

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2025

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

What Child Is This?

Ronna Davis, organ

George Lachenauer, composer

Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

Centering

O Little Town of Bethlehem v. 4

UMH 230

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!

***Call to Worship**

One: We're getting so close now—just hours away.

ALL: Something new is about to begin.

One: Soon the first signs of birth will arrive.

ALL: Hope is coming into the world again.

One: Soon the Light will shine in the darkness.

ALL: And we're ready to welcome the Light.

One: God is about to break into our lives once more—

ALL: In ways we expect, and in ways we don't.

One: God invites us to see things differently.

ALL: And tonight, we open our hearts to that new way.

*Opening Hymn/Processional

O Come, All Ye Faithful vv 1,2,3,6

UMHY 234

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the kind of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns no the Virgins womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, no created; **[Refrain]**
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; **[Refrain]**
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **[Refrain]**

Opening Prayer

ALL: Lord Jesus, this most holy of nights brings us Gladness, Grief, and Joy.

Gladness, because You left the splendor of Heaven's glory to come to a dark and cold world, to bring the light and warmth of Your Kingdom to a world so in need of Your Love, Your Peace, Your Joy.

Grief, because You came into the world, yet the world did not receive You. You came to Your own, and Your own did not welcome You. And still today, people turn away from You. We turn away from You. Sin still scars Your creation and the hearts of Your own people.

And Joy, because You offer perfect forgiveness and full cleansing to all who acknowledge their need of You. Cleanse our hearts tonight, Lord Jesus, so that we may welcome You as we long to, certain that we are also welcomed by You. Amen.

Advent Candle Liturgy

Caribbean Connection

Reader 1: Tonight, we gather to remember with the prophet Isaiah:

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders, and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be His authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and His kingdom.

Reader 2: *He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:6-7).*

ALL: **We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.**

Reader 3: We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.

Reader 4: Jesus is the Light of the World and the Light of our lives. Amen.

[Light the center candle of the Advent wreath]

Musical Response

Light the Advent Candle v. 5

TFWS 2090

Light the Christmas candles, now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;
Birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring.
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

Away in a Manger

Pastor Nizzi & Joeshan Rajendran

Thank you, Jesus, for (Joy) Love! Alleluia! Amen.

Carol

O Holy Night

David Potts, Solo
arr. by Mark Hayes

Minuit, chrétiens,
C'est l'heure solennelle
Ou l'Homme Dieu descendit jusqu'à nous
Pour effacer la tache originelle
Et de Son Père arrêter le courroux.
Le monde entier tressaille d'espérance
En cette nuit qui lui donne un Sauveur.
Peuple à genoux, attends ta délivrance!
Noel! Noel! Voici le Rédempteur!
Noel! Noel! Voici le Rédempteur!

O Holy Night!
The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees,
Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night,
O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace;
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name;
Christ is the Lord,
Oh, praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSVUE)

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

The Shepherds and the Angels

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Anthem

Creator of the Stars of Night

Chancel Choir

Allan Mahnke, composer

Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting Light:
O Christ, Redeemer, save us all and hear thy servants when they call.
Thou, grieving that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
Hast found the healing, full of grace, to cure and save our ruined race.
At whose dread name, majestic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
All things celestial Thee shall own, and things terrestrial, Lord alone.
To God the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Offering & Offertory Music

Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH 238

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song? **[Refrain]**
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **[Refrain]**
4. See him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise. **[Refrain]**

***Christmas Doxology**

TUNE: THE FIRST NOEL

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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Nizzi

Candle Lighting & Carol

Silent Night

UMH 239

(During the hymn, please light your candle by tipping your unlit candle to receive the flame from your neighbor. The sanctuary lights will be dimmed.)

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Prayer

One: Holy God, Light of the World, on this quiet night we draw near to the manger, grateful that You draw even nearer to us.

ALL: **We come close enough to see Your light.**

One: Shine Your peace into our worries, Your hope into our waiting,
Your joy into every place that feels weary or worn.

ALL: **Light our way, O Christ.**

One: Make room in our hearts for Christ to be born again—not in perfection, but in the honest places of who we are.

ALL: **Be born in us, O Christ.**

One: Send us out, like the shepherds, to carry Your Light into the world with wonder and love.

ALL: **We will go, shining Your Light wherever we are.**

*Benediction

Pastor Nizzi: Go now in the light of Christ—a light close enough to see, strong enough to guide you, and gentle enough to carry into the world.

ALL: **May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit go with us tonight and always. Amen.**

*Benediction Response

Joy to the World v 1-3

UMH 246

1. Joy to the world; the Lord is come!
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing 3X
2. Joy to the world; the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy 3X
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love 3X

***Postlude & Merry Christmas Greetings** Ronna Davis, organ

Carol of the Bells

M. Leontovich, composer

*Ring, Christmas bells, throughout the earth tell the glad news, of Jesus birth.
Loudly proclaim with one accord, welcome the Lord.*

Worship Leaders: Danielle Ferdinand (liturgist), David Dagle,
Ronna Davis, Deborah O'Driscoll, Antonio Paredes, David Potts,
Gary Robinson, Scott Shackett (acolyte), Chancel Choir, Worship Tech Team

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This Week at Wesley

The church office is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm.

**Outside groups. Registration is required.*

Sunday, December 21, 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)

Monday, December 22, 2025

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

- 12:00 pm Prayer Circle (MEL)
- 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25, 2025

Christmas Day - Office Closed

Friday, December 26, 2025

Saturday, December 27, 2025

- 9:30 am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL)
- 4:00 pm Community Dinner (BH)

Sunday, December 28, 2025

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time
- 11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Mfantsman Christmas Party (EH)
- 7:00 pm Sunday AA (Chapel)

