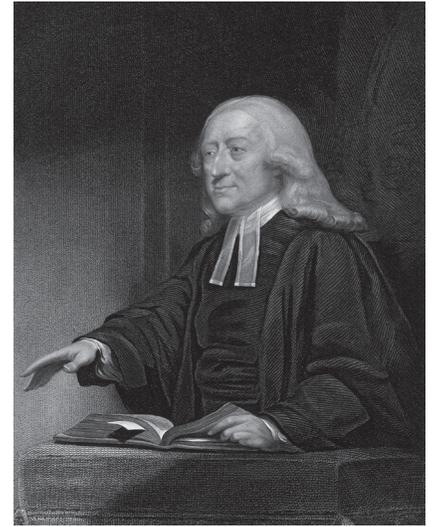


The Wesleyan Way

2023 Lenten Study for Minnesota United Methodists: Week 5

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 General Spread of the Gospel”

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. How are so few people convinced of the gospel almost 2000 years after Christ’s mandate to “go and make disciples”?
- II. How does God work in this world?
- III. How will scriptural holiness and salvation spread throughout the world?

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: “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”
—Isaiah 11:9

Sermon Recap & Reflection by Rev. Laurie Kantonen,
Superintendent of the North Star District

Questions for Reflection:

- As you consider the relationship of Christianity to the condition of the greater world, what questions arise in you?
- How do you believe Christians are most able to make an impact in the world? Do we still carry the charge to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”? How do we best do that? What would revival look like?
- When do you find yourself leaning toward despair and what gives you hope? Do you share Wesley’s confidence that one day all the earth will reflect the love and glory of God?

Hymn: “Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire” United Methodist Hymnal #603

Close with Prayer

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

Watch Today’s Sermon Recap and Reflection

<https://vimeo.com/801626172>



Listen to Today’s Hymn

<https://youtu.be/DDqWO2XX87c>



**For Those Wanting to Go Deeper
Wesley's Original Sermon Manuscript**

**Read John Wesley's Original
Sermon Manuscript**

<https://tinyurl.com/spread-gospel>

