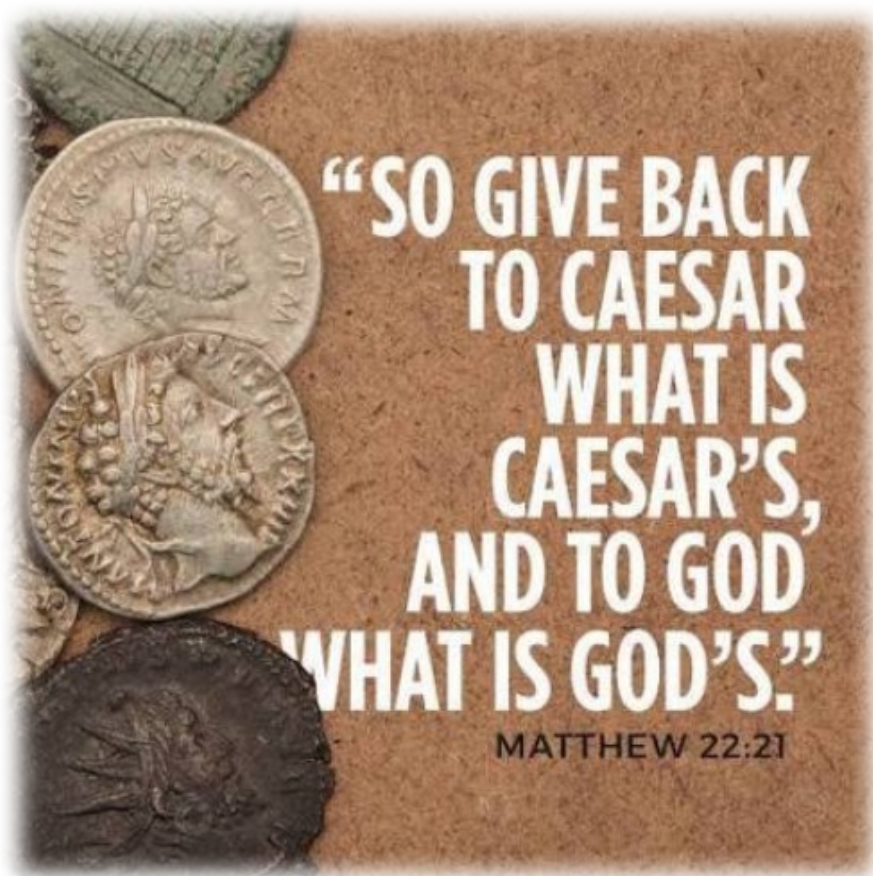




Wesley United Church
101 Patrick Street, (P.O. Box 26010)
St. John's, NL A1E 0A5

October 18, 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: (709)683-1980

Church Email – info@wesleychurch.ca Website – www.wesleychurch.ca
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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: The world demands our attention, our currency, and our labor. It tells us we belong to the systems around us.

All: But we know who we are, and whose we are.

One: The coins in our pockets may bear the image of earthly rulers, but we bear the image of the Living God.

All: We come to render to God what is God's.

One: Bring your whole hearts, your living souls, and your unique stories into this space.

All: We offer our lives as living sacrifices, for we belong completely to the Lord.

One: Let us worship the One who created us, sustains us, and claims us as His own.

All: Let us worship God!

Choral Introit: We Praise You For The Sun

*We praise you for the sun, the golden shining sun,
That gives us healing, strength and joy; we praise you for the sun.*

*We praise you for your love, your patient, endless love,
That gives us healing, strength and joy; we praise you for your love.*

Prayer of Approach: (**in unison**)

Loving God, as we gather in your name, be present with us. As we lift our voices in praise, inspire our singing; as we open our hearts to receive your love, teach us how to share it also; as we open ourselves to the touch of your Spirit, give us the strength and courage to follow where that Spirit may lead us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Sing Praise To God, Who Has Shaped

Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!

Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!

Gladsome rejoice – organ and trumpet and voice –

Joining God's great congregation.

Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,
Who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.
Have you observed, how we are always preserved
By God's parental affection?

Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.
Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Only conceive what godly strength can achieve:
Strength that would touch and caress us.

Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:
Amen, amen never ending.

1st Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:12-23

Call to Confession:

One: The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were yet sinners
Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to
approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us
confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

O Lord, you asked whose image was stamped upon the coin, and we are reminded that your image is stamped upon us. Yet we confess that we have often divided our hearts. We have rendered to worldly systems, anxieties, and ambitions the worship and trust that belong to you alone. We have looked to temporal power for our hope, hoarded what was never truly ours, and compromised your truth to fit the kingdoms of this age. Forgive us, O God, for giving to Caesar the devotion that belongs to our Creator. Cleanse our hearts, reclaim what bears our image, and call us back to your Lordship this day. For our sake, and in Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Litany of Assurance: (responsive)

One: Take refuge in our God who knows we are mere mortals. God forgives us for our sins, even though they were aimed at his loving heart. Rejoice that the Lord, out of his grace, will not remember our sins against us.

