



Centenary
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 25, 2022

Sixteenth 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

Fall

Wayne Shorter

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The Introit

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy throne of grace:
O God of Israel, be the God
of this most holy place.

The Call to Worship

Leader: Those who love God,

People: God will deliver.

Leader: Those who know God by name,

People: God will protect.

Leader: Those who call out to God,

People: God will answer.

Leader: We gather this morning,

People: as those who trust God.

The Hymn No. 592

When the Church of Jesus

KING'S WESTON

1. When the Church of Jesus shuts its outer door,
lest the roar of traffic drown the voice of prayer,
may our prayers, Lord, make us ten times more aware
that the world we banish is our Christian care.
2. If our hearts are lifted where devotion soars
high above this hungry, suffering world of ours,
lest our hymns should drug us to forget its needs,
forge our Christian worship into Christian deeds.
3. Lest the gifts we offer, money, talents, time,
serve to salve our conscience, to our secret shame:
Lord, reprove, inspire us by the way you give;
teach us, dying Savior, how true Christians live.

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The Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Triune God, you call us to trust you
in every circumstance of our lives,
yet far too often, we do not.**

**In times of oppression and strife,
 we lose hope in our future.
 When enduring natural disasters,
 suffering illness, or facing death,
 we often grow bitter and forget your love.
 Stripped of the idols of our wealth and status,
 we try in vain to control our lives.
 Eager to be powerful and successful,
 we wander away from you,
 falling into the pain of addiction, greed,
 and blind ambition.
 Absorbed by our wants and desires,
 we are blind to those around us who need our care.
 Forgive us, O God.
 Forgive our despair, our bitterness, and our fear.
 Turn our hearts to you, that we may taste fullness of life
 and trust your promised salvation.**

Words of Assurance

God's loving presence never abandons us,
 not even when we abandon God.
 God delivers those who seek and love the Lord.
 All we have to do is call, and God answers us.
 God answers us with rescue and honor,
 forgiveness and mercy, life and salvation.

The Announcements

The Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter pages 810-811

Psalm 91

[The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone. All other responses will be sung by everyone.]

Ps. 91: 16, 15, 2
Carlton R. Young

Grant us sal - va-tion, Lord; in trou-ble be our ref - uge.

- 1 Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
 who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 will say to the Lord,
**“My refuge and my fortress;
 my God, in whom I trust.”**
- 3 For the Lord will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
 and from the deadly pestilence
- 4 and will cover you with his pinions;
**under the Lord's wings you will find refuge
 God's faithfulness is a shield and buckler. *Response***

- 5 You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
- 6 **nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.**
- 7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
- 8 **You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.**
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your habitation,
- 10 **no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent. *Response***
- 11 For God will give his angels charge over you
to guard you in all your ways.
- 12 **They will bear you up on their hands
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**
- 13 **You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.**
- 14 Because they cleave to me in love, I will deliver them;
I will protect them, because they know my name.
- 15 When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
- 16 **I will satisfy them with long life
and show them my salvation. *Response***

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 16:19-31

The Hymn No. 2178

Here Am I

STANISLAUS

1. Here am I, where underneath the bridges
of our winter cities homeless people sleep.
Here am I, where in decaying houses
little children shiver, crying at the cold.
Where are you?
2. Here am I, with people in the lineup,
anxious for a handout, aching for a job.
Here am I, when pensioners and strikers
sing and march together, wanting something new.
Where are you?
3. Here am I, where two or three are gathered,
ready to be altered, sharing wine and bread.
Here am I, where those who hear the preaching
change their way of living, find the way to life.
Where are you?

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The Sermon

No Regrets!

Dr. Matt Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

Fight the Good Fight

Alfred V. Fedak

Fight the good fight with all your might!
Christ is your strength and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;
Lift up your eyes, and seek his face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;
He changes not, and you are dear.
Only believe, and you will see
That Christ is all eternally.

Fight the good fight with all your might!
Christ is your strength and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
your joy and crown eternally.

J. S. B. Monsell, alt.

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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. 427

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

GERMANY

1. Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice, O Son of man.
2. In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.
3. From tender childhood's helplessness,
from woman's grief, man's burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
your heart has never known recoil.
4. The cup of water given for you still
holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the sweet compassion of your face.
5. O Master, from the mountainside
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide;
O tread the city's streets again.
6. Till all the world shall learn your love
and follow where your feet have trod,
till, glorious from your heaven above,
shall come the city of our God!

The Benediction

The Choral Response

O spread thy sheltering wings around,
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our Father's loved abode
our souls arrive in peace.

The Postlude

All Praise and Thanks to God Most High
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Helmut Walcha

*The altar flowers this morning are given in honor of family September birthdays
by Mary Sue Sanderlin.*

*Reminder! Help us know that you worshiped with us this morning
by signing the online attendance pad [here](#).*

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

Scriptures

Luke 16:19-31

The Rich Man and Lazarus

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

Welcome!

Centenary United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation, extending hospitality and encouraging full participation of all, regardless of age, race, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, education, economic background, and physical or mental ability.

We are glad that you have joined us today! If you are a new guest, we hope that you experience a warm welcome! Please return soon and consider us for your church home. If you are interested in church membership, please speak with a pastor.

Announcements

RISE AGAINST HUNGER - We are all excited about the upcoming Rise Against Hunger event which will bring us together once again to package meals for those in countries suffering from hunger and malnutrition. The event will take place only because of the response to our call for donations to raise the \$4000 required to pay for supplies and freight charges. This has been one of the favorite outreach programs that we hold that has been suspended for 2 ½ years due to Covid. Please bring your family, neighbors, and friends at 9:30 on Saturday, October 8th for a rewarding experience and fellowship.

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

September 26	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
September 27	Noon	AA
September 28	10:00 am 7:15 pm	Wednesday Bible Study – Zoom Choir Rehearsal
September 30	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
October 2	10:30 am	In-person and Livestream Worship

LOOKING AHEAD

October 8	9:30 am	Rise Against Hunger
October 18	7:00 pm	Charge Conference