

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

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 Wondrous Love Is This

Ronna Davis, organ

Angela Kraft Cross, *composer*

Tune: WONDEROUS LOVE

Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

Centering

Lord Jesus Christ

Congregation

Lord Jesus Christ, Your light shines within us.
Let not our doubts nor our darkness speak to us.
Lord Jesus Christ, Your light shines within us.
Let our hearts always welcome Your love.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 95 v. 1-7

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

ALL: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

One: For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

ALL: In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God's also.

One: The sea is God's, for God made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

ALL: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Praise be to God! Amen.

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

***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...

I have Joy in My Heart

I have joy in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart...
Jesus gave to me, and no one can destroy it.
I have joy in my heart; deep, deep down in my heart...

Opening Prayer

ALL: God of grace and mercy, the love You have shown us in Jesus is more than we deserve. Your arms are open wide, like a waiting father for his prodigal children, ready to welcome and restore. We come to You just now thirsting for Your living water. Guide us to the streams of Your wonder and glory, Your justice and righteousness, Your grace and mercy, that we may drink and be satisfied, renewed for our continuing journey with Jesus. This we pray in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. 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

Pastor Nizzi

Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if You lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with you. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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 Reading**

John 4:5-42

Narrator: Jesus and his disciples left Judea and returned to Galilee.

The trip took them through Samaria.

After a time, they came to the Samaritan village of Sychar,
near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Jacob's well was there;

and Jesus, tired from the long walk,
sat down beside the well for a rest.

The disciples ventured off to look for provisions.

It was about noon, and before long
a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water.

Jesus said to her,

Jesus: Would you please draw some water for me, and give me a drink?

Narrator: The woman was surprised,
for Jews usually refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans.

Woman: I can't believe that you, a Jew, would even speak to me,
much less ask me for a drink of water!

Jesus: If you only knew the gift God has for you
and who you are speaking to!
Because if you did, you would ask me,
and I would give you living water.

Woman: Sir, you sit by this deep well,
a thirsty man without a bucket in sight.
Where would you get this living water?
Do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob,
who laboured long and hard to dig and maintain this well
so that he would have clean water to share with his sons and daughters,
his grandchildren, and his livestock?
How can you offer better water than he and his family enjoyed?

Jesus: Drink this water, and your thirst is quenched only for a moment.
You must return to this well again and again.
But the water I offer you is different.
I offer water that quenches thirst forever.
It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within you,
giving life throughout eternity.
You would never be thirsty again.

Woman: Please, sir, give me this water!
Then I'll never be thirsty again,
and I won't have to keep coming here to get water.

Jesus: Go and get your husband.

Woman: I don't have a husband.

Jesus: Technically you are telling the truth.
But you have had five husbands
and are currently living with a man you are not married to.

Woman: Sir, it is obvious to me that you are a prophet.
So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist
that Jerusalem is the only place of worship,
while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim,
where our ancestors worshiped?"

Jesus: Woman, I tell you that neither is so.
The time is coming when it will no longer matter
whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem.
Believe this: a new day is coming—in fact, it's already here—
when the importance will not be placed on the time and place of worship
but on the truthful hearts of worshipers.
You worship what you don't know, while we worship what we do know,
for God's salvation in coming through the Jews.
The Father is Spirit,
and He is seeking followers whose worship is sourced in truth
and deeply spiritual as well.
Regardless of whether you are in Jerusalem or on this mountain,
if you do not seek the Father,
then you do not worship.

Woman: I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ.
When He comes, He will explain everything to us.

Jesus: I am the Messiah!

Narrator: Just then his disciples came back.

They were shocked to find him talking to a woman,
but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?”
or “Why are you talking to her?”

The woman went back to the town, leaving her water pot behind.
She stopped men and women on the streets
and told them about what had happened.
And because of her testimony, the village of Sychar was transformed—
many Samaritans heard and believed.
They approached Jesus and repeatedly invited Him to stay with them,
so He lingered there for two days on their account.
And as He spoke to them, many more came to believe.
They began their faith journey because of the testimony of the woman at the
well, but when they heard for themselves,
they were convinced that Jesus was God’s Anointed –
the Saviour sent to rescue the entire world.

Anthem

Sing to God

Chancel Choir
Robert Leaf, composer

Sing to God a joyful new song, sing to God a joyful song.
Come before him with thanksgiving, Sing to God a joyful song.
By his hand came all creation, from his love came our salvation.
Sing to God a joyful new song, Sing to God a joyful song.
God is great and God is glorious, God is truth and God is love.
God is God above all others; God is truth and God is love.
By his hand came all creation, From his love came our salvation.
God is glorious, God is truth and God is love.
Come before the Lord, our maker, Come on bended knee to God.
As a shepherd, he will lead us. We as sheep will follow him.
See that by his hand came all creation, from his love came our salvation.
Come before the Lord, our maker, come on bended knee to God.
Sing to God a joyful new song, come before our God and sing.
Oh sing a joyful song, oh come and sing a joyful song, Oh sing!

