

THERE'S A  
**STIRRIN'**  
IN THE  
**WATER**

a celebration of the African-American spiritual



# Gary United Methodist Church

Sunday, February 11, 2024, 9 a.m.  
Transfiguration Sunday

*\*The asterisks indicate a time when you are invited to stand in body or spirit. Congregation reads bold print.*

*Hymns for today's service highlight Black composers and African American spirituals included in The United Methodist Hymnal and The Faith We Sing (TFWS).*

Welcome [Rev. Dr. Daniel Cochran](#)

### \*Call to Worship

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it. (Psalm 24:1, NRSV)

**I looked, and there was a great multitude  
that no one could count, from every nation,  
from all tribes and peoples and languages,  
standing before the throne and before the Lamb,  
robed and with palm branches in their hands. (Revelation 7:9, NRSV)**

\*Hymn Lift Every Voice and Sing Hymnal 519 (stanza 1)

**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

Here is the citadel of all my desiring,

## **where my hopes are born**

and all the deep resolutions of my spirit take wings.

**In this center, my fears are nourished,**

and all my hates are nurtured.

Here my loves are cherished.

and all the deep hungers of my spirit are honored without quivering and without shock.

In my heart, above all else, let love and integrity envelope me.

my heart, above all else, let love and integrity envelope me until my love is perfected and the last vestige of my desiring is no longer in conflict with Thy Spirit.

**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. Amen.**

Hymn

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

*Hymnal 402*

\*Scripture

John 5:1–9

Rev. Steve Conger

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

\*Hymn

Wade in the Water

*TFWS 2107 (stanzas 1, 2 and 4)*

*During the singing of the hymn, children, preschool threes through third grade, are invited to meet their leaders in the Narthex, located in the back of the Sanctuary, to head down to Kids' Church.*

*During the next segment of worship, we invite you to sing between stanzas of poetry, which will be read by Pastor Dwight Stewart.*

**Meditation through Poetry and Spiritual Songs**  
Rev. Dwight Stewart, reader

selected stanzas from “O Black and Unknown Bards”  
James Weldon Johnson

Steal Away to Jesus, *Hymnal 704* (refrain)  
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, *Hymnal 703* (stanza 1)  
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me, *Hymnal 521* (stanza 1) (stanza 2) (stanza 3)

### ***There's a Stirrin' in the Water***

a celebration of African American spirituals  
by Charles Myricks, Jr. and Jesse Ayers

Festival Choir and Orchestra  
Dr. Alonza Lawrence, baritone  
Jennifer Whiting, conductor

### **Featuring African American spirituals**

Steal Away  
Sometimes I Feel like a Motherless Child  
Deep River  
God's Gonna Set This World on Fire  
I Am Determined to Walk with Jesus  
Ain't Got Time to Die

### **Instrumental quotations**

Go Down Moses, Keep Your Hand on the Plow, Give Me Jesus,  
and Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*, Antonín Dvořák

Pastoral Prayer

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.**

**Amen.**

Offertory

God Is a God  
spiritual, arr. Dr. Wendell P. Whalum, Sr.

Dr. Alonza Lawrence, baritone

*Please consider making a gift at [garychurch.org/give](http://garychurch.org/give) or text the word "give" to 630-320-0668 and follow the prompts. Checks may also be mailed to the church at the address below.*

\*Doxology

Amen, Amen

TFWS 2072 (stanzas 3, 4 and 5)

\*Sending Forth

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Hymnal 519 (stanzas 2 and 3)

\*Benediction

Postlude

Joshua Fit de Battle ob Jericho  
spiritual, arr. Fela Sowande

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### *There's a Stirrin' in the Water Text*

Steal away, steal away to Jesus,  
Steal away, steal away home.  
I ain't got long to stay here.

I cain't stay here!  
There's a stirrin' in the water.

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,  
a long way from home.

I've been 'buked, I've been scorned,  
I've been talked about, sure as you're born.  
Talk about me just as much as you please,  
Gonna talk about you when I get on my knees.  
Ain't gon' lay my 'ligion down.

