

Wesley United Methodist Church

114 Main St, Worcester, MA 01608
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Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2026

10:00 AM

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

Let Us Break Bread Together

Eun Hee Park, organ

Albin C. Whitworth, composer

Welcome

Rev. Nizzi Digan

Centering

As We Gather

As we gather may your Spirit work within us. As we gather may we glorify Your name
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship, we'll be blessed because we came.

***Call to Worship**

One: One bread.

ALL: One Body.

One: One Spirit.

ALL: One people.

One: One Earth.

ALL: One symphony of praise: many voices, many parts, in one song of joy, one in Christ, giving thanks. Alleluia! Amen.

***Processional Hymn**

One Bread, One Body

UMH 620

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many through-out the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all. **Refrain**

***Praise Songs**

God You're So Good

God you're so good. God you are kind.
God you are wonderful. My God, you are excellent...
Excellent is Thy name. Excellent is Thy might.
God you are wonderful. My God you are excellent...

We Will Celebrate Our God

We will celebrate our God!...
Let his banner be raised, let his glory be seen.
We will celebrate our God!...

Opening Prayer

God of love, as we gather on this day, we are one with all your children in Christ around the world. In Asia and Australia and Pacific Islands, in Africa and Europe and South America, throughout North America and even at the poles, we are one body in Christ. We give thanks and we open our hearts to your Word, the Word of Love that comes to us in every language and tradition and community. Speak to us and bring us closer to your heart, in the name and Spirit of Christ. 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.

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.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 19, vs 7-10 only

UMH 751

Response: Hear the commandments of life; give ear, and learn wisdom.

The law of the lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;

the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
**the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;**
the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring for ever;
**the ordinances of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.**
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
**sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb. Response**

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 21:33-46 (NRSVUE)

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Anthem

Communion Prayer

Chancel Choir

Allen Pote, composer

We place upon your table, Lord, the food of life, the bread and wine, as symbols
of our daily work, according to your grand design.

Within these simple things there lie the height and depth of human life; our pain and tears, our
thoughts and toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.

Accept them, Lord. They come from you. We take them humbly from your hand.

These gifts of yours for higher use we offer, we offer, we offer up as you command.

Message

The Vineyard Is Bigger Than Us

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering & Offertory Music

Faith of Our Fathers

Eun Hee Park, organ

Albin C. Whitworth, composer

***Doxology**

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God, above, ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Debbie O'Driscoll

Merciful and gracious God, You abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to You. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share Your mercy and grace for the world You dearly love. 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 seek the love and peace of Jesus Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.

At the direction of the ushers, please come forward by the center aisle to receive

Communion at the rail, then return to your seat by the side aisles after prayer.

If you wish to be served in your seat, please notify an usher.

Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic grape juice are available.

Communion Music & Silent Meditation

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Eun Hee Park, organ

Albin C. Whitworth, composer

Announcements

Gifty Bentum-Asante

***Recessional Hymn**

I Come with Joy

UMH 617

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise.

***Benediction**

Rev. Nizzi Digan

Postlude

Festivity on Holy Manna

Eun Hee Park, organ

Douglas E. Wagner, composer

Worship Leaders: Cordelia Ferdinand (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham,
Debbie O'Driscoll, Eun Hee Park, Jennifer Quansah, Gary Robinson,

Ushers: David Dagle, Bill Robbins, Douglas Taylor, Sharon Walters, Akosua Ababio, Vivian Assie, and Padmore Amoako

Tech Team: Peter Hansen, Brent Drajek, Lawrence Hammond, Kwame Boateng, and Kwadwo Amoako

Chancel Choir: Janice England, Danielle Ferdinand, Bonnie Garriepy, Allison Hansen, Peter Hansen, Sandy McManus,
Debbie O' Driscoll, Gary Robinson, Enoch Ukpog, Jackie Wetton, Pastor Nizzi

Ghanaian Choir: Mercy Agyemang, Pauline Ansah, Violet Ansah, Gifty Bentum Asante, Yaw Enyim,
Elizabeth Osei Boateng, Emmanuel Paitoo, Jennifer Quansah,

Communion Stewards: Linda D'Acri, Sharon Walters, Quinn Caddell

The cover image is from Shaping Sanctuary: Proclaiming God's Grace in an Inclusive Church

The Centering is from <https://www.songlyrics.com/the-maranatha!-singers/as-we-gather-lyrics/>

The Call to Worship is from <https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/03/01/world-communion-sunday-2/>

The Opening Prayer is from <https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/03/01/world-communion-sunday-2/>

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