

# Wesley United Methodist Church

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

114 Main St, Worcester, MA 01608

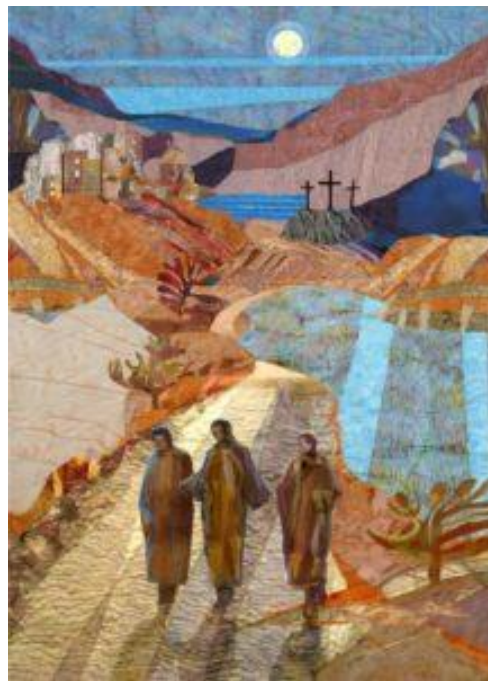
508-799-4191 • [www.wesleyworc.org](http://www.wesleyworc.org)

Rev. Nizzi Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

## Third Sunday of Easter

Theme: Stories That Matter

April 19, 2026



### 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**

*Easter Chant - based on "O Filii et Filiae"*

Ronna Davis, organ  
Gordon Young, composer

**Welcome**

Pastor Nizzi

**Centering**

*Alleluia*

UMH 186

**\*Call to Worship**

*Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19*

UMH 837-838

One: I love the Lord, who has heard my voice and my supplications and has inclined his ear to me whenever I called.

**ALL: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.**

One: Then I called on the name of the Lord:

**ALL: "O Lord, I beseech you, save my life!"**

One: What shall I return to the Lord for all my benefits?

**ALL: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord;**

One: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

**ALL: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.**

One: O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid.  
You have loosed my bonds.

**ALL: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.**

One: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people,

**ALL: in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!**

**\*Opening Hymn/Processional**

*Christ is Alive*

UMH 318

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
To distant years in Palestine,  
He comes to claim the here and now  
And dwell in every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high  
untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
But daily, in the midst of life,  
Our Savior in the God-head reigns.

In every insult, rift and war,  
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
He suffers still, yet loves the more,  
And lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
Good news to this and every age,  
Till earth and all creation ring  
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

### **\*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**

**O Risen Christ, on the road to Emmaus, You were the disciples' companion. Be at our side on the journey of faith on life's pathways and at every encounter, stir up our compassion, so that we may welcome others and listen to their stories. Kindle anew the desire to proclaim Your Word. May it illumine us, and may our hearts burn to bear witness to it. May Your Holy Spirit teach us the art of explaining Scripture and open our hearts to recognize You. Grant us the courage to become vulnerable so that our siblings may know You through us and that we may know You through them. 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!  
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.**

### The Wesley Ringers

*Resurrection Joy!*

David Potts, Director  
Jason W. Krug, composer

### \*Gospel Reading

*Walk to Emmaus*

Luke 24:13-35 (NRSVUE)

### Message

*The Road Where Hearts Burn: A Story That Still Matters*

Rev. Nizzi Digan

### The Offering & Offertory Music

*Mo Mma Yenmbo se (Let us rejoice)*

Ghanaian Choir, Desmond Cheetham, Director  
Nana Kofi Ampong Darkwa, composer

Let us rejoice, God lives always. Let us rejoice, He will always fight for us.

Let us rejoice, we will always be victorious. Alleluia! Praise and victory.

Let us rejoice, Christ our King walks with us always. Let us rejoice, He will grant us all our needs.

Let us rejoice, we will always be victorious. Alleluia! Praise and Victory.

### \*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

**Astounding God of the road and the table, You walk with us even when we don't recognize You. You speak, and our hearts burn within us. You break the bread, and our eyes are opened. Today, we bring these offerings as signs of our gratitude and hope. May our giving reflect the joy of being found, the wonder of Resurrection, and the call to share good news. Use these gifts to kindle faith, feed the hungry, and proclaim Your presence in every Emmaus moment. We give because we've seen You—alive, loving, and leading us still. In Jesus' name, 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

Giftly Bentum-Asante

1. Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp and set me free.

**Refrain: Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God,  
Thy will to see; Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine!**

2. Open my ears, that I may hear  
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear,  
Everything false will disappear. **Refrain**
3. Open my mouth and let me bear  
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children thus to share. **Refrain**

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Nizzi Digan

**Postlude**

*Christ Arose*

Ronna Davis, organ  
Roger C. Wilson, composer

Worship Leaders: Debbie O'Driscoll (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante,  
Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis,  
David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Bill Robbins, Gary Robinson, Douglas Taylor,  
Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Front page image is from: <https://contemplativeathome.com/road-to-emmaus>

The Call to Worship is from the United Methodist Hymnal

The Opening Prayer is from Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*

The Prayer of Dedication is from [umcdipleship.org](http://umcdipleship.org)

OneLicense Reprint + Livestream and Podcast/Recording License A-726657

CCLI Copyright License # 20653706 CCLI Streaming License #20653696

**For pastoral emergency, contact Pastor Nizzi directly  
at 617 480 2955 (cell), so she can respond in a timely manner.**

**Worship Attendance: 3/15 – 109    3/22 – 105    3/29 – 121    4/5 – 243    4/12 - 115**