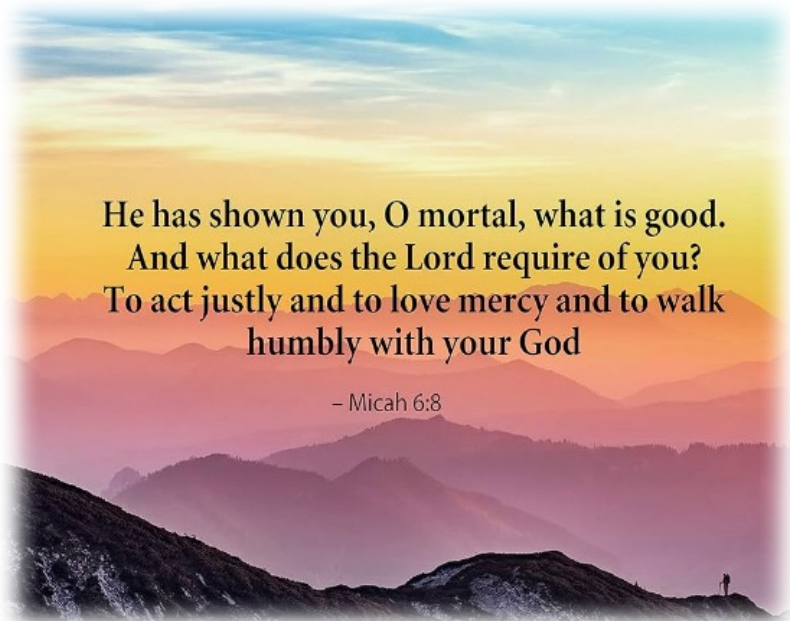




**Wesley United Church**  
**101 Patrick Street, (P.O. Box 26010)**  
**St. John's, NL A1E 0A5**

**February 1, 2026**

**“We Welcome the Opportunity to Welcome You”**



In Ministry: The Whole Congregation

Clergy: Rev. Bill Mercer B.A., M.Div.

Director of Music: Dr. David Chafe M.Mus., B.Mus (Honours)

Office Coordinator: Nancy Bursey Building Caretaker: Paul LeDrew

Video Technician: Mark Chafe

- Church Office: Telephone – 579-3682 Fax 579-3703

Rev. Bill's Cell Number: 683-1980

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[www.facebook.com/wesleyunitedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/wesleyunitedchurch)

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*Today's bulletin is dedicated to the glory of God  
and in celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
of my parents, Arthur and Leona LeGrow, who  
were married January 27, 1956. With love from  
daughter Eleanor & son-in-law Brian Wentzell.*

Piano Prelude ~ Dr. David Chafe  
Words of Welcome and Announcements  
Lighting of the Christ Candle and Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: What does the Lord require of you?

**All: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

One: What does God command of us?

**All: To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

One: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**All: But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.**

One: Let us worship the God who believes in us, and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**All: Let us worship the God who will ask much of us, but will be beside us every step of the way.**

Choral Introit: (sung)

*Let all of humankind in this their concord find:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**O God, we trust in your power, even as it is often found in weakness; in your wisdom, even as it is expressed in seeming foolishness; in your wholeness, even as it comes to us amid brokenness. We do not ask this day for dazzling displays of strength, electric exercises of intellectual prowess, or marvellous manifestations of miracles. We come simply to worship You. Touch us this day, O Lord, sinners that we are, that we might become Your saints, Your body, Your children, Your church. For this Temple of Your Spirit is built not upon our own abilities, knowledge, or restorative skill, but upon You, in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hymn: Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing

Eternal, Unchanging, we sing to your praise:

Your mercies are endless, and righteous your ways;

Your servants proclaim the renown of your name

Who rules over all and is ever the same.

Again, we rejoice in the world you have made,  
Your mighty creation in beauty arrayed,  
We thank you for life, and we praise you for joy,  
For love and for hope that no power can destroy.

