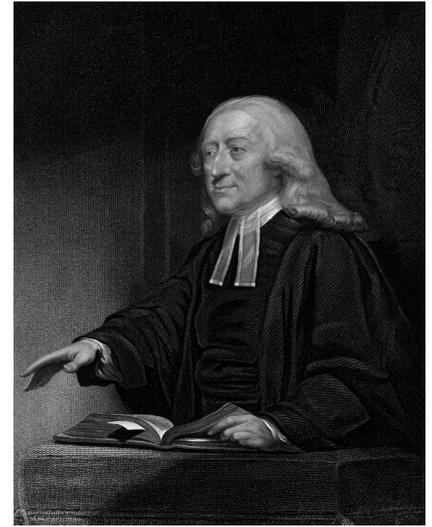


## The Wesleyan Way

### 2023 Lenten Study for Minnesota United Methodists: Week 2

*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: “The Almost Christian”**

Preached at St. Mary’s Oxford, before the university, on July 25, 1741

**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 is implied in being almost a Christian?
- II. What is implied in being an altogether Christian?

**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:**

“Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”  
—Acts 26:28

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.”

But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

The man asked him, “What is your name?”

“Jacob,” he answered.

Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.”

But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”  
—Genesis 32: 22-30

## **Watch Sermon Recap & Reflection By Bishop Lanette Plambeck**

### **Questions for Reflection:**

- “The Almost Christian” is perhaps John Wesley’s most famous sermon. Has anyone in the group read it?
- What to you is the central mark of an “altogether” Christian?
- Have you wrestled, struggled, or grappled with your faith in God? What did you find helpful to press through in your faith journey?

**Hymn:** “Come O, Thou Traveler Unknown,” United Methodist Hymnal #386

### **Close with Prayer**

### **For Those Wanting to Go Deeper**

### **Wesley’s Original Sermon Manuscript**

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

### **Watch Today’s Sermon Recap and Reflection**

<https://vimeo.com/801384998>



### **Listen to Today’s Hymn**

[https://youtu.be/\\_3X1cj3Ez30](https://youtu.be/_3X1cj3Ez30)



### **Read John Wesley’s Original Sermon Manuscript**

<https://tinyurl.com/almost-christian>

