



Centenary  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**January 8, 2023**

**Baptism of the Lord**

*(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)*

**The Prelude**

*Wonderful Words of Life*

Philip P. Bliss

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**The Introit**

Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's spirit on you came,  
as peaceful as a dove and yet as urgent as a flame.

**The Call to Worship**

Leader: Welcome to worship this day!

**People: We have come seeking God's blessings and love.**

Leader: They shall be given to you.

**People: We have come seeking forgiveness and healing.**

Leader: These will be offered to you. Open your hearts to receive God's Good News.

**People: We open our hearts to all of God's words and ways for us. Amen.**

**The Hymn No. 605**

*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

BEACH SPRING

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.  
Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.  
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.  
Fill, anoint them, send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight
2. We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.  
Let us join your feast partaking cup of blessing, living bread.  
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,  
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs
3. Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!  
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!  
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

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**The Prayer of Confession**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord.**

**We have entered the season**

**in which Your Light has been given to the world,  
your blessings have been poured out on the world,  
and yet all we can think about is our own problems,  
our own needs, our own desires.**

**Help us to desire you, Lord.**

**Help us to yearn for your presence.**  
**Pour your baptismal waters over us again,**  
**cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance.**  
**Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.**  
**Wash away our jealousy, greed,**  
**and all negative thoughts and behaviors**  
**that stand in the way of our truly being**  
**the people you have called us to be.**  
**Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation,**  
**in the birth and baptism of Jesus,**  
**and in the ministry of the saints of light.**  
**We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

### The Words of Assurance

The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity.  
 Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord. Amen.

### The Announcements

### The Prayer for Illumination

### The Psalter page 761

Psalm 29

Charles Wesley  
 John Hatton

With joy the Lord of Hosts proclaim;  
 5 ex - tol the great al - might - y name.

### *Response*

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;**  
**worship the Lord in holy splendor.**
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
 the God of glory thunders,  
 the Lord, upon many waters.
- 4 **The voice of the Lord is powerful,**  
**the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

### *Response*

- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,  
**the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**
- 6 The Lord makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,  
 and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 **The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.**
- 8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness,  
**the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

- 9 The voice of the Lord makes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forests bare;  
**and in his temple all cry, “Glory!”**
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as Ruler for ever.
- 11 **May the Lord give strength to his people!**  
**May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

*Response*

**The Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 3:13-17

**The Hymn No. 608**

*This Is the Spirit's Entry Now*

AZMON

1. This is the Spirit's entry now: the water and the word,  
the cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
2. Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day,  
to rise again by his design as followers of his way.
3. Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for your baptismal power  
that washes us through all our days. Lord, cleanse again this hour.

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**The Sermon**

*Don't Forget – You Are Blessed!*

Dr. Matt Bates

**The Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant (page 50)**

**The Offertory Prayer**

**The Offertory Anthem**

*The Baptism of Jesus*

Austin C. Lovelace

**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. 2114

*At the Font We Start Our Journey*

LAUDA ANIMA

1. At the font we start our journey, in the Easter faith baptized;  
doubts and fears no longer blind us, by the light of Christ surprised.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope held out and realized.
2. At the pulpit we are fashioned by the Easter tale retold  
into witnesses and prophets, by the power of Christ made bold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith proclaimed, yet still untold.
3. At the altar we are nourished with the Easter gift of bread;  
in our breaking it to pieces see the love of Christ outspread.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Life embraced, yet freely shed.
4. At the door we are commissioned, now the Easter victory's won,  
to restore a world divided to the peace of Christ as one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter's work must still be done.

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## The Benediction

### The Choral Response

Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,  
that, likewise in God's service we may perfect freedom find.

### The Postlude

*Christ Our Lord to Jordan Came*

Johann Pachelbel

*The rose on the altar is giving in honor of Reid Hodges Sanderlin, son of Barry and Kate Sanderlin, grandson of Mary Sue Sanderlin, nephew of Meredith Thrower and Elaine Ryan. Reid was born in Norfolk on Nov. 19.*

***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

### Matthew 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

# *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*

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY is back!** Join us on Wednesday as we gather on Zoom to look at the scripture for the upcoming week. An email is out with all the details on Tuesdays. If you would like to be added to the Bible study email list, please contact the church office.

**THE CHOSEN - SEASON 3** - Join us Sundays following the 10:30am worship service in the social hall. This week, we'll start off with a brief review of Season 2 and then watch S3, E1, *Homecoming*, which is Jesus's presentation of the Sermon on the Mount and what it means to have a spirit of conviction. We also see Jesus preparing the disciples to be sent out in ministry.

**2023 ALTAR FLOWERS DATE REQUESTS** - It's that time of year again, the weekly altar flower calendar is being set up. Time to choose that special date to honor or remember friends and family or recognize a special event. You may sign up in any of the following ways:

1. Select a date from the list placed in the office hallway
2. Request a date using our online form. You will be contacted to confirm the date. Please use the QR code below to access the form.
3. Call Mary E Vetrovec at 804-615-8175 and chose your date the "old fashioned way" in person.

You may select any date that is open. First come is first served. Costs. \$44.00 for the first Sunday Communion Sunday (2 arrangements). \$22.00 for all other Sundays(1 arrangement)



ALTAR FLOWERS

# *Upcoming Events*

## **THIS WEEK**

<b>January 8</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>	The Chosen
<b>January 9</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Change the World/RVA
<b>January 10</b>	<b>Noon</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	AA Church Council Meeting
<b>January 12</b>	<b>7:15 pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>January 13</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	Friday Lunch Program
<b>January 15</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	In-person and Livestream Worship

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**January 18** VICPP – Day for All People

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

