

# Wesley United Methodist Church

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

114 Main St, Worcester, MA 01608

508-799-4191 • [www.wesleyworc.org](http://www.wesleyworc.org)

Rev. Nizzi Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

## Second Sunday of Easter

Theme: Stories That Matter

April 12, 2026



### Christ Shows Himself to Thomas

#### Mission Statement

*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**

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

Ronna Davis, organ  
*J. S. Bach, composer*

**Welcome**

Pastor Nizzi

**Centering**

*10,000 Reasons*

Joeshan Rajendran, solo

**Refrain: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name**

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

**\*Call to Worship**

*Psalm 16:5-11*

UMH 748

One: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.

**ALL: The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.**

One: I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel; even at night my heart instructs me.

**ALL: I have set the Lord always before me; the Lord is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

One: Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure.

**ALL: For You do not give me up to Sheol or let your godly one see the pit.**

One: You show me the path of life.

**ALL: In Your presence there is fullness of joy; in Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**\*Opening Hymn/Processional**

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

UMH 304

1. Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us Heaven's choirs; heavenly music let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people let it sing.

2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.  
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go

3. Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong  
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

## \*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

**Creator of the universe, You made the world in beauty and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever Your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of Your name. 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

Be not afraid. Sing out for joy! Christ is risen! Alleluia!  
Moving on to Sunday school: Thank you, Jesus, Amen. 3x Alleluia! Amen!

### Call to Prayer

*Come & Fill Our Hearts*

Come and fill our hearts with Your peace.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with Your peace. Alleluia.

### Prayers of the People

Pastor Nizzi

Happy birthday to you, to Jesus be true.  
May God's richest blessings, now rest upon you.

### 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.**

**Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

**Jesus and Thomas**

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe."

A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

**The Purpose of This Book**

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name. This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Anthem**

Chancel Choir

*I Know That My Redeemer Lives Michael Cox, composer*  
I know that my Redeemer lives; Glory, Hallelujah!  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives, Glory, Hallelujah!  
Shout on, pray on, we're gaining ground, Glory, Hallelujah!  
The dead's alive and the lost is found, Glory, Hallelujah!  
He lives who once was dead, He lives my everlasting head,  
He lives to bless me with His love, he lives to plead for me above,  
Glory, Hallelujah!  
He lives, all glory to his name! Glory, Hallelujah!  
He lives, my Jesus still the same, Glory, Hallelujah!

**Message**

*A Story for the Doubter*

Rev. Nizzi Digan

**The Offering & Offertory Music**

Ghanaian Choir

*It is by Your Grace that I am Alive*  
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.

*Sam Asare Bediako, composer*

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**

**God of new life, You meet us in our fear and speak words of peace. Like Thomas, we long to see and believe. As we give, we place our trust in the unseen work of Your Spirit. Use these gifts to bring peace where there is doubt, and hope where there is despair. In the name of the One who breathed peace upon His followers, 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**

*We Walk by Faith*

TFWS 2196

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;  
 No gracious words we hear  
 Of Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
 But we believe Him near.
  
2. We may not touch His hands and side,  
 Nor follow where He trod;  
 Yet in His promise we rejoice,  
 And cry, "My Lord and God!"
  
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
 And may our faith abound,  
 To call on You when You are near,  
 And seek where You are found.
  
4. That when our life of faith is done,  
 In realms of clearer light,  
 We may behold You as You are,  
 In full and endless sight.
  
5. We walk by faith, and not by sight;  
 No gracious words we hear  
 Of Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
 But we believe Him near.

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Nizzi

**Postlude**

Ronna Davis, organ; Michelle Williams, solo

*I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*

*G.F.Handel, composer*

Worship Leaders: Solomon Aryee & Evette Walters (liturgists), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Deborah O’Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Bill Robbins, Gary Robinson, Douglas Taylor  
Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

The Cover Image is from <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl?SID=20260406585042878&code=ACT&RC=54879&Row=15>

The Prelude is from Cantata BWV 147 (1685-1750)

The Centering Music was written by Matt Redman and Joans Myrin

The Opening Prayer is from <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayer/?y=17134&season=easter&d=easter3>  
Be Not Afraid (Jacques Berthier) and Come & Fill Our Hearts (Jacques Berthier) are from the Taizé Community in France

The Scripture Reading is from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition of The Holy Bible

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

The postlude is from *Messiah* G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

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### **Worship Attendance**

March 8 – 105

March 15 – 109

March 22 – 105

March 29 – 121

April 5 – 243 (Easter)

## **This Week at Wesley**

The church office is open **Tuesday through Friday, 10 am – 3 pm.**

*\*Outside groups. Registration is required.*

### **Sunday, April 12, 2026 – Second Sunday of Easter**

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School @ the Parlor
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time
- 11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 11:45 am Membership Class @ the Parlor
- 11:45 am CPR Class @ 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
- 7:00 pm Sunday AA (CH)

### **Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

- 2:00 pm Visitation Ministry: Sunshine Girls with Steven Boyns
- 5:00 pm Bishop Tom with CWD @ Aldersgate UMC Chemsford, MA**

### **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

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

### **Thursday & Friday April 16 & 17, 2026**

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball\*
- 7:00 pm Wesley Ringers (BH) (Thursday)**

### **Saturday, April 18, 2026**

- 9:00 am – 2:00 pm UWF District Gathering @ Wesley UMC
- 9:30 am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL)
- 10:00 am Carty Cupboard Food Pantry

**“Whatever you do to the least of my brothers or sisters, you have done it to me.”**

**-Jesus (Matthew 25:40)**

Wesley United Women in Faith is pleased to be hosting the Spring District UWF meeting on **April 18, Saturday, 9am - 2pm. Registration is \$15; full scholarships are available for this meeting.**



In addition to worship, fellowship, lunch, and a brief business meeting, our program will be presented by Heather Wightman, Executive Director of **RIA (Ready. Inspire. Act)**, an advocacy and counseling agency for victims of sex trafficking.

All women are invited to attend.

This is an important opportunity to learn about this wrongdoing and how its prominence as the second most profitable crime industry in the world affects our society.

Supporting RIA with financial donations has been a mission project of Wesley United Women in Faith. RIA rents office and meeting space at Wesley UMC for its Central Massachusetts programs.

For more information, please see **Barbara Ingrassia, Cordelia Ferdinand, or Sandy McManus, to fill out the registration form.**