



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 4, 2022

Second 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
© 2019 Gert van Hoef. All rights reserved.

Gert van Hoef

The Introit

Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch in expectation! at midnight comes the cry.

The Call to Worship

Leader: This day is a day of preparation.

People: Open our hearts, O Lord, and make us ready to receive you.

Leader: Repentance, changing our attitudes, our lives, is the beginning of our preparation.

People: Lord, give us courage and confidence.

Leader: God will fill us with joy and peace as we become witnesses to God's love.

People: Lord, help us to be faithful servants all of our days. Amen

The Hymn No. 211 stanzas 1-4 only

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

- Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go. **Refrain**
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**
 4. O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. **Refrain**

Text © 1940, Church Publishing, Inc.. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Patient and loving God,
we so easily launch ourselves in preparation for
the secular festival of giving and parties
and the swirl of social events;
but we forget that the true preparation
is the readiness of our hearts to receive you.
Help us look again at our lives and turn them around

so that they may be in tune with your will.
We ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Ben and Carri Toro

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way.
May the Word sent from God through the prophets
lead us to the way of salvation.

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

The Announcements

The Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter pages 795

Psalm 72:1-17

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

Is. 49:6
Gary Alan Smith

I will give you as a light to the
na - tions, my sal - va - tion to the ends of the earth.

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- 2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!
- 3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- 4 **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor!**
- 5 May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- 6 **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**
- 7 In his days may righteousness flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- 8 **May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the river to the ends of the earth!**

Response

- 9 May his foes bow down before him, and his enemies like the dust!
- 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- 11 **May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!**
- 12 For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.
- 13 **He has pity on the weak and needy,**
and saves the lives of the needy.

14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Response

15 Long may he live, may gold of Sheba be given to him!

May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all the day!

16 May there be abundance of grain in the land;

may it wave on the tops of the mountains; may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may they blossom forth in the cities like the grass of the field!

17 May his name endure for ever, his fame continue as long as the sun!

May people bless themselves by him, all nations call him blessed!

Response

The Gospel Lesson

Luke Matthew 3:1-12

The Hymn

On Jordan's Bank

WINCHESTER NEW

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 ref - uge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944),
after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.
Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690;
harm. William Henry Monk (1825-1889), alt.

♩=84
LM

The Homily

Lessons from a Locust Eater

Dr. Matthew Bates

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The Confession and Pardon (in unison)

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will, we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love towards us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**
All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

Prepare Ye the Way

Michael Wise

Soloists: Emily Downey, Lynn LaBarre, Todd Minnich, Taylor Jarrell, Kate Hundley

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,
and ev'ry mountain and hill shall be made low:
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough places shall be made plain:
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together.
And the voice said, Cry. What shall I cry?
All flesh is grass,
and the goodness thereof is as a flower that is in the field.
The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
but the word of the Lord shall stand fast for ever.
O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up into the mountain;
O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings,
lift up thy voice with strength,
and say unto Judah, Behold thy God.

Isaiah 40:3-9

© 1965 by Novello & Co, LTD. All rights reserved.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

And so,
with your people on earth
and with all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Carlton R. Young

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

Music © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Carlton R. Young

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

Music © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

WELCOME GUEST ORGANIST, DAVID PURDY - A native Richmonder, David Purdy studied organ in high school and college, and after graduating from William & Mary, he served for 10 years as a part-time organist and choir director at Manakin Episcopal Church, while concurrently pursuing a career in the field of industrial-organizational psychology. After 40+ years at Psychological Consultants, Inc., he retired and decided to return to his first love of playing the organ. He is active in the Richmond Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

The altar flowers this morning are given by Florence Clay Bishop in honor of our Centenary musicians.

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 3:1-12

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his^[b] baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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. Those honored/remembered will be listed in a bulletin insert. Cost is \$25. Deadline for ordering is Dec. 11. You can pay with check or online.

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

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. Thank you for your support of the many ministries here at Centenary.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING – As our tradition, our Christmas Eve offering will go to United Methodist Family Services. UMFS is an unwavering champion for high-risk children and families in Virginia. UMFS serves children in foster care and children struggling with mental health and behavioral challenges. They provide foster care and adoption programs, specialized education schools, and mental health programs. Your support of UMFS through this offering will help high-risk children achieve a brighter future. Thank you for supporting this transformative ministry.

JOIN US TO VIEW *THE CHOSEN* – Join us Sunday mornings, following our worship service, as we will gather in the social hall to watch *The Chosen*. *The Chosen* is a multi-season television portrayal of the life of Jesus. Come grab a cup of coffee, perhaps even bring a friend, and join us for fellowship, inspiration, and learning!

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

December 4	11:30 am	<i>The Chosen</i> - Social Hall
December 6	Noon	AA
December 7	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
December 8	7:00 pm 7:15 pm	Advent Bible Study – Zoom Choir Rehearsal
December 9	10:30 am Noon	Friday Lunch Program AA
December 11	10:30 am 11:30 am	Lessons and Carols In-person and Livestream Worship <i>The Chosen</i> - Social Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

December 18	11:30 am	Centenary Family Christmas Lunch
December 24	3:00 pm 8:00 pm 8:30 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service Music of the Season Christmas Eve Service



Online Giving Made Easy – No Account Needed!