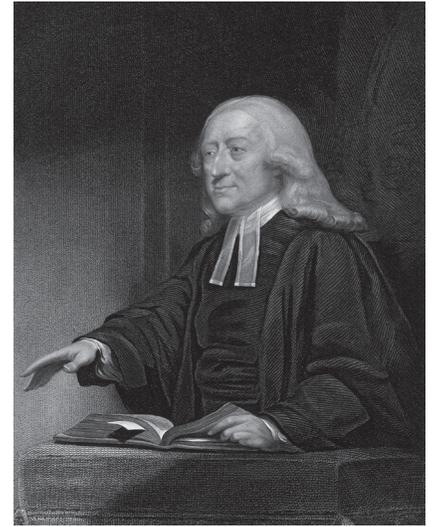


The Wesleyan Way

2023 Lenten Study for Minnesota United Methodists: Week 1

Thank you for journeying through Lent with the Minnesota Conference Cabinet. One of the values we seek to live out as people called United Methodists in Minnesota is to be “grounded in Wesleyan theology.” With that in mind, each of us has selected one sermon from John Wesley’s standard sermons, sought to recap the sermon in our own words, and then offered our reflection on why we believe the sermon’s message matters to us today. For each week, we have provided a scripture verse for the sermon, a 10- to 15-minute video, a link to the original sermon, some questions for reflection, and a hymn composed by Charles Wesley that we believe beautifully illustrates the splendor of Wesleyan theology in lyric.



Wesley’s Sermon: “Salvation by Faith”

Preached at St. Mary’s Oxford, before the university, on June 18, 1738

Wesley’s Sermon Outline: Near the beginning of each of John Wesley’s sermons he generally provides an outline of what he seeks to answer or accomplish in his message. This sermon’s outline is:

- I. What faith it is through which we are saved?
- II. What is the salvation which is through faith?
- III. How we may answer some objections?

Opening Prayer: Holy Spirit, as you so evidently inspired the Wesleyan movement, infuse us again today with grace, love, and power, as we explore the richness of our history unpacked from these ancient sermons, and as we seek to be ambassadors of holiness of heart and life. Amen.

Scripture Text: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

—Ephesians 2:8

Sermon Recap & Reflection by Rev. Fred Vanderwerf,
Superintendent of the Southern Prairie District

Questions for Reflection:

- How might you define faith? What is it exactly from your perspective?
- How might you illustrate to another the scope, quality, or kind of salvation made available to you through faith? What are you saved from or towards?
- Where have you settled for less than what God has available for you?

Hymn: “And Can It Be,” United Methodist Hymnal #363

Close with Prayer

Scan a QR code with your smartphone camera for quick access.

Watch Today’s Sermon Recap and Reflection

<https://vimeo.com/801266851>



Listen to Today’s Hymn

<https://youtu.be/kHaFM1Jx088>



For Those Wanting to Go Deeper

Wesley's Original Sermon Manuscript

Did You Know? Wesley gives instructions to preachers in his document entitled "Large Minutes". Here is an excerpt:

What is the best general method of preaching?

To invite, to convince, to offer Christ, to build up; and to do this in some measure in every sermon. The most effectual way of preaching Christ is to preach him in all his offices; and to declare his law as well as his Gospel, both to believers and unbelievers.

*Let us strongly insist upon inward and outward holiness; and, with this view, set forth Christ as evidently crucified before their eyes; Christ in all the riches of his grace, justifying us by his blood, and sanctifying us by his Spirit. Always suit your subject to the state of your audience. Choose the plainest texts you can. Take care not to ramble, but keep to your text, and make out what you take in hand. Be sparing in spiritualizing or allegorizing. Let your whole deportment before the congregation be serious, weighty, and solemn. Take care of anything awkward or affected; either in your gesture, phrase, or pronunciation. Do not usually pray above eight or ten minutes, before or after the sermon. Be sure never to disappoint a congregation, unless in case of life or death; and begin and exactly at the time. The evening preaching should *never begin later than seven o'clock, unless in time of harvest. Young Preachers might often exhort without taking a text. Everywhere avail yourself of the great festivals, by preaching on the occasion, and singing our hymns, which you should take care to have in readiness.*

Read John Wesley's Original
Sermon Manuscript

<https://tinyurl.com/salvation-by-faith>

