

Wesley United Methodist Church

October 4, 2020

The Christ Life

When Christ truly is everything

Philippians 3:4-14



Gretchen Nelson, Pastor
Sylvia Krisnow, Secretary

Jerry Sowers, Minister of Music
Cynthia Campbell, Accompanist

Members of Wesley, Ministers

**The Vision of Wesley United Methodist Church is to serve
all people with the love of Jesus Christ.**

Order of Worship – 10:00 A.M. Service **Gather and Spend Time with God Together**

Preparing your home for Worship

Create a space that brings reminders of God's presence and love. Candle. Colorful flowers. Picture. Bible. Cross. Make it a joyful and prayerful place. Ask everyone in your home for suggestions. Before the gathering time, play music, turn off devices not used for worship, start to pay attention to your breath as a gift from God. Pray. Worshiping together as house churches in the model of Acts 2:46-47.

World Communion Sunday

What we are acknowledging on this day is that the body of Christ is bigger than what we can see, bigger than what is contained within our walls.

Let us celebrate the diversity that is and the diversity that could be. Let's embrace the fullness of the world that surrounds us.

Behind the celebration of diversity is an admission that we are not as diverse as we need to be, as the kin-dom of God will be.

Welcome and Orientation

Centering our attention on God's Holy Presence with our breath and senses.

Gathering Centering Music

Let the music fill your hearts and spirits becoming aware of God welcoming you in love.

Call to Worship

Reader 1: Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity.

Many: **Christ has gathered his people around the earth to worship together and commune at this table.**

Reader 1: Across political lines and economic lines, in places of powerfully protected affluence, and among the poorest of the poor,
Many: **we share a meal, remembering and celebrating the One who proved shalom possible.**

Reader 1: And so, come, gather:

Many: **you from the East and you from the West, from the North and from the South.**

Reader 1: Come, gather.

Reader 2: Gather with your doubts,

Reader 3: Gather with your hopes,

Reader 4: Gather with your inadequacies

Reader 5: Gather with your strengths.

Reader 1: Come, gather,

ALL: for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.

Opening Prayer

As we gather at your table from all over the world, O God, we pray that all those who come to you in the name of Christ might be one in Spirit. Knead us together in one loaf. Free us from jealousy and selfish ambition; unite us in mission and service to those in need everywhere. May we sow righteousness and harvest peace, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“I Come With Joy”

UMH 617

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

Glory Sightings

Witness to God's faithfulness and love in the world. You are invited to share where have you witnessed good news. Raise a hand, write in the Facebook Comments, add into Zoom Chat.

Generosity Moment

Proclamation and Response

“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread a home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts....” Acts 2:46

Special Music

“Come to the Table”

Gumberts

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Meditation A Generous Life Pastor Gretchen Nelson

Responsive Hymn “In Unity We Lift Our Song” FWS 2221

1 In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration, for brothers brave and sisters strong, what cause for celebration.

For those whose faithfulness has kept us through distress,
who've share with us our plight, who've held us in the night,
the blessed congregation.

2 For stories told and told again to every generation, to give us strength in time of pain, to give us consolation. Our spirits to revive to keep our dreams alive, when we are far from home and evil seasons come; how firm is our foundation.

3 For sacred scriptures handed down, a blessed trust and treasure, which give us hope when hope is gone and make us weep with pleasure. And when our eyes grow blind and death is close behind, we shall recite from them still whose words our hearts can fill with hope beyond all measure.

4 For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all these gifts the Giver. Our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast whose hand will yet deliver. Who keeps us till the day when night shall pass away, when hate and fear are gone and all our work is done, and we shall sing forever.

Break Open our Hearts with Prayer

As we share in prayer today you are encouraged to pray aloud your joys and concerns. Complete your prayer with "Lord, in your mercy" and all the people respond "Hear our prayer". (You are invited to write your prayers in the Chat or Comment feed. Also please email them to the church office so the Prayer Team may continue to pray with you during the week).

Invitation to Christ's Table

Confession and Pardon

Sing together:

"Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me/us"

Pastor: As we sing about the Spirit of God falling fresh on us, we pray for forgiveness when our words and actions are shaped and molded by other than the Holy Spirit. For the times when we have used the gifts of your Spirit to enhance our own glory rather than using them to serve others.

ALL: Forgive us, O God.

Pastor: When our use of your gifts has led to division and discord rather than increasing understanding and unity.

ALL: Forgive us, O God.

Pastor: For believing one gift to be superior to another rather than celebrating the various ways in which they complement each other and build up the whole community.

ALL: Forgive us, O God.

Pastor: The Holy Spirit enables us to confess Jesus as Lord and in so doing, we are acknowledging our total allegiance to, and love for Jesus.

ALL: Merciful God, forgive any lack of commitment by us to love as Jesus loved and to serve as he served.

Pastor: Fill us anew with the Holy Spirit so that our worship, witness and service may reflect our unity and the faithful use of our

diverse gifts. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

The good news is that God has continued to love and save us (Psalm 36:10) in and through Jesus, whom we confess as Saviour and Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Friends, believe these words of grace:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sharing Christ's Peace

During this season of Spacial Distancing, practicing Christ's Peace is a witness of God's shalom. Cross your arms or press hands together at your heart, bow to your companion while keeping eye contact. Offer this similar greeting "The Christ in me greets the Christ in you. Abundant peace." Use your social media and phones to send Christ's peace into the world.