Message

Renewed at the Well: Mercy That Crosses Barriers

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering & Offertory Music

It is by Your Grace that I am Alive

Ghanaian Choir
Sam Asare Bediako, composer

It is by Your grace that I am alive.
God, You have done a lot for me.
My Lord, I owe you thanks.
I will sing and give you adoration.
Whatever I have belongs to you.
It is by your Grace that I am still alive.
My Lord, I owe you thanks.
I will sing and give you adoration.

***Doxology**

Tune: OLD 100th

Praise God throughout these forty days
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

ALL: Gracious God, what we place before You today is small beside Your abundance. Take these offerings and use them to bring Your living water to dry and weary places. Let our generosity reflect Your endless gift. In the name of the One who is the Messiah, we pray. Amen.

***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

***Closing Hymn/Recessional**

Hope of the World

UMH 178

Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, they people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let they spirit unto us be given,
to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light,
walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by the cross didst save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.

Hope of the world, O Christ o'er death victorious,
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
we would be faithful to they gospel glorious;
thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign.

***Benediction**

Pastor Nizzi

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

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Debbie O'Driscoll, soloist
Ronna Davis, piano
Albert I. Peace, composer
George Matheson, words

Worship Leaders: Peter Hansen (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Tessa Burke (acolyte),
Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Deborah O'Driscoll,
David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Bill Robbins
Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

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CELEBRATING WOMEN COMPOSER'S SUNDAY - MARCH 8, 2026

Women Composer's Sunday - March 8, 2026, was originated by the **Society of Women Organists (SWO)** and the **Royal College of Organists (RCO)** in the U.K., and adopted by the American Guild of Organists (AGO). The purpose is to promote the use of organ, choral, and liturgical music written by women composers.

It is significant and important to note a Women Composer's Sunday; to note the very interesting historical perspective - the following:

- **19th-Century Critique:** In 1857, a correspondent to the *Musical World* argued that the organ was "by no means a lady's instrument," stating that the required pedaling position was "extremely indelicate, if not indecent".
- **Clothing Restrictions:** The heavy, full-length skirts worn by Victorian women were seen as impractical and obstructive for proper pedaling, yet wearing more practical attire, such as "Bloomers" (baggy trousers), was viewed as too masculine and a loss of respectability.
- **The "Unladylike" Stance:** Women were trained to sit with knees together, a pose of "proper femininity" that allowed them to take up as little space as possible. The necessary straddling of the legs to play the organ pedals was viewed as a violation of this modesty code.
- **Voyeurism and Fear:** Correspondents and critics were concerned with the sight of women moving their feet or exposing their ankles in church, which was considered provocative and distracting.

Alternative Instruments: Due to these taboos, women were often encouraged to play the piano, which allowed them to sit with legs together and maintain a "graceful and feminine position"

Overcoming the Restrictions

Despite these barriers, some women became professional organists in the 19th century. They managed this by wearing modest, yet tailored, clothing that allowed them to navigate the console without resorting to "scandalous" garments like split skirts

The composer of today's prelude, "What Wondrous Love Is This" is Angel Craft Cross, (b.1958). Kraft Cross is an organist, pianist, and composer, based in the Bay Area of California. She graduated from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music in 1980 with bachelor's degrees in Physics and Organ Performance. She then earned her Doctor of Medicine degree at Loma Linda University, where she subsequently completed her residence in ophthalmology. In 1993, she completed her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance at the College of Notre Dame.

In addition to her musical career, Kraft Cross retired in 2011 having worked for 22 years as an ophthalmic surgeon and now volunteers as an ophthalmologist. Reflective of her commitment to the musical education of young people, since 1997 Kraft Cross has been instrumental in organizing an annual Organ Camp for young pianists. She is also the founding director of the San Francisco Peninsula Organ Academy, a nonprofit organization formed in 2014 to support young concert organists with scholarships on short intensive overseas study trips.

This Week at Wesley

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

**Outside groups. Registration is required.*

Sunday, March 8, 2026 – Third Sunday in Lent

- 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 (CH)

Monday, March 9, 2026

- 6:00 pm Eyeglass Clinic

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

- 12:00 pm Prayer Circle (MEL)
- 7:00 pm Wesley Ringers (BH)
- 7:00 pm AA-BBSS (LL)

Thursday, March 12, 2026

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball*

Friday, March 13, 2026

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball*

Saturday, March 14, 2026

- 9:30 am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL)
- 10:00 am Look Up UWF Women's Retreat
- 7:00 pm Contra-Dance (BH)

Sunday, March 15, 2026

- 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 (CH)

For more events this month, there are copies of the March calendar in the Narthex.

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