

# Wesley United Methodist Church

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

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

## Worship Through Carols

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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

*Fantasia on Adeste Fideles* (UMH 234)

William Ness, organ

Bruce Neswick, composer

### Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

### Centering

*Away in a Manger*

Joeshan Rajendran, Solo

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, buy little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

### \*Call to Worship

Janet Amoako & Gary Robinson

*Psalm 100, Response 1*

UMH 821

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

**ALL: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.**

One: Know that the Lord who made us is God.

**ALL: We are the Lord's; we are the people of God, the sheep of God's pasture.**

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise!

**ALL: Give thanks and bless God's name.**

One: For the Lord is good;

**ALL: God's steadfast love endures forever, God's faithfulness to all generations.**

**\*Opening Hymn/Processional*****O Come, All Ye Faithful***

UMH 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 not the Virgin's 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]**
4. See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; **[Refrain]**
5. Child for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace Thee with love and awe. Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly? **[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]**

**\*Praise Songs****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...

**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 in Music*****Let There Be Peace on Earth***

UMH 431

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

(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**

Pastor Nizzi

**Call to Prayer***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!

**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***Three-fold Amen (Danish)*

UMH 898

Amen, amen, amen.

**When the Story Became a Song: Luke 2:8–12 (NRSVUE)**

Bertha Amoako

*In that 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.*

**Carol***Silent Night, Holy Night*

UMH 239

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.
4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

**When the Story Became a Song: Luke 4:18-19 (NRSVUE)**

Kevin Asante

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

**Carol***O Holy Night*

Shaniquah Rogers, Acapella

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!

**When the Story Became a Song: Luke 2:13–14 (NRSVUE)**

Juanita Marfo

*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!"*

**Carol***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

UMH 240

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Refrain:** Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the every lasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come, off spring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. **Refrain**
3. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. **Refrain**

## The Offering & Offertory Music

Ghanaian Choir

Christmas Is with Us

*Emmanuel K. B. Arthur, composer*

Christmas is with us, join the celebration, It's a time to rejoice, rejoice my brother, my sister, rejoice, rejoice, come and share our jubilation. Merry Christmas to you, Merry Christmas to you, Over land, over sea, Merry Christmas to you.

Merry Christmas to you, Merry Christmas to you, to you my Brother, to you my Sister, Oh, Oh, Merry Christmas to you. Over land, over sea, Merry Christmas to you.

We will keep the good and discard the bad. We have lived to see another year and we will celebrate it very well.

## \*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

## \*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

Gifty Bentum-Asante

## When the Story Became a Song: Psalm 98:4-6, 9 (NRSVUE)

Obama Taylor

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.  
...for He is coming  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity*

## \*Carol

*Joy to the World 1-4*

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,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
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,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make this blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

UMH 251

**Refrain:** Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

**Postlude**

*Carillon-Sortie on The First Noel* (UMH 245)

William Ness, organ

Franklin Ashdown, composer

Worship Leaders: Janet Amoako (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Tessa Burke (acolyte),  
Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Mark Muncey (trumpet), William Ness, Deborah O'Driscoll,  
Antonio Paredes, Jennifer Quansah, Gary Robinson, Scott Shackett (acolyte),  
Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

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