Offering

Giving is a spiritual practice of our faith. Sharing God's Good News through mission and ministry continue even as we are physically separate. Keep your covenant tithe, pledge, and offering with God. Consider healthy ways to be in service with your gifts and skills.

Musical Offering

During this musical act of praise, you are encouraged to praise God with your gifts. Wherever you are—lift up your hands, sway, dance, let the spirit of God move you (on screen or off).

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

ALL: Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

Pastor: By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

ALL: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Sharing and Receiving Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of new life, with joy we have received this sacrament of bread and cup, giving you thanks for Jesus Christ, our peace and our hope. Unite your church throughout the world in continuing Christ's ministry of love and servanthood, that your name might be praised in all the earth. Amen.

Praise God

Praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."

Acts 2:47

Hymn of Praise "We Are the Body of Christ" FWS 2227

One heart one spirit
One voice to praise You
We are the body of Christ
One goal one vision
To see You exalted
We are the body of Christ

And to this we give our lives
To see You glorified

Blessing

*Prayers and liturgies today can be found: Ruth Duck, Flames of the Spirit, Pilgrim Press, p.53.; ~ from 2010 World Communion Day – Worship Resource – PCUSA. Posted on <http://www.claudiocarvalhaes.com/>;
Ruth Duck, Bread for the Journey, Pilgrim Press, p.14.;
~ written by Moira Laidlaw, and posted on Liturgies Online.
<http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>; United Methodist Book of Worship; All music used within CCLI#752546*

Remember in our Prayers

Concerns: Rosie Parks, Bob and Bonnie, Kimberly Morris, Patty Bumgarner, Sheree, Crystal Radford, Tommy, Ron, Mr. Fennell, Carol Beard, David Cooper, Marty Ammerman, Joann Walsh, Cameron Glandon, Michael Dunkailo, Grace Burnell, Dianna, Bruce and Shanon, Camden, Dylan, Freta Lamb, Joella, Joseph Gilday, Abby, Amber Stinson, Bill Mee, Zach Perkins, Caleb Coates, Ernie and Carolyn Taylor, Lynnette Scalzi, Zeb Cope, Nancy Bellan, Ray Krisnow, Ramona Gemeinhart, Dennis Rosier, Pete Stone, Karen Bowers, Janice Crumpton, Jeff Birdsall, Kevin Lykins, Joe Ames, Nina Winfree, Barbara Greene, Ben Stanley, Susan Nichols, Jo and Buddy Carlisle.

Other Concerns: All teachers and students returning to the classroom, The Coronavirus, the tragedies occurring in our country and around the world; police officers and first responders; all who are grieving; our seniors; our church and the entire United Methodist Church; recovery from addiction; young adults needing a closer walk with Christ; those awaiting test results; healing for those in pain.

Nation and World: Our nation, leaders, military, deployed troops and their families.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

Birthdays/Anniversaries: **10/05** Laurie Burt; **10/06** Hayden Smith; **10/10** Rick and Kim Frost (2009)

We at Wesley are glad you are here and invite you to worship

with us often. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider Wesley. Pastor Gretchen would be happy to talk with you about it.

Announcements

Today is World Communion Sunday. Your choice to give to World Communion Sunday empowers a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion Scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries; the remainder assists Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. and Ethnic In-Service Training. These funds are administered by General Board of Higher Education and Ministry the General Board of Global Ministries. You can give on-line at UMCgiving.org/giveWCS

The Third Quarter Giving Statements are now available and will be mailed to you with stewardship information on or before October 20th. Please let me know if you would like it mailed/emailed to you before that, or go online at onrealm.org and see your statement there. Please review your statement and let me know if you have any questions. Kathann Montague, Financial Secretary, 757-722-8744, kdm8989@cox.net

Blessing of the Animals: On Tuesday, October 6th, 7:30 PM, Pastor Gretchen will lead a Blessing of the Animals on Zoom. Invite your family and friends to gather from home. A Zoom link will be sent.

October Counter Schedule:

4 Oct – Clyde Gumbert/Stephanie Eitzen
11 and 18 Oct – Mary Saylor/Amy Stanley
25 October – Helen Cope/Becky Morris

H.E.L.P. Food Pantry: Thank you for your continued donations to the H.E.L.P. Food Pantry. They are grateful for all nonperishable food. **Current needs are: canned peas, canned baked beans, canned fruit and powdered milk.** Donations are delivered monthly. Contact person: Sherry Moore

Nightly Prayer on Facebook Live, Monday-Friday, 7:00 PM.

Scriptures for October 11: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

Week of 4 October 2020

Sun.	04	10:00 AM Live Stream Worship Service – Zoom or Facebook 4:00 PM Stewardship Bible Study on Zoom
Mon.	05	7:00 PM Prayer Time –Facebook
Tues.	06	7:00 PM Prayer Time –Facebook 7:30 PM Blessing of the Animals on Zoom
Wed.	07	7:00 PM Prayer Time –Facebook
Thurs.	08	7:00 PM Prayer Time –Facebook
Fri.	09	7:00 PM Prayer Time –Facebook
Sun.	11	10:00 AM Live Stream Sunday Worship Service – Zoom or Facebook 4:00 PM Stewardship Bible Study on Zoom

OFFERING	Received: \$1849.00– Needed each week: \$4,876.00
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Secretary Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

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