



*Wisdom*

**WHITNEY**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**October 4, 2020**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Rev. Christina Thompson**

## **Welcome**

Welcome to worship this morning. I am Rev. Christina Thompson, Pastor here at Whitney United Methodist Church and I am so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. Today we are exploring how we find peace in an anxious world by looking at the role of wisdom. May we indeed find the wisdom of God through our worship this morning.

## **Opening Thoughts**

**Psalm 37 Exhortation to Patience and Trust**

*Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.*

*Trust in the Lord, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.  
Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

*Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act.  
He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.*

*Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.*

## **Lighting the candle**

As we begin our worship this morning, I invite you to light your candle as a reminder that we can trust in God and God will act. May this light remind us of that truth.

## **Prayer**

## **Centering us for worship**

(inspired by James 3-4)

God of holy wisdom,  
we are seekers on the way to a deeper wisdom and a wider vision.  
Our lives are full of information and opinions,  
but in the midst of it all we long to hear the voice of wisdom –  
Your wisdom, God –  
cutting through the noise and teaching us how to live.

God, we have come here this morning  
to learn wisdom from your Word,  
from your Holy Spirit,

and from one another.

We have come so that wisdom may call us out of the darkness and into the light.

We have come to have the deeper, richer, wisdom-filled life that you have promised to each of us.

O God,  
make us ready to hear the Words spoken to our hearts this morning.

Call us to hear your wisdom  
and grant us the courage to respond. Amen

~ posted on **Literature & Liturgy**. <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>

## Opening Song—

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise #103 v. 1, 2, 4

CCLI Song # 124466

Walter Chalmers Smith

© Words: Public Domain

Music: Public Domain

For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](https://www.ccli.com/terms-of-use). All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](https://www.ccli.com)

CCLI License # 3183399 – Streaming License # 21112113

Verse 1

Immortal invisible God only wise  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes  
Most blessed most glorious, the Ancient of Days  
Almighty victorious Thy great name we praise

Verse 2

Unresting unshaking and silent as light  
Nor wanting nor wasting Thou rulest in might  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love

Verse 4

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee

## Scripture

Proverbs 2:1-11, Proverbs 9:10-12

## Sermon

Wisdom

Rev Christina

## Response---- Labyrinth Practice (Spiritual Practice)

Today's spiritual practice is the Labyrinth--- The labyrinth is a sacred place set aside for us to reflect, look within, pray and negotiate new behavior. Most frequently, a labyrinth involves a walking path that has one entrance and exit and a space in the middle. There are other variations such as the finger labyrinth that allows you to do this practice when a walking path is not available. The finger labyrinth is what we are using for this practice.

There are three stages for the labyrinth as a spiritual practice.

1. **Entering:** As we move our finger toward the center, we release cares and concerns, emptying and quieting ourselves before God. As we surrender to the winding path, we seek wholeness and healing.
2. **Centering:** As we reach the center, we pray and meditate, seeking clarity for our lives. We remain as long as we wish, receiving whatever is there for us.
3. **Returning:** As we walk out on the same path, we are empowered by the spirit to be more authentic in ourselves and in our service to the world.

## Anthem—

**Whom Shall I Fear** (God of Angel Armies)

CCLI Song #6440288

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Scott Cash

© 2012 Alletrop Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) McTyeire Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) S. D. G. Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) sixsteps Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

For use solely with the SongSelect© Terms of use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](https://www.ccli.com)

CCLI License # 3183399 - Streaming License #20112113

You hear me when I call, You are my morning song  
Though darkness fills the night I cannot hide the light.  
Whom shall I fear?

You crush the enemy underneath my feet,  
You are my sword and shield.  
Though troubles linger still, whom shall I fear?  
I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind.  
The God of angel armies is always by my side.

