



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Iste confessor Domini (The Witness of Christ)

Thomas Tallis

The Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, we are called to love one another, because love is from God.

People: God's love is poured in us from our birth.

Leader: We are called to extend the love of God to all people.

People: God's loved is taught to us through the witness of God's faithful people.

Leader: We are called to proclaim God's love in all that we say and do.

People: In all creation, in all our relationships, may God's love be made known.

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Loving, creative God,
we praise and bless you for your mighty acts of creation.**

As we gather here this day

we hear your message of power and love

through the witness of Jesus Christ

as he prepared his disciples for his departure.

He gave to them the words of encouragement

about living in your love,

and through that love

being witnesses to the whole world

of your peace and hope.

Be with us this day, Lord.

Open our hearts and minds

to receive your word. Amen.

The Hymn No. 121

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELLESLEY

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
2. There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.

3. For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
4. If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

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The Scripture Lesson

John 15:9-17

The Sermon

Jesus and His Friends

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Anthem

This Is My Commandment

Thomas Tallis

This is my commandment, that ye love one another,
ev'n as I have loved you.
No man hath greater love than this,
to give his life ev'n for his friends.

John 15:12-13

The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that 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.**

The Hymn No. 2248

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.

2. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.
3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
born of one Father, we are his children,
joyfully now God's praises we sing.

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The Benediction

The Postlude

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

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We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.

Senior Pastor:	Dr. Matthew D. Bates
Minister to Young Adults:	Rev. Drew Willson
Director of Music:	Stanley M. Baker
Pianist:	Lee Covington
Singers:	Brittany Brooks, Regan Sprenkle Todd Minnich, Sam Cook
A/V Team:	Jane Covington, Nathan Grubb

Scripture

John 15:9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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