



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

**July 19, 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

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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 of the Christ Candle and Passing of the Peace

Greeting from Christa Chaplin, Chairperson of VOWR Radio Board

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: Across the airwaves and into your hearts, a message of hope is ringing out today. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace." (Isaiah 52:7).

**All: We hear the good news of God's steadfast love!**

One: No matter the static in your life, no matter the interference of the world, God's grace is coming through loud and clear.

**All: We tune out the noise of the world to tune in to the voice of our Savior.**

One: Lift up your voices and your hearts. Let us exalt God's name together!

**All: Let us worship God!**

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**Loving God, we gather this morning to worship and praise you and to celebrate, once again, the radio ministry of VOWR. We thank you for the inspired vision you gave Rev. Joyce and the strength and inspiration you have given to the countless volunteers throughout the years to maintain that vision. Use this time of worship to bless us all and to strengthen and guide us as we seek to bear witness to your love and grace right here, where we are, and throughout your world with our actions and words and the music of our spirits. Amen.**

Hymn: I Love To Tell The Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

1st Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:40-44 ~ Bob Davis (VOWR Radio Board member)

Call to Confession:

One: When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of  
reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God.  
Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession. Let us  
pray:

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**O God of love and forgiveness, we come before you now seeking both  
of those gifts. As we celebrate this day, we give thanks for the far-  
reaching ministry that our city churches are able to offer through VOWR.  
However, we must also acknowledge that we have, too often, kept your  
gospel proclamation to ourselves. Forgive us the times that we fail to  
share our faith openly with others; forgive us the times our actions and  
words are contrary to the gospel message you bring. Restore us by your  
grace and teach us your ways that we might freely and openly share the  
faith, hope and love that you place within our hearts. For our sake, and in  
Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

Litany of Assurance: (responsive)

One: The love of God is beyond measure, and we are included in that  
love. Know that we are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

**All: Assured of God's unending love, we know we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: Be Thou My Vision ~ Christa Chaplin & Deborah Collins  
(Words: Irish ca. 8th cent. trans. Mary Byrne, 1905 Music: Irish trad. melody)

Story of our Mission: Shared Wonder

Offering Invitation:

One: A beloved song by Leonard Cohen reminds us that there is no perfect offering, that everything has a crack that allows the light to enter. We gather and bring our offerings. Even though our gifts may seem paltry, each one does represent the work and struggles and possibilities. We pray that in their imperfection, they may still offer significant hope and light that shines through the world's cracks, and shines through us in our act of sharing.

Offertory Hymn: For The Music Of Creation

For the music of creation,  
for the song your Spirit sings,  
for your sound's divine expression,  
burst of joy in living things:  
God, our God, the world's composer,  
hear us, echoes of your voice;  
music is your art, your glory;  
let the human heart rejoice!

Psalms and symphonies exalt you,  
drum and trumpet, string and reed,  
simple melodies acclaim you,  
tunes that rise from deepest need,  
hymns of longing and belonging,  
carols from a cheerful throat,  
lilt of lullaby and love song  
catching heaven in a note.

All the voices of the ages  
in transcendent chorus meet,  
worship lifting up the senses,  
hands that praise, and dancing feet;  
over discord and division  
music speaks your joy and peace,  
harmony of earth and heaven,  
song of God that cannot cease!

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!***

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

**God of all good gifts, we offer our gratitude to you for the blessings in our lives by returning to you now a portion of those blessings. We ask that you would receive these gifts which we present now, and those offered through PAR and other means, and use them for the continued ministry of your church and your people both here and throughout your world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

2nd Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:31-35 ~ Kay Donovan (VOWR volunteer)

Responsive Psalm: 96 ~ Kay Donovan (VOWR volunteer)

One: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**All: Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.**

One: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

**All: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.**

One: For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

**All: Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

One: Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**All: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.**

One: Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

**All: Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.**

One: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

**All: Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.**

One: Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.

