

## Charles Wesley

Charles Wesley was sometimes referred to as “The Forgotten Wesley.” But he lived an extraordinary life. He wrote 10 poetic lines a day for 50 years. He wrote over 5000 hymns including many sung in the United Methodist Church frequently. Hymns such as, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing, And Can It Be, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, Jesus Lover of My Soul. Christ the Lord is Risen Today. Soldiers of the Cross Arise, Rejoice, the Lord is King,

He had some interesting quotes: “The Bible must be the invention of good men or angels, bad men or devils because good men would not tell lies by saying “Thus saith the Lord.” It was not written by bad men because they would not write about doing good duty while condemning sin and themselves to hell. So, it must be written by divine intervention.”

“Not from his heart was woman took, as made her husband to overlook, not from his feet as one designed the footstool of the stronger kind but fashioned for himself a bride, an equal, taken from his side.” “Our children will grow up confused, not respecting the Bible or anything else that is sacred.”

Charles Wesley was a preacher and came to America with John to begin the church. Charles stayed for a few months and then returned to England to carry on his work there.

**One of my favorite John and Charles and John Wesley quotes was said to be when John and Charles had been out and actively preaching and receiving the word of God and Charles was so excited and happy and feeling so filled with the spirit of God that he said to John, “If God would but give me wings, I could fly!! And John replied, “If God bids me fly, I will trust him for the wings. Two men of faith who believed in God and Christ and started a church that still survives today. Our church is 200 years old and started by people such as John and Charles Wesley, and Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke (The first Bishop of the Methodist Church). If you ever order anything from Cokesbury, The Methodist Publishing House, think of Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury, named in their memory. They helped begin and carried on with what John and Charles started.**

When we look back at what was started by strong faithful people and the sacrifices made it gives us confidence in our future. We are 200 years old, started by Circuit Riders, meeting in homes, and coming together to bring others into the faith. We have been through wars, depression, recessions, and our faith has remained and sustained us. Thanks be to those who came before, and thanks be to God.

Isaiah 40:28-31 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall, but those that hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Lord, we thank you for the days you have given us, be with us and may we use each day in your service. Be with those that are hungry for your word, may we fill them. May we help those who seek sustenance, those who are homeless, those who are ill and those who grieve. Be with those who are at war, be with those who suffer from the wars, those in Haiti suffering a lawless country. Lord as we enter Advent may we remember the gift of a tiny babe who would become a Savior, our Savior. May we remember with gratitude those who have gone before and were there to increase our faith. Be with our Pastor and his family, bless them this Thanksgiving, we are thankful for them. Be with our staff and leaders, we are thankful for their service. Be with our families this Thanksgiving, where there is anger and separation, may we have peace and forgiveness, may we, in this time and in this place be the hands and feet of Jesus the Christ and it is in his holy name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson