



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 15, 2022

Fifth 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

Air (from Water Music)

George Frederic Handel

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The Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: Praise the Lord from the heavens.
Praise God from the heights!**

Leader: Praise the Lord, you angels.
Sing praise, you heavenly host!

**People: Praise the Lord, O sun and moon.
Join in song, O shining stars!**

Leader: Praise the Lord, snow and rain.
Blow loud, wind and storm!

**People: Praise the Lord, O trees.
Dance with joy, O birds!**

Leader: Praise the Lord, women and men.
Rejoice, children and rulers!

**People: Praise the Lord, weak and strong.
Sing for joy, timid and bold!**

Leader: Praise the Lord, mothers and aunts.
Give praise, grandfathers and cousins!

**People: Let all creation praise God's name!
Praise the Lord!**

The Hymn No. 92

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;

Refrain

- Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.
2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light; ***Refrain***
 3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight; ***Refrain***

4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild; **Refrain**
5. For thy church, that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love; **Refrain**
6. For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven: **Refrain**

The Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of all people, our hearts are too narrow,
our perspectives are too small.**

**We reject those who are not like us—
those with different political opinions,
those who struggle with mental illness,
those who disagree with us.**

**We forget that all are your beloved children,
and neglect your call to love one another.**

**Forgive us, O God, for the many ways
we have failed to be a people known by our love.**

Show us how to be more caring.

**Teach us how to love one another,
and make us faithful disciples. Amen.**

The Words of Assurance

God dwells among us, giving to all who believe the repentance that leads to life. Rejoice in the Lord, for we are a forgiven people.

The Scripture Lesson

Acts 11:1-18

The Sermon *Sometimes, Even Christians are Offended by the Gospel!*

Dr. Matthew Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

O Praise Ye the Lord

Charles Callahan

O praise ye the Lord!
Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word,
ye angels of light;
ye heavens, adore him
by whom ye were made,
and worship before him,
in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!
Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord,
all ye of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you
his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you
to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord!
All things that give sound;
each jubilant chord
reecho around;
loud organs, his glory
forth tell in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story
of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord!
Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured
all ages along!
For love in creation,
for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation,
O praise ye the Lord! Amen!

Henry Williams Baker, 1821-77, alt.; based on Psalms 148 and 150
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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. 571

Go, Make of All Disciples

LANCASHIRE

1. "Go make of all disciples."
We hear the call, O Lord,
That comes from thee, our Father,
in thy eternal Word
Inspire our ways of learning
through earnest, fervent prayer,
and let our daily living
reveal thee everywhere
2. "Go make of all disciples,"
baptizing in the name
of Father, Son, and Spirit,
from age to age the same.
We call each new disciple
to follow thee, O Lord,
redeeming soul and body
by water and the Word
3. "Go make of all disciples."
We at thy feet would stay
until each life's vocation
accents thy holy way.
We cultivate the nature
God plants in every heart,
revealing in our witness
the master teacher's art
4. "Go make of all disciples."
We welcome thy command.
"Lo, I am with you always."
We take thy guiding hand.
The task looms large before us;
we follow without fear;
in heaven and earth thy power
shall bring God's kingdom here

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The Benediction

The Postlude

In Christ There Is No East or West

Afro-American Spiritual

The altar flowers this morning are given by Kathy Talley and Bob Blinn in honor of their wedding here yesterday.

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

The Central Virginia Masterworks Chorale and Richmond Concert Chorale will be performing Beethoven's 9th Symphony (Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op.125) with the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra on Sunday, May 15th at St. Christopher's School - Ryan Recital Hall, 711 St. Christopher's Road, Richmond. Pre-concert chat at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. concert. *This is a free event.* Four members of Centenary United Methodist Church perform with the Masterworks Chorale.

Scriptures

Acts 11:1-18

Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem

11 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."