



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 18, 2022

Fourth 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

The Holly and the Ivy

18th century English Carol

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The Call to Worship

Leader: In the midst of darkness, God brings a new light.

People: Thanks be to the God of light.

Leader: In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings hope and peace.

People: Thanks be to the God of peace.

Leader: In the midst of strife and stress, God comforts and soothes us.

People: Let us praise God who truly loves us and brings us new life. Amen.

The Hymn No. 250

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Lord of all life and all seasons,
help us open our hearts to hear the words
of promise and love that you send to us.
Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power.
Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace.
In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

John, Rochelle, Elliott, & Arley Adams

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.

May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God,
make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

The Announcements

The Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter pages 801

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-18

*[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.

Response

- 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might, and come to save us!
- 3 **Restore us, O God;**
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- 4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- 5 **You have fed them with the bread of tears,**
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- 6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
and our enemies laugh among themselves.
- 7 **Restore us, O God of hosts;**
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Response

- 8 You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
- 9 **You cleared the ground for it;**
it took deep root and filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;
- 11 **it sent out its branches to the sea,**
and its shoots to the river.
- 12 Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
- 13 **The boar from the forest ravages it,**
and all that move in the field feed on it.

Response

- 14 Turn again, O God of hosts!
Look down from heaven, and see:

- 15 **have regard for this vine,
the stock which your right hand planted.**
- 16 They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance!
- 17 **But let your hand be upon those of your right hand,
the ones whom you have made strong for yourself!**
- 18 Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name!
- 19 **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

The Hymn No. 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

The Sermon

Joseph: First Gentleman or Second Fiddle?

Dr. Matthew Bates

The Sacrament of Baptism No 39

Eleanor Frances Deel

The Baptismal Hymn No. 611

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

1. Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.
2. Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.
3. Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.
4. Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

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The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

My Little Drum
© 1965, Lee Medelson Film Productions, Inc.

Vince Guaraldi

The Hymn No. 240*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

The Benediction**The Postlude***Angels We Have Heard on High*

French Carol Melody

*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 1:18-25

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, “God is with us.”²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY - Join us for last Bible study this Thursday evening at 7:00pm. We will study Luke 2:1-20 and focus on Mary in preparation for Christmas Eve worship on Saturday, December 24. An email will be sent out Wednesday with the Zoom link.

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.

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 is 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

December 18	11:30 am	Centenary Family Christmas Lunch
December 19	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
December 20	Noon	AA
December 21	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
December 22	7:00 pm	Advent Bible Study
December 23	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
December 24	3:00 pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	8:00 pm	Music of the Season
	8:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service
December 25	10:30 am	In-person and Livestream Worship

LOOKING AHEAD

January 4	10:30 am	Smethie Circle UMFS Tour
January 10	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting

Online Giving Made Easy – No Account Needed!



Poinsettias 2022

In Loving Memory of:

John Ochs by Rochelle and John Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Walter R. Bishop by Florence C. Bishop
John Burge Mingus by Barrett Brown
Our fathers, Edwin Golod and H. B. Rhame, Jr., by Frederic and Mitzi Golod
William R. “Buck” Haley and Centenary Friends by Joyce Haley
Ernie & Cheri Kara, Clifford Knutson, Alfred Oldenburg, Harrison Wagner,
Henry & Alice Knutson by Heidi Kara
Harry W. Lee by Nancy Lee and family
My grandfather, Leo Geisler, by Molly Monaghan
My nana, Jane Monaghan, by Molly Monaghan
Parents, Bruce B. & Louise P. Smith and Cecil E. and Elizabeth W. Ray, by Suzanne Ray
Herb Young by Mary Sue Sanderlin
Nancy Penman and Bette Fitting by Wendy Smith
Randall & Emma Speidel and Percy & Nonie Lee by Joe and Penny Speidel
Richard by Sharon Steele
Bob’s mother, Frances E. Haaren, by Kathy Talley and Bob Blinn
Bob’s father, Robert H. Blinn, Jr., by Kathy Talley and Bob Blinn
Kathy’s parents, Forest S. & Mary Anne C. Talley by Kathy Talley and Bob Blinn
Kathy’s grandmother, Dorothy H. Clements, by Kathy Talley and Bob Blinn
John and Earlene Pippin by Glenn and Peggy Thomsen
Oscar and Kathryn Thomsen by Glenn and Peggy Thomsen
Al Thrower by Meredith, John, and George Thrower
Charley Webber by Lou Webber
Donnie Wyatt by Leslie Wyatt

In Honor of:

The Matt Bates Family by Florence C. Bishop

2022 Centenary Administrative Council by Florence C. Bishop

Laura Nealley by Florence C. Bishop

Our Centenary friends by Rex and Mary Anne Dazey

Our mothers, Monique Golod and Libby Rhame, by Frederic and Mitzi Golod

Great Grandsons Ozzy, Zeke, & Dax by Leah Hundley

Our children and grandchildren by Troy and Jan Nelson

My family by Mary Sue Sanderlin

Centenary's wonderful staff by Pat Shipley

Helen Ryde and all faithful advocates for justice by Pat Shipley

Mary Sue Sanderlin by Meredith, John, and George Thrower

My friends in RVA by Leslie Wyatt