

# Wesley United Methodist Church

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

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 30, 2025**

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*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.*

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***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**

*Voluntary, Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Charles Callahan

Ronna Davis, organ

**Welcome**

Pastor Nizzi

**Centering**

*Wait for the Lord*

*Taizé Community*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.

**\*Call to Worship**

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

**ALL: For in God's house, we shall find hope and healing.**

One: In God's house we shall find forgiveness and friendship.

**ALL: May peace be within the walls of this house of God.**

One: Come, let us go to the house of the Lord.

**ALL: Come, let us sing our praises to God who loves and redeems us. AMEN.**

**\*Opening Hymn/Processional**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

UMH 196

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

## **\*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...

### **Joy Like a River**

Joy like a river in my soul...

## **Opening Prayer**

Holy One, You call us to wake from sleep, to become aware of our surroundings. The dawn of a new time of preparation is upon us. Forgive us when sleepiness takes its toll, when our discussions become battles, when our judgment and self-judgement outweigh our faith. Let us put on the light of Christ and live as You have called us in respect, in mutual dialogue, and in healthy living. Help us so that everything we do reflects Christ's light. 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.

## **Advent Candle Liturgy**

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4).

**ALL: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.**

Reader 2: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

Reader 3: In Jesus, there is hope. (*Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.*)

## **Musical Response**

*Light the Advent Candle*

TFWS 2090

Light the Advent candle one. Now the waiting has begun.

We have started on our way. Time to think of Christmas day.

Candle, candle burning bright Shining in the cold winter night.

Candle, candle burning bright Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

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

Pastor Nizzi

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
 Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
 We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;  
 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**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.**

**Response**

Amen. Amen. Amen.

UMH 898

**\*Gospel Reading**

Matthew 24:36-44 (NRSVUE)

**The Necessity for Watchfulness**

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Anthem**

Chancel Choir

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**Michael Larkin, composer*

Rejoice!

Rejoice, rejoice, believers and let your lights appear;

The evening is advancing and darker night is near.

The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.

Up pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;

Go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.

The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.

Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus now appear;

O Sun so longed for o'er this benighted sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see

The day of *earth's redemption that sets your people free!*

**Message***Watchful Hearts, Hopeful Lives*

Rev. Nizzi Digan

**The Offering & Offertory Music**

Ghanaian Choir

*The Son of God is Coming Again**Composer: Unknown*

The Son of God is coming again. Let the people sing Alleluia,  
Sing, Alleluia, sing, sing, Alleluia, Let the people sing, Alleluia.

**\*Advent Doxology**

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

**\*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***People, Look East*

UMH 202

1. People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.
4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**\*Benediction****\*Benediction Response**

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**

Ronna Davis, organ

*Preparation for The King**Arcangelo Corelli, composer**From "Concerto Grosso," Op. 6, No. 1*

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

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Advent Candle Liturgy is from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/>.

The Call to Worship is from [ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com).

The Opening Prayer is *Posted on Fight the Bees. Reposted on the re: Worship blog at*  
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/10/prayer-of-confession-wake-from-sleep.html>.

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