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

Ministry of Music: 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord) ~ Hearts & Hands Choir
(Words and Music: Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman, 2011)

Hearts and Hands

Story of Our Mission: A Circle Of Twelve

Offertory Invitation:

One: As one wise soul once said, "If we are to give unto God what is God's and give unto Caesar what is Caesar's, there will not be much left for poor Caesar!" Everything is of God and belongs to God, so what we give now is a thankful response for blessings of creation. Through our monetary gifts, our time and talent, we show our gratitude and return your gifts to you for your mission.

Offertory Hymn: O Joy Of God

O joy of God, we seek you in the morning
and long to see the glory of your face:
rise on our darkness with your sun's new dawning.
Flood all our being in this feast of grace.

O life of God, for you our spirits hunger;
unless we feed on you we surely die:
with love and faith renewed and hope grown younger,
send us from here to serve you, God most high.

O peace of God, you pass our understanding -
safe through each moment keep us every day:
with joy divine and mercy never ending,
direct our path and prosper all our way.

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!

Gifts Given To The Memorial Fund In Loving Memory Of:

son Geoffrey Whalen from mother Sandra and brother Mark (Melanie) and
nephews Declan & Louis

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

God, your image is embedded in everything we have and everything we are. You are a gift to us and for us to proclaim your new Jerusalem. Stir in us the passion to be your people and honour your name. We give all to you, as in Jesus you gave all to us. Bless these gifts and those already given through PAR and other means. Thank you, it is great to be in this place. Amen.

New Testament Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 ~ Elizabeth Horwood

Responsive Psalm: 99 (VU 819) ~ Elizabeth Horwood

One: You reign, O God, and the peoples tremble, you sit enthroned upon the cherubim and the earth is quaking.

All: You, O God, are great in Zion, you are exalted over all the nations.

One: Let them praise your great and awesome name: holy are you and mighty, a ruler who delights in justice.

All: You have determined what is fair, you have done in Jacob what is just and right.

One: Moses and Aaron were among your priests, Miriam among those who called your name; they called to you, God, and you answered them.

All: In the pillar of cloud you spoke to them, they kept your teachings and the law that you gave them.

One: O God, our God, you answered them;

All: to them you were a forgiving God, though you punished their offences.

One: Proclaim the greatness of God and worship on God's holy hill;

All: for God, our God, is the Holy One.

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 22:15-22

Ministry of Music: What A Friend We Have In Jesus ~ Heather Griffin
(Words: Joseph Scriven, 1855 Music: Amanda McBroom, 1979)

Sermon

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and king,
the triumphs of God's grace.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Jesus! the name that charms our
fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

Hear him, you deaf, you voiceless ones,
your tongues again employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,
and leap, you lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

Commissioning and Benediction

Piano Postlude: We'll Understand It Better By And By ~ Dr. David Chafe
(Words and Music: Charles Tindley, 1905)

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.

The Fall Fair Committee will be holding a **Flipper Dinner** on Thursday October at 5:00 pm for take-outs and 6:00 pm for eat-in. We are looking for volunteers to help with this dinner. Wednesday, we are asking for people to come and help with cleaning the flippers at 10:00 am, and peeling vegetables at 2:00 pm. Thursday, we are hoping to have people come along to help with setting up the tables, serving the meals and to help with the clean-up afterwards. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Wesley Church Council is looking for persons interested in serving on a Fundraising Committee to help address financial issues in the church. If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please speak with Jim Butters or Rev. Bill for more information.

The Thrift Shop will be open on Tuesday from 12:00 pm. – 2:00 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help with this outreach ministry, please speak with Jennifer Pinsent Barnes. We are now accepting donations for the Thrift Shop, which can be dropped off next to the Paul LeDrew room Monday to Friday during regular office hours. Please ensure that all items are clean and presentable for resale.

The next “Sing the Story” gospel singalong will take place tonight at 7:00 pm. at the Salvation Army St. John’s Temple Corps, 101 Torbay Road. The Wesley Hymn Team and the Salvation Army Temple Songsters and Band will once again join forces for a joyous hour of wonderful songs of the faith we all know and love so well. We hope you all can join us. Freewill offerings will be gratefully received, with all proceeds in support of Bridges to Hope Food Bank. If you are unable to attend, you may donate to Bridges to Hope by visiting www.bridgestohope.ca.

Once again, this year, we are hosting The Once for their Annual Christmas Concerts. As was the case last year, we have been given the opportunity to sell apple cider and cookies during their intermission. This was a very successful fundraiser for us and it was only made possible by the generous donations of homemade cookies and people volunteering to serve. It is estimated we will need, in the area of, 5000 cookies. If you are able to help with this, it would be greatly appreciated. You can begin baking as soon as you would like and freeze the cookies. All we ask, is that you make cookies without icing. We thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. More detail will come in the following weeks.