

# Wesley United Methodist Church

114 Main St, Worcester, MA 01608  
508-799-4191 • [www.wesleyworc.org](http://www.wesleyworc.org)

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

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

## Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

10:00 AM

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### **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.*



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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**

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the Morning*

Eun Hee Park, organ  
H. Robert James, composer

### **Welcome**

Rev. Nizzi Digan

### **Centering**

*Spirit of the Living God*

UMH 393

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. 2X

Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Come!

**ALL: Come and worship, you who woke early and you who slept late; you who come often, and you who don't.**

One: Whether we are first or last or somewhere in between,

**ALL: there is room for all of us in God's kingdom, and more than enough grace to go around.  
Let's worship God together!**

### **\*Processional Hymn**

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

UMH 126

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory.

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,  
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.  
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory.

Thus, all my toilsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,  
that earth may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory.

Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;  
let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!  
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:  
To God all praise and glory.

### **\*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...

#### **Me yi N'aye (I Will Praise Him)** [Feel free to sing in either language]

Me yi n'aye, Me yi Nyamea' ye...  
Me yi Nyamea' ye, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah ...  
I will praise God, I will praise my God...  
I will praise my God, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah...

### **Opening Prayer**

**God of the first and the last, and all those in between, Your grace reaches out to all of us—life-long believers or newcomers alike. You call us to live as citizens of heaven, to work together with one mind and one purpose, to reach out in love to those in need. Strengthen us so that we might live in a manner worthy of the Good News we have received, offering our lives to the building up of Your upside-down kingdom, where the last are first, and the first are last, and there is grace enough for all. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, 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

Happy birthday to you! To Jesus be true.  
May God's richest blessings now rest upon you.  
**Response:** Thank you, Jesus. Amen 3X Alleluia! Amen.

#### **Call to Prayer**

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

TFWS 2120, refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

**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.**

**Anthem**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Chancel Choir

*Hal. H. Hopson, composer*

NETTLETON

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, take and seal it for Thy courts above.

**Responsive Reading**

*Psalms 105, vs 1-6 only*

UMH 828

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,  
make known God's deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to the Lord, sing praises!**

**Tell of all God's wonderful works!**

Glory in God's holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

**Seek the Lord and his strength;**

**seek the Lord's presence continually!**

Remember the wonderful works God has done,  
the miracles and judgements God has uttered,

**O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,  
children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.**

**\*Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSVUE)*

So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Message**

*When Grace Leads*

Rev. Nizzi Digan

**The Offering & Offertory Music**

Suo Mo Muo (Hold On to Me)

Ghanaian Choir

*Emmanuel K. B. Attah, composer*

Hold on to me, Father, hold on to me always  
Hold on to me, my Lord, hold on to me always  
When I am with you, I am victorious. I owe my success to you.  
So, give me patience, blessings and love. Hold on to me.  
My Lord, hold on to me always.

**\*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**

Debbie O'Driscoll

**Steadfast God, for us to live is Christ. In every season, you hold us, and in every struggle, you knit us together as one body. Receive these gifts as signs that we choose to stand firm, striving side by side, living as citizens of your kin-dom. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, strengthen your church, and bear witness that love is stronger than fear. Shape our common life to be worthy of the gospel, until our unity itself proclaims your grace. 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**

Jean Grant

**\*Closing Hymn**

*The Servant Song*

TFWS 2222

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on this road.  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Nizzi

**Postlude**

*Hymn to Joy*

Eun Hee Park, organ  
*Jason D. Payne, composer*

HYMN TO JOY

Worship Leaders: Jean Grant (liturgist), Desmond Cheetham, Debbie O'Driscoll, Eun Hee Park,  
Jennifer Quansah, Gary Robinson, Chancel Choir, and Ghanaian Choir  
Ushers: David Dagle, Bill Robbins, Douglas Taylor, Sharon Walters, Akosua Ababio  
Tech Team: Peter Hansen, Brent Drajesk, Lawrence Hammond, Kwame Boateng, & Kwadwo Amoako

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The Call to Worship is from [https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/  
contemporary-call-to-worship-matthew-20.html](https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/contemporary-call-to-worship-matthew-20.html)

The Opening Prayer is from [https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/  
prayers-of-people-september-18-2011.html](https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/prayers-of-people-september-18-2011.html)

The Prayer of Dedication is from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>

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