

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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 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.



Following Jesus Together

***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

Prelude - Suite fur Orgel

Eun Hee Park, organ

Friedrich Hogner, 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**

Psalm 100

UMH 821

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

All: Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!

One: Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.

All: We are the Lord's; we are the people of God, the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise!

All: Give thank and bless God's name!

One: For the Lord is good;

All: God's steadfast love endures for ever; God's faithfulness to all generations.

***Processional Hymn**

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

**Refrain: My chains are gone; I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures. **Refrain**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow. The sun forbears to shine
But God who called me here below, will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine. You are forever mine. **Refrain**

***Praise Songs**

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...

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...

Opening Prayer

God, we come into Your presence with praise and thanksgiving for Your faithful love. Your love never fails—not even when we turn away from You: when we ignore Your invitation, or desert You for gods of our own making. Even then You do not abandon us but reach out—again and again—inviting us back into relationship once more. Pour out Your Spirit on us! Center our hearts and minds on what is true and honorable and right. Give us the joy and peace that comes from knowing and doing Your will. Keep us faithful to the call we have received in Christ Jesus, our Lord, extending Your loving invitation to the world around us. In Jesus' 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

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

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.

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 22:1-14 (NRSVUE)

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

Anthem

Come and Be joyful

Chancel Choir

Hal H. Hopson, composer

Come and be joyful: come and praise the Lord, sing with gladness.
 All be praising, thanks be raising. God is faithful and true forever.

Message

When God Invites, Will We Come?

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering & Offertory Music

Aseda Ndwom – Song of Thanks

Ghanaian Choir

James Varrick Armaah, composer

I will always mention your name to the world,
 I will always mention your name to the world,
 What you have done for me, what you have done for me,
 I will speak of your name to the whole world.

You have changed my life, you have not left me astray
I will sing and praise your name
Thanks belong to You always.

Thanks, thanks, thanks, song of thanks,
It is from my heart,
Praises, praises, praises, song of praises
It is from my heart,
We have brought them, we have brought them, song of thanks,
Thanks always belongs to You.

***Doxology**

Tune: OLD 100TH

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

Faithful God, all we have is a blessing from Your hand. As we return a portion of Your gifts, let this act of giving shape our hearts into instruments of Your mercy. Use these gifts to extend the message of salvation. In Jesus Christ 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

***Recessional Hymnal**

The Summons

TFWS 2130

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be show, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

***Benediction**

Rev. Nizzi Digan

Postlude

O Worship the King

Eun Hee Park, organ

Johann Michael Haydn, composer

Worship Leaders: Hubert Orofino (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham,
Pastor Nizzi Digan, Debbie O'Driscoll, Eun Hee Park, Jennifer Quansah, and Gary Robinson

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

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

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

Ghanaian Choir: Mercy Agyemang, Pauline Ansah, Violet Ansah,
Gifty Bentum Asante, Nora Demanya, Yaw Enyim, Elizabeth Osei Boateng,
Emmanuel Paitoo, Jennifer Quansah, Evans Quayson, Florence Twumasi

The Image at the front page is from the 2026 Ghana United Methodist of North America Choir Festival in MA

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

The Opening Prayer is from Christine Longhurst, re: Worship

The Doxology is from *Inclusive Doxology* used by First Congregational Church, UCC Bellingham, WA

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

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