The one who reigns forever, He is a friend of mine  
The God of angel armies is always by my side.  
My strength is in your name for you alone can save,  
You will deliver me, Yours is the victory.  
Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?  
I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind.  
The God of angel armies is always by my side.  
The one who reigns forever, He is a friend of mine,  
The God of angel armies is always by my side.  
And nothing formed against me shall stand,  
You hold the whole world in your hands.  
I'm holdin' on to your promises,  
You are faithful, You are faithful,  
You are faithful, you are faithful.  
I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind.  
The God of angel armies is always by my side.  
The one who reigns forever, He is a friend of mine,  
The God of angel armies is always by my side.  
The God of angel armies is always by my side.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

## **Prayer of Intercession**

(inspired by Ephesians 1: 15-23)

*"I pray for you constantly, asking God,  
the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding,  
so that you might grow in your knowledge of God."* Ephesians  
1:16-17

O God,

We ask for your wisdom to discern your ways and path for our  
own lives. **Grant us wisdom**

We ask for your wisdom to discern how to deal with others we  
meet, live with, work with, shop with, drive our roads, with, wait  
in line with, eat with and be with daily. **Grant us wisdom**

We ask for your wisdom in the difficult situations we may have to  
deal with as we go through life. **Grant us wisdom**

We ask for your wisdom when voting in the upcoming elections.  
**Grant us wisdom**

We ask for your wisdom in dealing with injustices in our world.  
**Grant us wisdom**

We ask for wisdom for our leaders in our world, our countries,  
our states, and our communities. **Grant us wisdom**

We ask for wisdom for our church leaders, worldwide and local.

We ask for your wisdom as we reach out to those in need in our  
communities and in our world.

We ask for wisdom as we minister to those who are homebound,  
in nursing homes, sick and in the hospital. **Grant us wisdom**

We ask for your wisdom that not only enlightens us but transforms  
us and guides us in our daily walk with you. **Amen**

~ excerpted from a longer prayer written by Rev Abi, and posted on **Rev Abi's Long and Winding Road**. <http://vicarofwadley.blogspot.ca/>

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Dewey Knowles*

## **Offering**

We have been issued the invitation and the means to be  
generous, whether in material things or in the capacity to care. All  
of us have received and all of us have something to give. Our  
offerings are a symbol of our intent to please God and to realize in  
and through the church the community God intends.

You can give of your tithes and offerings by sending in a  
check to the church by mail, or giving electronically through our  
website.

Let us pray for the gifts that will be offered--- Giver of all gifts, we  
seek to share as you have shared with us. We want to serve in the  
spirit of Christ. Therefore we rededicate ourselves with this  
offering. May you give us the wisdom to give as you call us  
to. May we love you and one another as we learn to love ourselves  
aright. Amen

## Closing Hymn

### Be Thou my Vision #451

CCLI Song # 3063376

Carlton Raymond Young | Eleanor Henrietta Hull | Mary Elizabeth Byrne | United Methodist Publishing House

© Words: 1964, 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

Music: 1964 Abingdon Press (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

For use solely with the SongSelect© Terms of use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 3183399 - Streaming License #20112113

#### Verse 1

Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

#### Verse 2

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord  
Thou and Thou only first in my heart  
Great God of heaven my treasure Thou art

#### Verse 3

Great God of heaven my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys  
O bright heaven's Sun  
Heart of my own heart whatever befall  
Still be vision O Ruler of all

## Sending Forth

May God indeed grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can and wisdom to know the difference.

## Passing the Peace

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you  
And also with you

Invitation to next week

I invite you to join us next week as we start a new sermon series, called Forth in Your Dear Name we Go: What the church is called to do. We will start with looking at the church being called to give.

## Communion on Zoom at 10:50 a.m. today.

Bring your bread/cracker and wine/juice as we join together apart in Holy Communion.

We were unable to hold a drive-thru communion today but we do plan to do it in the future.

After worship, you are invited to our virtual coffee hour on zoom. The link to join us is in the email you received with the links to this service. There are also instructions on this screen. We will gather about 10:45

You are also invited to join us on Facebook Whitney United Methodist Church Group to chat about the service. You can join the conversation anytime.

Also remember there are many ways to connect with us even as we are physically distancing.

Our radio program, Reach Out and Trust broadcasts on KBXL 94.1 FM on Sunday morning at 7:30 am and 11:30 am.

**May God be with us until we meet again.**

## NOTES