



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

March 15, 2026

“We Welcome the Opportunity to Welcome You”



Lent IV

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

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www.facebook.com/wesleyunitedchurch

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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: We come in worship, seeking God's guidance and love.

All: May this time of worship fill us with the Spirit, to restore our faith and our hope in God's presence.

One: Although we are well-intended, we need God's word to renew our direction and commitment.

All: May this time of worship strengthen our hearts to follow God's way.

One: God calls us to support each other and draw on the example of those who went before.

All: May this time of worship comfort us with the truth of God's love throughout the ages.

One: In worship, let us welcome God into our hearts.

All: In worship, let us affirm our love of God and God's love for us.

Introit: Surely The Presence of the Lord Is In This Place

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

I can feel his mighty power and his grace

I can hear the brush of angel wings, I see glory on each face

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

God of all love, we travel up and down the daily routines of our lives, and we know you are with us. We ask you to open our hearts, minds, and spirits to embrace your loving presence in this worship time today, so that we may go out and share your love in the ups and downs of our daily routines. Amen.

Hymn: This Day God Gives Me

This day God gives me strength of high heaven,
Sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth,
Flashes of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
Depths of the ocean, firmness of earth.

This day God sends me strength to sustain me,
Might to uphold me, wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful, your ears are listening,
Your lips are speaking, Friend at my side.

God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, saving from ill.
Angels of heaven drive from me always
All that would harm me, stand by me still.

Rising, I thank you, mighty and strong One,
King of creation, giver of rest,
Firmly confessing Threeness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.

Old Testament Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Call to Confession:

One: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

Gracious God, we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness. Being so sure that we "see," we miss the truths you would teach us. With the poultice of your love, cure this blindness. Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, our own failures and our own faults. Make our "shadow side" known to us and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace. For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can worship you truly. For our sake, and in Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Litany of Assurance: (responsive)

One: We are part of the flock, we are part of Christ's body. In Christ we find wholeness and restoration.

All: We are loved and forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music: Song of Peace ~ Hearts and Hands Choir
(Arr: George L.O. Strid Additional words & music: Mary Donnelly, 1991)

Hearts and Hands

Story of Our Mission: A Steady Flow Of Care

Offertory Invitation:

One: As our loving shepherd, Jesus reaches out to help us through all the troubles of life in loving ways. Let us reach out to each other and to others in our community and in the world beyond as we present our offering this day.

Offertory Hymn: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

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!

Gifts Given to the Memorial Fund in Loving Memory of:

Millicent Day from Carol Ann Biddiscombe
Millicent Day from Joan Tripp & Augusta Ford
Millicent Day from Nora English
Millicent Day from Pam Barnes
Millicent Day from Melissa & Ruth Mercer
Rae McCallister from Erika Harris
In honour of Florence Breen from Kathy Breen

Gift Given to Hearts and Hands in Loving Memory of:

Rae McCallister from Erika Harris

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

God of all peoples and all places, we present these offerings, and those given through PAR and other means, that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries, that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14 ~ Eleanor Wentzell

Responsive Psalm: 23 (VU 749) ~ Eleanor Wentzell

One: God is my shepherd,

All: there is nothing I shall lack.

One: You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,

All: you lead me beside peaceful waters;

One: you revive my spirit;

All: you guide me in right pathways for your name's sake.

One: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me;

All: your rod and your staff are my comfort.

One: You spread a table before me in the sight of my enemies;

All: you anoint my head with oil, my cup is overflowing.

One: Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

All: and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long.

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: John 9:1-41

Ministry of Music: My Life Flows On ~ Fred Harris
(Words and Music: Robert S. Lowry, 1869)

Sermon

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Commissioning and Benediction

Piano Postlude: My Saviour First of All (I Shall Know Him) ~ Dr. David Chafe
(Words by Fanny Crosby. Music by John Sweney. 1891)

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 our thanks to Fred Harris for leading our congregational singing and sharing his ministry of music with us; and to Eleanor Wentzell for sharing in the reading of scripture.

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held immediately following our morning worship service. We will be discussing our Annual Report and the

Ministry Articulation Plan (MAP) at this meeting. Both reports are available in the porch of the church. We hope you will be able to attend this meeting as we look at the life, work and ministry of our church.

The Wesley Seniors (55+) Outreach program meets this Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00 am. – 3:00 pm. This program features exercise, a hot lunch, guest speakers and/or live music and fellowship over cards and/or a fun bingo (no cash prizes). For more information, please feel free to speak with Anne Marche.

Our Hearts and Hands are going to be hosting a special intergenerational event on Saturday March 21st in the Fellowship Hall of the church from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. This gathering will include a pot luck supper, intergenerational activities and discussions and worship, centered around the theme of Bread of Life. It is open to all members of the congregation of all ages and is designed to help us bridge the age gap and get to know each other simply as loved children of God. If you are interested in attending, all we ask is that you add your name to the sign up sheet, indicating the number of people attending and what type of dish (hot, cold or dessert) that you would be willing/able to bring along. We hope to have a good blend of all ages for Wesley InterGenerational Sessions. (WIGS)

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 prepare.

The Fall Fair Committee will host a soup luncheon with roll, apple pie and tea or coffee following the regular Sunday service at 12:30 pm on April 19th. A variety of soups will be available including pea, beef and chicken. Tickets are \$10 and can be obtained by contacting the Church Office at 709-579-3682, Marvin Barnes at 709-579-7900 or Pheobe Sheppard at 709-726-1689.

Our church is fortunate enough to have two defibrillators located in our building. These machines are designed to help save lives in the event of a cardiac emergency. In order to get the maximum benefit from these defibrillators we are offering training in their use. The training session will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 22 beginning at 1:30pm. Please come along to learn how to use these lifesaving devices. There is no cost for this training.

Memorial United Church in Portugal Cove will be hosting the People of the Sea service on Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 pm.. This service recognizes all those who make a living from or on the sea through harvesting, researching, protecting and respecting our oceans in times of peace and war. Everyone is invited to this service to join with representatives from all levels of government, local community leaders, business leaders and others to celebrate and pay homage to the close cultural and historical ties to the sea. Everyone is welcome. A reception will follow the service.