**All: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

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.***

3rd Gospel Lesson: Mark 16:9-15 ~ Ron LeDrew (VOWR Station Manager)

## Hymn: Wonderful Words of Life

Sing them over again to me,  
wonderful words of life;  
let me more of their beauty see,  
wonderful words of life;  
words of life and beauty,  
teach me faith and duty.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all  
wonderful words of life;  
sinner, list to the loving call,  
wonderful words of life;  
all so freely given,  
wooing us to heaven.

*Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
wonderful words of life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
wonderful words of life.*

Sweetly echo the gospel call,  
wonderful words of life;  
offer pardon and peace to all,  
wonderful words of life;  
Jesus, only Savior,  
sanctify forever.

## Sermon

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

## Hymn: To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,  
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to ev'ry believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

## Commissioning and Benediction

Piano Postlude ~ There Shall Be Showers of Blessing ~ Dr. David Chafe  
(Words: D. W. Whittle 1883 Music: James McGranahan, 1883)

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We welcome you to this service today in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are a visitor, we extend to you 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 welcome you to this service today in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, we celebrate the 102nd Anniversary of VOWR and the ministry we have shared throughout the years. We are grateful to the countless number of volunteers who have kept our ministry flourishing and we pray God's richest blessing upon them all. 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 would like to offer our thanks to Christa Chaplin and Deborah Collins for leading our congregational singing and sharing their ministry of music with us this morning. We also offer our thanks to Bob Davis, Kat Donovan and Ron LeDrew for sharing in the reading of scripture.

### **Flower Services 2026**

General Protestant ~ July 20 7:00 pm. ~ Rev. Oliver Dingwell  
Memorial Gardens ~ July 27 7:00 pm. ~ Pastor Andrew Porter

Bridges to Hope is asking for our assistance in helping them prepare school supplies for the Bags To School initiative. Last year, Bridges To Hope was able to provide school bags to 900 local students. They are once again reaching out to our faith-based community, and are asking you to extend your generosity through donations of specific school supplies from our wish list. They are asking for donations of 12pks of Mechanical Pencils and 8, 10, or 12pks of Crayola Washable Markers. You can bring your donation to the church on Sunday mornings and drop them in the collection box or to the church office during normal office hours. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

## VOWR Fundraising Initiatives

VOWR relies on financial donations from its listeners to continue to bring you the “Music of your Life” – the music you grew up with. There are many ways to donate to VOWR:

Mailing Address: VOWR 800 AM  
P.O. Box 26006  
St. John's, NL A1E 0A5

Interact E-Transfer: [manager@vowr.org](mailto:manager@vowr.org)

In Person: VOWR Entrance of Wesley United Church  
101 Patrick Street, St. John's  
\*secure drop off box at door\*

### **Fundraising Concert**

VOWR's 3rd Annual Fundraising Concert ~ Swinging Back to the 50's ~ will be held on September 19th at Holy Heart Theatre beginning at 8:00 pm. This concert, hosted by Peter Halley, will feature local artists and the VOWR House Band (Paul Kinsman, Boomer Stamp, Sandy Morris, Glenn Parsons and Joe Tompkins). Tickets are available at a cost of \$62.00 from the Holy Heart Theatre Box Office (709) 579-4424 or their website: [hollyhearttheatre.com](http://hollyhearttheatre.com)

### **Southern Shore Get Away Packages Ticket Draws**

A Southern Shore Mini-Break at Ferryland (August 28) featuring Dinner Theater for 2 at SSFAC, a \$60.00 Gift Certificate to Lighthouse Picnics, 2 passes to the Colony of Avalon and a night at Groves House. **Draw date is August 7th.**

A Southern Shore Experience at Calvert (August 29) featuring 2 tickets to Sullivan's Songhouse, Bed & Breakfast at The Inn on Capelin Bay, and a \$60.00 gift certificate for supper at The Squid Jigger on Capelin Bay. **Draw date is August 19th.**

Tickets for these draws are available at a cost of \$5.00 or 3/\$10.00 and can be purchased at the station (709) 579-9233; [manager@vowr.org](mailto:manager@vowr.org) or from volunteers.