



Centenary  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**November 27, 2022**

**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**                      *Word of God, Come Down on Earth!*                      J.S. Bach

**The Introit**                      Savior of the nations, come!  
Virgin's Son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, both heav'n and earth,  
that the Lord chose such a birth.

**The Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord is getting us ready to receive a gift of great joy.

**People: Watch for this gift!**

Leader: Be vigilant and ready. For the gift is about to come.

**People: The promise of God is faithful and trustworthy.**

Leader: Watch, wait. The Gift is coming into the world!

**People: Praise be to God for such lavish love. Amen.**

**The Hymn No. 2232**                      *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*                      GEONYONG

1. Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
4. Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

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**The Opening Prayer**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: O Lord, our lives are so filled with chaos and tribulation.**

**Help us be ready to receive your message and gift of love,**

**that we might grow into faithful disciples,**

**serving you by serving others with hope and compassion.**

**In Christ's Name, we pray. Amen.**

**The Lighting of the Advent Candle**                      Meredith, John, and George Thrower

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 Announcements

## The Prayer for Illumination

## The Psalter page 845

Psalm 122

*[The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone.*

*All other responses will be sung by everyone.]*

*Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle  
harm. by W. H. Monk*



Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great-er Son.

### *Response*

- 1 I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
- 2 **Our feet were standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem!**
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city  
and is bound firmly together,
- 4 to which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord,  
as was decreed for Israel.
- 5 **Thrones for judgment were set there,  
the thrones of the house of David.**

### *Response*

- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
"May they prosper who love you!"
- 7 **Peace be within your walls,  
and security within your towers!"**
- 8 For the sake of my relatives and friends,  
I will say, "Peace be within you!"
- 9 **For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek your good.**

## The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 24:36-44

## The Hymn No. 182

*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

LIEBSTER JESU

1. Word of God, come down on earth,  
living rain from heaven descending;  
touch our hearts and bring to birth  
faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere you;  
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

2. Word eternal, throned on high,  
Word that brought to life creation,  
Word that came from heaven to die,  
crucified for our salvation,  
saving Word, the world restoring,  
speak to us, your love outpouring.
3. Word that caused blind eyes to see,  
speak and heal our mortal blindness  
deaf we are; our healer be;  
loose our tongues to tell your kindness.  
Be our Word in pity spoken;  
heal the world, by our sin broken.
4. Word that speaks your Father's love,  
one with God beyond all telling,  
Word that sends us from above  
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;  
Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

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**The Sermon**

*A Christmas Card from Noah*

Dr. Matt Bates

**The Offertory Prayer**

**The Offertory Anthem**

*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

Melody Hans Sachs  
harmonization J. S. Bach

Wake, awake, for night is flying;  
the watchmen on the heights are crying:  
Awake, Jerusalem, at last!  
Midnight hears the welcome voices  
and at the thrilling cry rejoices;  
come forth, ye virgins, night is past;  
the Bridegroom comes, awake;  
your lamps with gladness take:  
Alleluia!  
And for his marriage feast prepare,  
for ye must go and meet him there.

Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
and all her heart with joy is springing;  
she wakes, she rises from her gloom;  
for her Lord comes down all-glorious,  
the strong in grace, in truth victorious.  
Her Star is risen; her Light is come.  
Ah come, thou blessed One,  
God's own beloved Son:  
Alleluia!  
We follow till the halls we see  
where thou hast bid us sup with thee.

Philipp Nicolai; translated by Catherine Winkworth

## The Invitation to Prayer

### The Hymn No. 196

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

### The Benediction

#### The Choral Response

Come, O Father's saving Son,  
who o'er sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall your kingdom be;  
grant that we its glories see.

#### The Postlude

*Rise, Shine, You People*

Dale Wood

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*The altar flowers this morning are given by Mitzi Golod in honor of all giving their time and talents as Trustees, members of Council and Team Leads.*

*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.*

## Scripture

### Matthew 24:36-44

#### The Necessity for Watchfulness

<sup>36</sup>“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

# *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*

**POINSETTIAS** - It is Centenary's tradition at Christmas to express honor and remembrance by donating poinsettias. The plants will be in the sanctuary for Dec. 18, 24 and 25. and will be available for pick up after the worship service on Dec. 25. Order forms are available at the back of the sanctuary and downstairs by the kitchen bulletin board. You may also order online. See the newsletter for the link.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY** - join us for a Zoom Bible study each Thursday evening during Advent as we take a look at the *Characters of Christmas*. We will see what we can learn about preparing our hearts for Christmas from some of the people, some well-known, others less so, who find their way into the story of Advent and Christmas. Each Thursday, we'll talk about the Gospel readings from Matthew we're using in Sunday worship. An email will be sent out each Wednesday with the Zoom link.

**CENTENARY FAMILY CHRISTMAS LUNCH** – December 18 following the worship service. Ham and biscuits will be provided. Please bring your favorite holiday side to share.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** – Do you enjoy sending Christmas cards? We have two ways to spread love and joy this season. Help us brighten the lives of veterans at McGuire Hospital and/or our homebound members. Please contact the church office for more information.

**ONLINE GIVING MADE EASIER** - To make online giving even easier, we are introducing a QR code for our online giving webpage. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera or QR reader and you are ready to go. You do not need an account in Realm to give! You can give one time or set up recurring giving from our giving page. The QR code will be available in the "Upcoming Events" area of the bulletin. Thank you for your support of the many ministries here at Centenary.

# *Upcoming Events*

## **THIS WEEK**

<b>November 27</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>	<i>The Chosen</i> - Social Hall
<b>November 28</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Change the World/RVA
<b>November 29</b>	<b>Noon</b>	AA
<b>November 30</b>	<b>7:15 pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>December 1</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Advent Bible Study</b>
<b>December 2</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	Friday Lunch Program
<b>December 4</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	In-person and Livestream Worship
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<i>The Chosen</i> - Social Hall

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

<b>December 11</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	Lessons and Carols
<b>December 18</b>	<b>After Worship</b>	Centenary Family Christmas Lunch

**Online Giving Made Easy – No Account Needed!**

