



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 8, 2021

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

The Prelude

Prelude on “Hyfrydol”

Wilbur Held

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The Call to Worship

Leader: By the power of the Holy Spirit
our steadfast loving God reaches out to redeem us.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Redeeming God, you satisfy our soul’s hunger
through Jesus Christ, the bread of life.**

**Filled with your steadfast love,
let us live in love, working honestly
to share with the needy,
feeding others with the bread of kindness,
tenderness, and forgiveness. Amen.**

The Hymn No. 2169

God, How Can We Forgive

LEONI

1. God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?
How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?
When human loving fails and every hope is gone,
your love give strength beyond our own to face the dawn.
2. When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,
how can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?
The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.
A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.
3. Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,
when you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.
As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

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The Scripture Lesson

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

The Sermon

Irrational Love

Rev. Katie B. Gooch

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Solo

Bread of Life

Emily Downey, soprano

Felix Mendelssohn

Take and eat ye, living bread from heav'n
which man may eat and never die, but shall live forevermore.
He that comes to me shall never hunger,
who believes shall thirst no longer,
Truth is that bread of life which cometh down from heaven
to give life unto the world.
As the living Father sent me, and my life is in the Father,
he that understandeth me, even he shall live by me.
Father, give us evermore this living bread
which cometh down from heaven to give life unto the world.
Give us this bread evermore, this bread of life.

Text from John 6

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. 384

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

using alternate tune HYFRYDOL

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

The Benediction

The Postlude

Postlude on "Leoni"

Fritz Lubrich

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This morning we welcome Rev. Katie Gooch to the pulpit.

Rev. Katie B. Gooch is the Director and Campus Minister of The Pace Center. She is an ordained UMC pastor and has a passion for setting the stage for relationships and community to thrive. Prior to Pace, Katie B. served as the Executive Pastor of Reveille UMC. During seminary, she served as a hospital chaplain at Duke University and as a pastor in both Durham and Manners, North Carolina. In an earlier life, Katie B. was a communications consultant in Washington D.C. and a Division I field hockey player. She is originally from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma but has grown to love Richmond!

Many thanks to Mary E. Vetrovec for providing the colorful garden flower arrangements that have been adorning our altar and providing such seasonal beauty to our sanctuary this summer! We really appreciate you sharing your bounty & talents with us!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us this morning and throughout the week to make this worship possible.

Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

⁵ The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.” And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

⁶ So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷ The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. ⁸ The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

⁹ Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

¹⁵ And ten young men, Joab’s armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

³¹ Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, “Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.” ³² The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” The Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.”

David Mourns for Absalom

³³ ^[a] The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

John 6:35, 41-51

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” ⁴³ Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”