We praise you for Jesus, our Master and Lord,  
The might of his Spirit, the truth of his word,  
His comfort in sorrow, his patience in pain,  
The faith sure and steadfast that Jesus shall reign.

1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Call to Confession:

One: To open our hearts to God is to risk vulnerability, judgment, and condemnation. But throughout the scriptures, we learn that God is merciful and just, slow to anger, and eager to forgive. Let us then risk our confession:

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**Loving God, we confess that we often live by fear rather than faith. Too often, we have forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God, and fall short of being credible witnesses to you. For these things, we ask your forgiveness, and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to you in our world. Remind us to be who you would have us to be regardless of our actions or who we are with. Hold us to you and build our relationship with you and with those you have given us this day. For our sake, and in Christ's name, we pray.**

Litany of Assurance: **(responsive)**

One: Because we are not worthy to enter God's dwelling, God came to dwell with us through the body and being of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Christ came to be with us, amongst us, and for us.

**All: This is the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Hearts and Hands

Ministry of Music: Whispering Hope ~ Keith Snelgrove  
(Words and Music: Septimus Winner, 1868)

Story of Our Mission: The Heart Of Winter

Offering Invitation:

One: God is the giver of all good things, the one who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make the Body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, we offer our lives back to God - we share our time, our skills, our money and in so doing, we say “yes” to God’s invitation to join in God’s kingdom building work here on earth.

Offertory Hymn: Take My Life And Let It Be

Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, all for thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love,  
take my feet, and let them be  
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my will, and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

The Doxology: (congregation please **stand**)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow!***

***Praise him all creatures here below!***

***Praise him above ye heavenly host!***

***Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!***

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

**God of Justice and Mercy, you do not ask for thousands of offerings or rivers of oil, only that we live with love, humility, and a hunger for what is right. Accept these gifts we bring, and those already given through PAR and other means - not as bargaining chips, but as signs of our desire to follow you. Use them and us to pour out kindness where the world is aching, to walk alongside the weary, and to bring your healing presence into troubled places. May our giving be our “yes” to your call, our response to your grace, and our witness to your hope. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ~ Lynn Dwyer

Responsive Psalm: 15 (VU 736) ~ Lynn Dwyer

One: God, who may be a guest in your house,

**All: or who may dwell on your holy mountain?**

One: One who leads a blameless life,

**All: who does what is right, who speaks truthfully from the heart;**

One: one whose tongue is free from malice,

**All: who never wrongs a friend, who utters no reproach against a neighbour;**

One: one who cannot respect the unworthy, but honours those who fear God;

**All: who stands by a promise given, though it be to personal disadvantage;**

One: one who will take no interest on a loan, nor accept a bribe to testify against the innocent.

**All: Whoever does this shall never be overthrown.**

Gloria Patri: (in unison)

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon

### Service of the Table

Affirmation of Faith (A New Creed): (in unison)

**We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

## Communion Hymn: O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,  
the fount of life, the light of all  
from every bliss that earth imparts,  
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.

We taste your ever-living bread,  
and long to feast upon you still;  
we drink of you, the fountainhead,  
our thirsting souls from you we fill.

Your truth unchanged has ever stood;  
you plead with all to call on you,  
those who seek you, you are good,  
to those who find you, life is new.

O Jesus, ever with us stay;  
make all our moments calm and to  
bright;  
chase the bleak night of sin away;  
shed o'er the world your holy light.

## The Great Thanksgiving: (responsive)

One: God is with us!

**All: We are not alone!**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to God.**

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

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love, you are beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love, you are creative and self-giving, generously moving. In all the near and distant corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

**All: Even when we turn away from you, you are with us; your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us.**

One: We praise you for Jesus Christ, eternal as your love, our bond to one another. We rejoice with all your people of every time and place, and with angels and archangels, to proclaim the glory of your name:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of your glory! Glory be to you, O Lord most high!**

One: It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ, who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers: loving what he loved; living what he taught, and striving to be his faithful servants in our time and place. In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises, and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me." After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying, "This is the new covenant, remember me."

