

# Wesley United Methodist Church

*Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!*

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

October 5, 2025

World Communion Sunday

Seventeenth 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.***

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

## **Prelude**

*Variations on "Beach Spring"*

Lois Toeppner, organ  
Alfred V. Fedak, composer

## **Welcome**

Rev. Nizzi Digan

## **Centering**

*As We Gather*

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:** Come, all who sit by rivers of sorrow, who have hung up their hope and wondered if God still sings.

**ALL:** **We come carrying exile in our bones, dislocation in our hearts, and longing in our prayers.**

**One:** This is the table where memory is honored, where story is sacred, where strangers become siblings

**ALL:** **We come to taste and see that the Lord is good, to feast on grace, to believe again in belonging.**

**One:** Around the world, across languages and landscapes, a holy table is set.

**All:** **We come not because we are worthy, but because Christ calls us in love. Come, let us worship the One who welcomes, the One who remembers, the One who feeds the whole world with hope.**

1. I come with joy, to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free,  
In awe and wonder to recall, His life laid down for me, His life laid down for me.
2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
4. And thus, with joy, we meet our Lord. His presence always near,  
Is in such friendship better known, we see and praise Him here, we see and praise Him here.
5. Together met, together bound we'll go our different ways,  
And as His people in the world, we'll live and speak His praise, we'll live and speak His praise.

**\*Praise Songs****I Will Lift Up Your Name Higher**

I will lift up your name higher...

Great Jehovah you are wonderful

I will lift up your name higher...

**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...

**Opening Prayer**

**Jesus prayed that we might be one. One in spirit One in mission. In union and communion with each other and with You. Today, God, we confess fumbblings and failures in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere. We thank you for setting a table with enough space for us all! Amen.**

(Moment of Silence for Personal Confession)

**Assurance of Pardon***God Is Forgiveness*

God is forgiveness. Dare to forgive and God will be with you.

God is forgiveness. Love and do not fear.

**Time for the Child in Each of Us****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.**

**Responsive Reading**

*Psalm 137*

UMH 852

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.

**On the willows there we hung up our lyres.**

For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying,  
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

**How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?**

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!

**Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!**

O Lord, remember against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem,

**How they said, "Raze it, raze it! Down to its foundations!"**

O daughter of Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall they be who repay you with what you have done to us!

**Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!**

**\*Gospel Reading**

*Luke 17:5-6*

NRSVUE

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

**Anthem**

UMH 140

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

*Gilbert M. Martin, composer*

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 has 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!

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*

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*

**The Offering & Offertory Music**

*Kyere me Kwan (Show Me the Way)*

*Justice G. Francois, composer*

Show me the way, show me the way, Almighty God  
 Show me the way so that I may not get lost  
 Where are we going? Only you know. Will all be well? Only you know.  
 Take my hand, lead the way. Almighty God.  
 Take my hand, lead the way so that I may not stumble.

**\*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, composer*

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

**The Sacrament of the Holy Communion**

UMH 17, Musical Setting A

*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 & Meditation**

*It Is Well with My Soul*

*Craig Phillips, composer*

**Announcements**

**\*Hymn/Recessional**

*Spirit of God*

TFWS 2117

1. Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,  
 blow as You always do; create us anew.  
 Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,  
 held in Your hands, borne on Your wings.  
 Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.
2. Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,  
 healing upon Your wings for all living things.  
 For when we live Your peace captives will find release,  
 held in Your hands, borne on Your wings.  
 Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.

3. Spirit of God, bright Hands, even in far-off lands  
You hold all the human race in one warm embrace.  
No matter where we go You hold us together so,  
held in Your hands, borne on Your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.
4. Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in Your holy name,  
with power to heal, to share Your love everywhere.  
We cannot fail or fall or know defeat at all,  
held in Your hands, borne on Your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.
5. Spirit of God in all, we gladly hear Your call,  
the life in our hands that sings, the power of Your wings.  
Born of Your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,  
held in Your hands, borne on Your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come.

### **Prayer of Remembrance**

Jonathan Owusu Ahinakwa

### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

*Festal Flourish*

Lois Toeppner, organ  
*Gordon Jacob, composer*

### **MUSIC NOTES**

While Ronna Davis is with her family this weekend, we welcome our guest organist, Lois Toeppner. Lois holds a Master's degree focused in Organ Performance from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Lois, retired from St John Ev Lutheran Church as the Minister of Music for 30 years (Sudbury, MA) and Artist in Residence, Choral Accompanist at Nashoba Regional High School, Lois keeps active as a substitute organist/choral director throughout the greater Boston/Worcester area.

Worship Leaders: Deborah O'Driscoll (liturgist), Desmond Cheetham,  
David Dagle, Chris Kerns, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah,  
Lois Toeppner (organist), Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Communion Servers: Osei Ansa, Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy, Gary Robinson, Enoch Ukpogong

World Communion Sunday Bread Offerings:

English Sourdough, Earl Flagg; French Bread, Edith Isaac; Ghana Homestyle Buns, Gifty Bentum-Asante;  
Italian Bread, Linda D'Acri; Jamaica Hard Dough Bread, Judith Barton;  
Philippines Pan De Sal, Hubert & Helen Orofino; Portuguese Bread, Louis D'Acri;  
Scotland Scones, Betsy Pennino; Spanish Bread, Antonio, Sebastian & Mateo Paredes;  
Swedish Coffee Bread, Chris Flagg; Afghan Bread, Mirzai family

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## **This Week at Wesley**

*\*Outside groups. Registration is required.*

### **Sunday, October 5, 2025 – World Communion Sunday**

- 8:00 am Community Breakfast
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Children's Sunday School
- 11:15 am Communion Breakfast
- 11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Sunday AA (Chapel)

### **Monday, October 6, 2025**

- 5:30 pm Eye Glass Clinic
- 7:00 pm Church Council - Zoom

### **Tuesday, October 7, 2025**

- 5:30 pm Go Hard or Stay Home BB\*

### **Wednesday, October 8, 2025**

- 7:00 pm AA – BBSS (Chapel)

### **Thursday, October 9, 2025**

- 10:00 am Matt's Office Day (to 1pm)
- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor BB\*

### **Friday, October 10, 2025**

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor BB\*

### **Saturday, October 11, 2025**

- 9:30 am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL)
- 7:00 pm Contra-Dance (BH)

### **Sunday, October 12, 2025**

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time
- 11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Sunday AA (Chapel)

The church office is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm.  
*For more events this month, there are copies of the October calendar in the Narthex.*