Deep river, my home is over Jordan.  
Deep river, I wants to cross over into camp ground.

God's gonna set this world on fire,  
... one of these days, hallelujah!  
My brother, I'm gonna sit at the welcome table...  
My sister, I'm gonna eat and never get hungry...  
drink and never get thirsty, run and never get weary,  
walk and never faint, God's gonna  
set this world on fire one of these days.

I'm determined to walk with Jesus, yes, I am.  
Through hard trials, tribulations, persecutions,  
I am determined...

I'm determined to shout in Glory, yes, I am...  
I'm determined to walk with Jesus,  
And when I come to die, give me Jesus.

Well, I keep so busy praisin' my Jesus,  
Ain't got time to die.  
'Cause when I'm healin' the sick (feedin' the poor)  
I'm workin' for the Kingdom,  
Ain't got time to die.  
'Cause it takes all of my time to praise my Jesus,  
All of my time to praise my Lord,  
If I don't praise Him, the rocks a gonna cry out,  
Glory and honor! Glory and honor!  
Ain't got time to die.

Now won't you get out of my way,  
let me praise my Jesus,  
out of my way, let me praise my Lord...

Glory and honor! Glory and honor!

There's a stirrin' in the water to be FREE! FREE!  
Stirrin' in the water to be free!



## Dr. Alonza Lawrence

Dr. Alonza Lawrence, baritone, is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Voice at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Among his many accomplishments, he has served as the Associate Instructor for the African American Choral Ensemble of Indiana University, and as soloist for the Emmy award-winning “Amen, Music of the Black Church!” PBS concert documentary.

Dr. Lawrence's work and research bridges the gap between Eurocentric and Afrocentric music practices. Since joining the voice faculty at U of I, he serves as a professor of voice, contemporary vocal performance, Gospel studies and as a vocal coach for the Lyric Theater.

Dr. Lawrence earned Doctor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Jacobs School of Music of Indiana University and a Bachelor of Music Education from Norfolk State University.

## Festival Choir

Singers from Gary United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton, Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Chorale, students from Wheaton College and friends from the community at large

Soprano	Alto	Bass
Rachel Abbott	Vickie Austin	Bob Barnes
Carol Barnes	Betsy Boyd	Ty Boyd
Virginia Blackwell	Nancy Conger	Michael Clauson
Elaine Cimino	Suzanne Freshley	Paul Drennan
Cindi Copeland	Laurie Harrington	Joe Goldberg
Linda DeRaad	Rebecca Herlien	Stephen Lovett
Lynda Goldberg	Kathy Kane	Lew Luttrell
Judy Grote		Peter Richey
Michelle Harvey		Rick Vincent
Terri Johnson		
Charmaine Jones		
Melinda Keske	Lillian Koppin	<b>Tenor</b>
Amy Waln	Carla Lovett	Dale Atteberry
Melissa Wheaton	Marisa Nickol	Terry Balke
	Joanna Percy	Eddie Collins
	Carolyn Raber	Robert Harrington
	Sharon Urban	Jerry Juzwiak
	Marcia Vincent	Marty Keske
	Paula Wayland	Elaine McCluskey
	Katie Wilderman	Steve Novy
	Marsha Woodruff	Phil Roberts
		Steve Van Oss
		Andrew Wunrow

## Festival Orchestra

Kelly Sjobering, violin  
Barbara Farley, violin  
Audrianna Hall, violin  
Steven Sjobering, viola  
Joe Matuch, viola  
Ann Griffin, cello  
David Farley, double bass  
Lisa Larsen, oboe  
Micah Friesen, clarinet  
Isabel Vetter, French horn  
Joel Lehman, trumpet  
Ryan Dailey, trombone  
Andrew Cierny, percussion

**Rev. Dr. Donté Ford**, Minister of Music and Worship, First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton; Assistant Professor of Music and Associate Chaplain for Worship Arts, Wheaton College

**Jennifer Whiting**, Director of Music and Choir Director at Gary United Methodist Church

**Kevin Lange**, Principal Organist and Collaborative Pianist, Gary United Methodist Church

## Composers' Notes



### Rev. Dr. Charles Myricks, Jr.

Our hearts' desire was that people would be brought to an appreciation of God's gracious sovereignty and experience the courageous journey of Africans who persevered through their enslavement by trusting in the justice, goodness and ultimate glory of God. All humanity shares in this celebration of the care and grace of God. May our Lord richly bless you, your choirs, musicians, and audiences. I am grateful and praying for you!

