, sing;
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful, ever sure ...
Alleluia, Alleluia!
King of Kings and Lord of Lords!
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful ever sure...

Water Blessing and Opening of the Auction

(Water plays an important role in our daily human lives and in our witness of faith. The blessing of the water today is only a symbolic act to remind us of how God has used water to bless us and nourish us in life and in faith. During Harvest, the focus is not on the water but on our response characterized by our giving. Those who bid for the water are bidding for the privilege and honor to lead us in opening the Harvest offering celebrations. Because water is prevalent in all our lives, God's blessings belong to us all.)

Appeal for Funds

Me yi N'aye (I Will Praise Him) [Feel free to sing in either language]

Me yi n'aye, Me yi Nyamea' ye...
Me yi Nyamea' ye, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah ...

I will praise God, I will praise my God...
I will praise my God, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah...

Sanctuary Auction

Closing Remarks & Announcement

*Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

UMH 102

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

*Benediction

Pastor Nizzi

Postlude

The Power and The Glory

Ronna Davis, organ
Roy E. Nolte, composer

2025 List of Chairperson, Co-chairperson and Supporters

Chairperson

Mr. Harry Danso (Nana Awuah Panin II)

Supporters

Mr. Maxwell Agyemfra (Nana Sompahene)

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Mrs. Charity Kwartengmaah

Betsy Pennino

Mr. Gary Robinson

Mr. Stephen Wakadilo

Ms. Susan Williams

Good Shepherd Methodist Church

Presbyterian Church of Ghana

Worship Leaders: Gary Robinson (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham,
David Dagle, Rev. Nizzi Digan, Ronna Davis, Chris Kerns, Debbie O'Driscoll,
David Potts, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

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The Assurance of Pardon, *God Is Forgiveness*, is from Communaute de Taizé.

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