

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Reign of Christ Sunday / Thanksgiving Sunday

November 23, 2025



*Praise God from whom
all blessings flow.*

At Wesley United Methodist Church, 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

Prelude on O Worship the King

Wesley Ringers
Linda Scholes, composer

Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

Centering

As We Gather 2X

A Cappella

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: Give thanks to God who is good.

ALL: God's love is everlasting.

One: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

ALL: Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

One: For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors;

ALL: Thank you, God.

One: For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying;

ALL: Thank you, God.

One: For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement;

ALL: Thank you, God.

One: For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures;

ALL: Thank you, God.

One: For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness;
for their sudden sympathies;

ALL: Thank you, God.

One: For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values;
for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows;

ALL: Thank you, God.

One: For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience;
for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing;

ALL: Thank you, God.

One: For Your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases;
for preserving us in temptation and danger;

ALL: Thank you, God.

One: For Wesley UMC into which we have been called; for the good news we receive by Word
and Sacrament; for our life together in worship, fellowship and mission;

ALL: We praise you, God.

One: For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love; who prays in
us and prompts our grateful worship;

ALL: We praise you, God.

One: Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our
salvation; for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him;

ALL: We thank and praise you, Eternal God, for your everlasting love. Amen.

***Opening Hymn/Processional**

Jesus Shall Reign

UMH 157

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom spread from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. To Jesus endless prayer be made, and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns; all prisoners leap and loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!

***Praise Songs**

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...

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!

Opening Prayer

Provider God, on this day of gratitude, we come before You with hearts full of thanks. We remember that every good and perfect gift comes from You, and the greatest gift of all is Your Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him, we have received grace upon grace, forgiveness for our sins, and the promise of eternal life.

Lord Jesus, we honor You as the center of our thanksgiving. You are the Bread of Life who satisfies our deepest hunger, the Living Water who quenches our thirst, and the Light who guides our steps. Today, as we gather with church family and friends, may our joy be rooted in Your love, our peace anchored in Your presence, and our hope renewed by Your resurrection.

Holy Spirit, fill this place with unity, kindness, and a spirit of generosity. Let our words and actions reflect the heart of Christ, so that our thanksgiving is not just spoken but lived out daily.

We offer this prayer in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

(Moment of Silence for Personal Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

God Is Forgiveness

Debbie O'Driscoll

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

DS Megan Stowe & Pastor Nizzi

Thank you, Jesus! Amen.

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 Readings**

Luke 23:39-43 & John 6:25-35 (NRSVUE)

Luke 23:39-43:

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

John 6:25-35:

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Anthem

Combined Choirs

*Worthy Is the Lamb**Pepper Choplin, composer*

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 then thousand times ten thousand, all the angels joined as one.
Amen.

Message

"Gratitude in the Reign of Grace"

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering & Offertory Music

Ghanaian Choir

*Praise Him**Newlove Annan, composer*

Let us shout His praise, for He is worth of His Kingship.
Alleluia, He is indeed worthy of His Kingship.

The devil fought tirelessly but he could not do anything. As for our Lord Jesus Christ, He is the King of Kings. Let us praise Him, Let us extol Him.

***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.

Announcements

***Closing Hymn/Recessional**

Now Thank We All Our God

UMH 102

1. Now we thank 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 ever more.

***Benediction/Blessing**

DS Megan Stowe

***Benediction Response** (Tune: Spirit of the Living God)

Congregation

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you my friends.
Go and share the love of God, love that never ends.

Postlude

Fanfare on NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Charles Callahan, composer

Worship Leaders: Debbie O'Driscoll (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante,
Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Debbie O'Driscoll, Antonio Paredes,
David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Gary Robinson, DS Megan Stowe, Chancel Choir,
Ghanaian Choir, Wesley Ringers, Worship Tech Team

The Call to Worship is from the *Book of Common Worship*, 1993. Posted on the website of the
Annandale United Methodist Church, <http://www.annandale-umc.org/filerequest/2687>.

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