



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

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

The Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
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Diane Bish

The Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord will fulfill all the promises given to God's people.

People: Praise be to God.

Leader: The days are coming when all shall be revealed.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: The signs of God's Good News are all around us.

People: The darkness has overshadowed them.

Leader: God will bring to us a new light for all generations.

People: Open our eyes, Lord, to see your promises fulfilled. Amen.

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: We can hardly believe it, Lord.

The Advent season is upon us.

We usually translate that into the buying season in preparation for THE BIG DAY.

**But when we place our hope in the tinsel,
wrappings, tape and boxes,
we forget the most glorious gift of all,
the gift of God's absolute love.**

**Open our eyes, our hearts, our spirits today
to behold God's gracious love for us
in the fulfillment of all God's promises.**

For we ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Hymn No. 216

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROSE

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-gone was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind:
with Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
when half-gone was the night.

3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us
and share our every load.

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The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.
May the light sent from God shine in the darkness
to show us the way of salvation.

People: **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

The Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Sermon

Reclaiming the Promise of Christmas

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

Rorate coeli

Christopher Tye

*Rorate coeli desuper,
et nubes pluant justum.
Aperiatur terra,
et germinet salvatorem.*

Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain the Just One,
Let the earth be opened,
and salvation come forth.

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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. 202

People, Look East

BESANÇON

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.
5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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The Benediction

The Postlude

Soon and Very Soon

Andraé Crouch

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Today we welcome the Rev. Paul S. Honaker as our guest organist.

Paul graduated from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky with a Master in Church Music degree. He served as the Associate Pastor of Worship and Music at Bon Air Baptist Church in Richmond from 1974 until his retirement in August of 2012. Paul is currently a Funeral Assistant with Bliley's Funeral Home in Richmond. He also serves as the Director of the Jubilation Community Choir at Salisbury Presbyterian Church.



The Hallmark Channel presents "Christmas in July", showing its cheery, snowy movies in the heat of the summer. Centenary's pandemic twist will be "*A Picnic for Christmas*".

Join us on December 12 for our favorite prepared foods in indoor and outdoor spaces. To help prepare for this out-of-season celebration, we ask that you RSVP in advance! Also, we are looking for a 1-day loan of portable patio-type heaters. You can RSVP, volunteer to help or indicate you have a heater using the [online RSVP forms](#) or calling the church office.

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

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Righteous Branch and the Covenant with David

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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