Peace,  
Chuck Myricks

### Dr. Jesse Ayers

African American spirituals constitute one of the largest and most significant repertoires of American folk music. Birthed in slavery, the spirituals were a means of solace and encouragement, combining Biblical promises with expressions of the hardships of slavery.

*There's a Stirrin' in the Water* resulted from a dinner meeting between Christopher Wilkins, conductor of the Akron Symphony Orchestra; Charles Myricks, Jr., a composer, pastor, and former executive at Word Records; and Jesse Ayers, an orchestral composer and university music professor. Wilkins proposed that Myricks and Ayers collaborate to create a work celebrating the spiritual.



Myricks writes, "I sought to renew our acquaintance with several well-known traditional spirituals, presenting them in a way that highlights their power to confront incredible hardship with divine defiance. The spirituals always reflected, renewed, and revealed a source of the strength of the slaves, their belief in a just, all-knowing, almighty, and loving God, who is willing and able to set captives free."

Ayers adds, "Chuck and I agreed from the outset that this piece needed to be more than an arrangement for chorus with orchestral accompaniment. We wanted an integrated symphonic fabric of equally important players—the orchestra, the chorus and the soloist. We included a range of emotions found in the spirituals, from songs of sorrow, to songs of sustaining faith, to songs of victory and praise. Chuck shaped the order of songs to form the work's arc."

Near the end, as the chorus repeatedly sings "Glory and Honor," the listener will hear several *glissandi* from the horn. This is a direct reference to the shofar or ram's horn trumpet described in Leviticus 25, to be sounded once every 50 years to announce the Year of Jubilee, in which all debt was canceled and all indentured servants were set free.

The work also has several quotes from Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*. Dvořák was heavily influenced by a young African American student he heard singing in the halls at the National Conservatory in New York City.

That student was H.T. (Harry) Burleigh, who became one of the foremost arrangers of spirituals. It seemed fitting to the composers of the present work to "complete the circle" by including phrases and harmonic progressions found in Dvořák's *New World*.

~ Jesse Ayers

## Gary Church Announcements: Feb. 11, 2024

This morning, Sun., Feb. 11, at Gary Church:

- **In-Person Worship:** 9 and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Livestream and recorded 9 a.m. worship available at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org). Assisted listening devices are available at the west entrance to the Sanctuary or by asking an usher.
- **Altar flowers are given:** In honor of Beverly Land on her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday from her children, grandchildren and great-grandson.
- **Nursery Care:** Childcare for infants and toddlers is available in the Nursery (lower level).
- **Sunday School:** 10 a.m. for all ages.
- **Worship Talk *There's a Stirrin' in the Water:*** 10 a.m. in the Chapel. Join JoAnne Chase and Heather Jewell for a time of discussion and reflection.
- **Special Blend Fellowship Donut Day:** 10 a.m. in the Commons. Grab a donut and chat with your Gary Church friends in the Commons or head to Sunday School.

**Special Blend volunteers needed:** Love the treats each Sunday? Consider volunteering to set up, clean up, host and/or bake goodies at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).

**Updated offering giving system:** This new system should be easier for users and save the church a few dollars. Text giving instructions are on page 3 of this bulletin. To transition your recurring gift or make an online donation:

- Go to the new giving link at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org) and enter the desired gift criteria (amount, designation, frequency).
- Securely enter your payment information and click "submit."
- If you had a recurring gift with our previous giving provider, be sure to login to that site and delete your old recurring gift. You can find the link at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).

**Men's Bible Study:** Tuesdays, Feb. 13-Apr. 2, 6:30-8 p.m. in the Anderson Room. All men are invited to this study of *Daniel* by J.D. Greear. Contact Marion Rybarczyk through the Church Office ([office@garychurch.org](mailto:office@garychurch.org)) for more information.