**All: We do remember. We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again. In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come to us again!**

One: Holy Mystery, God the Spirit, we call on you to transform these familiar things, as you continually transform the world around us. Bless this bread and this cup, the wheat and the grape, the farmer and the harvest, the seed and the sower. So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community, we may taste and see your goodness, so that we might catch a glimpse of what it is to be in communion with you and with one another. Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer: (in unison)

**All: 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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Table

Breaking and Sharing the Bread

One: The body of Christ which is broken for you. Take and eat in remembrance of him.

***all partake of the bread***

One: The blood of the New Covenant which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Take and drink in remembrance of him.

***all partake of the cup***

One: Having been refreshed at the Lord's Table, may we all go forth from this worship with a renewed desire to love and serve God by loving and serving our neighbours.

**All: Amen.**

Prayer After Communion (in unison):

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to:**

**feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.	Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
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Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Commissioning and Benediction

Piano Postlude: Jesus Will ~ Dr. David Chafe  
(Words: Isla Duley Ogden Music: Bentley Ackley, 1912)

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We welcome you to this service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are a visitor, we extend to you a special welcome and invite you to sign our guest book in the porch of the church so we might have a record of your visit with us.

We offer a special thank you to Keith Snelgrove for leading our congregational singing and sharing his ministry of music with us this morning; and to Lynn Dwyer for sharing in the reading of scripture.

Our Thrift Shop will be open on Tuesday from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. Volunteers for the Thrift Shop are asked to come along to the church at 10:00 am. to help with prepare.



Our Annual Congregational meeting has been set for Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>, immediately following our morning worship service. We will be discussing our Annual Report and the Ministry Articulation Plan (MAP) at this meeting. Both reports will be made available before the meeting. If you have a report that needs to be included in the Annual Report, please submit it to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

The Wesley Seniors (55+) Outreach program will begin on Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall 11:00 am. – 3:00 pm. and will feature exercise, a hot lunch, guest speakers and/or live music and fellowship over cards and/or a fun bingo (no cash prizes). The suggested cost is \$8.00 per day (to help cover expenses) but no one will be turned away due to financial reasons. For more information, please feel free to speak with Anne Marche.

Rev. Mercer will be holding Confirmation classes in the near future. Confirmation is open to all persons, over the age of 11 who are interested in becoming full members of The United Church of Canada. Depending upon the interest expressed, there may be two separate classes, one for younger people and the other for adults. If you are, or know of someone who may be, interested in being confirmed, please speak with Rev. Mercer. Confirmation will take place during the morning worship service on Easter Sunday (April 5th).

Next Sunday, we will be holding our Annual Pink Gift Service. This special service will feature our Hearts and Hands children sharing their ministry with us. This year, our special Pink Gift collection will be items needed by the residents and clients of Naomi Center. Below is a wish list of items most needed at this time:

### **Personal Care Items**

\* Shampoo \* Conditioner \* Dry Shampoo \* Hairbrushes and hair accessories \* Deodorant \* Razors, shaving creams & gels \* Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss \* Body wash \* Moisturizer and hand lotion \* Q-tips & tweezers \* Lip balm \* Nail care items (clippers, nail files) \* Face cleanser \* Make-up remover wipes \* Some unscented toiletries would be helpful

### **Other Helpful Items**

\* Socks & slippers \* Underwear & sports bras \* Pyjamas/pyjama bottoms \* Leggings \* Hats, gloves, mittens, scarves \* New winter coats, jackets & outdoor footwear \* Backpacks & reusable bags \* Art supplies, puzzle books, notebooks, adult colouring books, pencils, markers \* Movie passes \* \$5 and \$10 gift cards (Dollarama, Tim Hortons, Sobeys, etc.)