



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

**September 14, 2025**

**"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

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

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Piano Prelude ~ *Dr. David Chafe*

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle and Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.

**All: God's love fills our hearts to overflowing with laughter.**

One: We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain.

**All: God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.**

One: We gather together, in God's presence, to worship God in faith and truth.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

Introit: Jesus, Stand Among Us

*Jesus, stand among us in your risen power;*

*Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.*

*Lead our hearts to wisdom till our doubting cease;*

*And to all assembled speak your word of peace.*

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**Loving and Gracious God, tender one to all who call upon you with repentant and believing hearts: bless us, we pray, with your presence this day. Teach we who have gathered to learn your ways, inspire those who seek your wisdom, energize those who are exhausted, comfort those who grieve, and strengthen those who are weak. Indeed, O God, fill all of our hearts with your praise and lead us in holiness and righteousness in this hour and in the hours to come. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn: New Every Morning

New every morning is the love  
our wakening and uprising prove;  
through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
restored to life, and power, and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,  
hover around us while we pray;  
new perils past, new sins forgiven,  
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If on our daily course our mind  
be set to hallow all we find,  
new treasures still of countless price  
God will provide for sacrifice.

The trivial round, the common task,  
will furnish all we ought to ask,  
room to deny ourselves, a road  
to bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O God, in your dear love,  
fit us for perfect rest above;  
and help us, this and every day,  
to live more nearly as we pray.

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Call to Confession:

One: When we are called to give account of our management of God's resources, we become aware of our acquisitive nature and the exploitation of much that is entrusted to our care-taking. Let us be honest with God and with one another as admit our fondness for privilege and our habit of using others for our own ends. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**O God, we want to have our cake and eat it, too: we want to be a friend of the world and still be your friend. Yet, Jesus taught us: "No one can serve two masters." Give us strength and courage to get our priorities straight: help us to seek your kingdom first. Help us to live faithfully and joyfully in the world, and to be friends with the people you call us to serve. Help us also to remember that our best relationship is the one we have with you. For our sake, and in Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

Litany of Assurance: (responsive)

One: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and we are given a new way to live.

**All: Let us accept God's grace, and live new lives of faith, obedience, and joy.**

Ministry of Music: Come To Me, O Weary Traveller ~ Dawne Smith  
(Words: Sylvia Dunstan, 1991 Music: William Rowan, 1992)

## Story of Our Mission: Our Past, Present and Future

### Offering Invitation:

One: We are invited to express our gratitude to God whose steadfast love endures forever. Let us now give practical expressions of our gratitude to the One who satisfies our hunger and thirst every 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.

### Offertory: The Doxology

***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!***

### **Memorial Gift Given to the Memorial Fund in Loving Memory of:**

Kevin Burry from Mom, Ivan, Faye and Dave

### Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

**Accept, O God, these expressions of our stewardship, given now and through PAR and other means. By our gifts we would renew our pledge to acknowledge you in all things and serve you with all we have. May we handle faithfully the wealth you have given us, so we may also relate with integrity to people whose lives touch our own and to unseen sisters and brothers who need our help in Christ. Amen.**

New Testament Lesson:   1 Timothy 2:1-7 ~ Eleanor Wentzell

Responsive Psalm: 79:1-9 (VU 793) ~ Eleanor Wentzell

One: O God, the nations have entered your domain, defiled your holy temple and laid Jerusalem in ruins.

**All: They have left your servants' bodies for scavenging birds, the flesh of your faithful ones for wild beasts. Their blood was shed like water around Jerusalem, with none to bury them.**

One: We have become the taunt of our neighbours, mocked and scorned by those around us.

**All: How long, O God? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?**

One: Pour out your rage on the nations that do not acknowledge you, on the realms that will not call on your name;

**All: for they have devoured Jacob and desolated Israel's home.**

One: Do not hold the sins of past generations against us;

**All: let your compassion come swiftly to meet us, for we are sunk very low.**

One: Help us, O God our Saviour, for the glory of your name.

**All: Deliver us and forgive our sin, for the honour of your name.**

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: Luke 16:1-13

Hymn: There's A Wideness To God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.

There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that Christ has shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.

There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such gracious judgement given.

Troubled souls, why will you scatter  
like a crowd of frightened sheep?  
Foolish hearts, why will you wander  
from a love so true and deep?

For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

## Sermon

### Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn:     Where Could I Go?

Living below in this old sinful world,  
Hardly a comfort can afford;  
Striving alone to face temptations sore,  
Where could I go but to the Lord?

*Where could I go, O where could I go  
Seeking a refuge for my soul?  
Needing a friend to help me in the end,  
Where could I go but to the Lord?*

Neighbours are kind, I love them every one,  
We get along in sweet accord;  
But when my soul needs manna from above  
Where could I go but to the Lord?

Life here is grand with friends I love so dear,  
Comfort I get from God's own Word;  
Yet, when I face the chilling hand of death  
Where could I go but to the Lord?

### Commissioning and Benediction

Piano Postlude:     I'll Fly Away ~ Dr. David Chafe  
                              (Words and Music: Alfred Brumley, 1929)

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We welcome you to this service today in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are a visitor with us, 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 Dawne Smith for leading our congregational singing this morning and for sharing her ministry of music with us; we also offer our thanks to Eleanor Wentzell for sharing in the reading of scripture.

Rev. Mercer will be away from the pastoral charge from September 15-24. In his absence, Annabeth Loveys will be leading the worship service on September 21, accompanied by Mildred Cousens and Elizabeth Horwood who will be sharing their ministry of music during the service. In the event of an emergency, please contact the church office and Nancy will provide you with the contact information for Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter.

Our Hearts and Hands Sunday School programme will be resume on Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>. Hearts and Hands meets during our morning worship service and provides a fun and safe Christian learning environment for children of all ages. If you have, or know of, children who might be interested in sharing in this, please feel free to bring them, or invite them, to come along.

Our Hearts and Hands Choir will also begin meeting and practicing on Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup> as well. The choir is open to children 7 years of age and older and offers a fun time of singing and fellowship under the leadership of Annabeth Loveys and David Chafe. Practice is held in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15 am. until the children come up to share in the opening of our worship service.

The next "Sing the Story" gospel singalong will take place Sunday, October 5th at 7:00pm at Wesley United Church. Come and raise your voices with the Wesley United Church Hymn Team and our friends of the Salvation Army Temple Corps Band and Songsters, led by David Chafe and Mark Barter. It promises to be a fun and energetic hour of grand old hymns we all know and love. This is our 11th "Sing the Story," which has proven to be a wonderful source of comfort and joy to so many people. Admission is a freewill offering, with all proceeds in support of the music ministry of Wesley United Church.

If you have difficulty hearing the service, we now have a number of listening aids (headphones) available for use during our worship services. These are directly connected to the sound system of the church and are designed to allow those with hearing impairment to hear more clearly and participate more fully in the worship service. If you would like to use one during worship, please speak with Mark Chafe or Rev. Mercer