**Photo Directory:** Thurs., Feb. 15-Sat., Feb. 17, at Gary. Sign up for a photo shoot at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org) (church code: il353, password: photos). Hosts are needed. Sign up at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).

**Faith Club Iftar Dinner:** Thurs., Feb. 15, 5 p.m. All women are invited to attend and learn about Ramadan. To sign up for this event and receive details on the location, contact Kim Austin through the Church Office ([office@garychurch.org](mailto:office@garychurch.org)).

**Anti-Racist Book Club:** Wed., Feb. 28, 7 p.m., led by Dwight Stewart in Commons A. We will discuss *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* by Drew G. I. Hart. Purchase the book and register at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).

**Gary Preschool | Parents' Morning Out registration is now open:** Recommendations from neighbors or friends carry a lot of weight for prospective families, so spread the word. Contact Kirsten McCluskey at [preschool@garychurch.org](mailto:preschool@garychurch.org).

**Winter weather gear needed:** St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 393 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, is collecting hats, scarves, gloves and coats for immigrants arriving in our area. Items can be dropped off in the bin in the Commons or at St. Mark's.

**Local refugee families:** Gary Church plans to support World Relief by forming teams to work with families and collect donations. If you can help coordinate this effort, contact Jeff Bray through the Church Office ([office@garychurch.org](mailto:office@garychurch.org)).

**DuPage PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter):** PADS provides temporary shelter for the unhoused and this winter they are in need of help. A list of their needs is at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org). Donate items in the bin in the Commons.

**Food distribution help needed at People's Resource Center:** Wednesdays, 2:45-6 p.m., 201 S. Naperville Rd., Wheaton. Details and applications are at [peoplesrc.org/volunteer](http://peoplesrc.org/volunteer).

**Flowers for the altar:** Many Sundays are available to provide flowers for the altar. If you'd like to give flowers, fill out the form at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org), or contact the Church Office ([office@garychurch.org](mailto:office@garychurch.org)). The cost of the flowers is \$35.

### Lectionary readings

- **This week's readings:** [2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 and Mark 9:2-9](http://2kings2-12-psalm50-1-6-2corinthians4-3-6-and-mark9-2-9)
- **Next week's readings:** [Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](http://joel2-1-2-12-17-psalm51-1-17-2corinthians5-20b-6-10-and-matthew6-1-6-16-21)

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) marks the beginning of the Lenten season that precedes Easter. For centuries, Christians have marked their foreheads with the ashes of burnt palm fronds to acknowledge our dependence upon God for life and salvation. Gary Church will observe Ash Wednesday with **Pastor Daniel Cochran** providing "Ashes to Go" (ashes with a brief prayer) in the morning and worship in the evening.

### "Ashes to Go"

9-10 a.m., Gary Church Parking Lot

### Ash Wednesday Worship

7 p.m., Gary Church Sanctuary

## Adult Education

### • Spiritual Practices:

Sundays, Feb. 18–March 24, 10 a.m., Chapel

In this series on the spiritual practices of Jesus, members of the congregation share their own experience with disciplines like prayer, fasting, reading scripture, service, humility and Sabbath rest. Panelists will discuss how these spiritual practices have shaped their faith and drawn them nearer to God.

### • Midweek Lenten Study:

Wednesdays, Feb. 21–March 20, 7 p.m., Commons E, led by Pastor Daniel Cochran

Using Susan Robb's insightful book *Seven Words: Listening to Christ From The Cross*, we will discover together "what Jesus most wants us to hear" as we prepare our hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Books available for \$15 through the Church Office.



## Holy Week Worship

### Palm Sunday

March 24, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

### Maundy Thursday

March 28, 5:30 p.m. meal; 6 p.m. worship

### Good Friday

March 29, 7 p.m.

### Easter Sunday

March 31, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

All services will be in person in the Gary Church Sanctuary, livestreamed plus recorded at [garychurch.org](http://garychurch.org).