

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

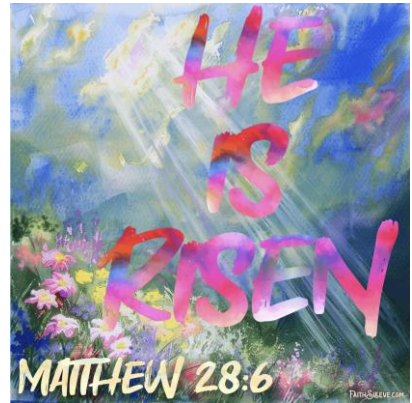
Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Easter Sunday

April 5, 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 & Lighting of the Altar Candle
Easter Dawn

Ronna Davis, organ
Gilbert M. Martin, 1941, composer

Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

Centering

Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia ...

UMH 186

***Call to Worship**

One: Easter people, Christ is risen! God is doing a new thing!

ALL: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

One: Life has conquered death! Love has overcome fear!

ALL: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

One: God has transformed a dead end into a new start!

ALL: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

One: Easter people, raise your voices! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

The Lighting of the Paschal (Easter) Candle

One: Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: Friends, on this most holy day, we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the darkness of death, God has brought forth light and life. Today we light the Paschal Candle, the sign of Christ's presence among us— the Light who no darkness can overcome.

(The Paschal candle is lit.)

One: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

ALL: A light no darkness can extinguish.

One: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

One: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

One: Let us pray. Eternal God, we praise You for the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the world. By His victory over death, He has opened to us the way of everlasting life. Bless this new fire and this Paschal candle, that it may be to us a sign of His living presence. May its light shine in our hearts, that we may walk as children of light and reflect your glory in all we do; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Best Friend Forever. Amen.

One: The risen Christ is with us.

ALL: Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

***Musical Response**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

UMH 302, vv. 5,6

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, Thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, Thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

***Praise Songs**

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...

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...

Opening Prayer

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. 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

Thank you, Jesus & Be Not Afraid

Our Children & Joeshan Rajendran, solo

Be not afraid, sing out for joy. Christ is risen. Alleluia!
Be not afraid, sing out for joy. Christ is risen. Alleluia.

Come and fill our hearts with Your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our heart with Your peace. Alleluia.

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** *Matthew 28:1-10* New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Resurrection of Jesus

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

This is the Word of God for us, the people of God.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*

Congregation (please see hymn insert)

Chancel & Ghanaian Choirs

Victor C. Johnson, composer

**Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!
To His throne above the skies! Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!**

There for Him high triumph waits; Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
He hath conquered death and sin; Alleluia!
Take the King of glory in! Alleluia!

Lo, the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia!
Yet He loves the earth He leaves; Alleluia!
Though returning to His throne, still He calls mankind His own, Alleluia!

**See! He lifts His hands above; Alleluia!
See! He shows the prints of love; Alleluia!
Hark! His gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
Blessings on His Church below. Alleluia!**

Message

From Fear to Joy

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering & Offertory Music

Christ is Victorious

Ghanaian Choir
J. de-Graft Simpson, composer

Our Lord Christ is victorious,
Our Lord Christ has risen from the dead
Alleluia, he has conquered death
He has broken the chains of death
Shout of glory, shout of glory, Alleluia, Amen.

***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**

O God, You have shattered the grave and given us new life through your Son, Jesus. With joyful hearts, we bring our gifts as signs of resurrection hope. Use them to proclaim Your victory and to bless Your world. In the name of the Risen Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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.

The Sacrament of the Holy Communion

UMH 17, Musical Setting A

The United Methodist Church practices Open Communion. All who desire to live in the love and peace of Jesus Christ are welcome to the bread and cup of communion. At the direction of the ushers, come forward using the center aisle to stand or kneel at the communion rail for distribution of the elements. After consuming the elements and private prayer at the rail, you may return to your seat via the side aisles. Please alert the ushers to anyone wishing to be served while remaining seated in the sanctuary.

Non-alcoholic grape juice is used, and gluten-free wafers are available.

Communion Music

The Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Ronna Davis, organ
Peter Pindar Stearns, 1931-2016, composer

Announcements

Gifty Bentum-Asante

As we sing the closing hymn, all children who will participate in the Easter egg hunt may **walk** quietly to the chapel, which is on the right side of the altar. During the singing of the final verse, those in the congregation who wish to sing the Hallelujah chorus are invited to come forward to join the choirs.

*Closing Hymn

Up from the Grave He Arose

UMH 322

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave He arose;
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Savior,
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! **(Refrain)**

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! **(Refrain)**

*Benediction

Benediction Response

Hallelujah Chorus

George Fredric Handel

Postlude

Exalt His Name

Ronna Davis, organ

Charles Cooke, 1891-1958, composer

Worship Leaders: Gary Robinson & Obama Taylor (liturgists),
Tessa Burke & Pinaman Amoako, Acolytes

Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Deborah O'Driscoll, Antonio Paredes, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Bill Robbins, Gary Robinson, Joseph Wilson
Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Communion Servers: Naa Dromo Aryee & Gary Robinson, Kevin Asante & Evette Walters, Jean Grant & Joseph Feltcher, Cordelia Ferdinand & Antonio Paredes

The Cover Art is from reddit.com.

The Call to Worship is Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.

The Lighting of the Paschal (Easter) Candle is from Open AI

The Prayer of Dedication is from <https://davidsbell.org/offertory-prayers/>

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