



Centenary
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

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

The Prelude

Skating in Central Park
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John Lewis

The Introit

Thanks we give and adoration
for thy gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of thy salvation
in our hearts and lives abound;
ever faithful, ever faithful
to the truth may we be found.

The Call to Worship

Leader: Happy are those who walk in God's ways.

People: Blessed are those who observe God's commandments.

Leader: Faithful are those whose eyes are fixed on righteousness.

People: Joyful are those whose hearts are filled with praise.

Leader: Come, let us love the Lord our God.

People: We come to worship the One who leads us in the ways of life.

The Hymn No. 390

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

DETROIT

1. "Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
2. How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart,
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?
3. In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

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The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Holy Spirit, guide us as we walk in faith,
and guard us against the powers
that would draw us away from your love.**

**Help us live according to your commandments,
that we might live long in the land
you have prepared for us.**

Prompt us to seek you with our whole heart,
 and guide us to walk in your ways,
 that we may carry out
 the vows of the covenant we share.
 May our words and deeds bring life and faith to others,
 as we hold fast to the gift of faith.
 Be near us each and every day,
 and bless us with your light,
 that our days may be filled with grace. Amen.

The Announcements

The Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter page 840

Psalm 119:1-8

Ps. 119: 45
 Don E. Saliers

I shall walk at
 lib-er-ty, for I have sought your pre-cepts.

Response

- 1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
 who walk in the law of the Lord!
- 2 **Blessed are those who keep God's testimonies,
 who seek God with their whole heart,**
- 3 who also do no wrong,
 but walk in God's ways!
- 4 **You have commanded your precepts
 to be kept diligently.**
- 5 O that my ways may be steadfast
 in keeping your statutes!
- 6 **Then I shall not be put to shame,
 having my eyes fixed
 on your commandments.**
- 7 I will praise you with an upright heart,
 when I learn your righteous ordinances.
- 8 **I will observe your statutes;
 O forsake me not utterly!**

Response

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5:21-37

The Hymn No. 452*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

OLIVET

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly thine!
2. May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!
3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.
4. When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

The Sermon

Dr. Tim Gerde

The Offertory Prayer**The Offertory Anthem***Psalm 119:1-8*

Anglican Chant by Edward John Hopkins

(The text of the anthem is above.)

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. 2169*God, How Can We Forgive*

LEONI

1. God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?
How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?
When human loving fails and every hope is gone,
your love give strength beyond our own to face the dawn.
2. When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,
how can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?
The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.
A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.

3. Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,
when you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.
As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

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The Benediction

The Choral Response Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, thy love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.

The Postlude

The God of Abraham Praise
Copyright 1966 Concordia Publishing House.

Fritz Lubrich

*The altar flowers this morning are given by Susan Rorrer
in memory of her mother, Joyce Ann Piercy.*

*The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Caroline Anne Ross,
daughter of Katie & David Ross, granddaughter of Steve and Anne Kraft.
Caroline was born on January 18.*

*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 5:21-37

Concerning Anger

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder,’ and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you

are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Concerning Adultery

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

Concerning Divorce

³¹ “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Concerning Oaths

³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴ But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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

PUB THEOLOGY – Sunday, February 19 ~ 4:00pm at Hardywood Brewery, 2410 Ownby Lane. Join us for a time of fellowship and discussion. The topic in February will be *What is Christian Community?* Questions? Contact the church office.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 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 immediately following the worship service in the social hall as we continue watching *The Chosen – Season 3*.

TRAVELING FRIENDS DAY TRIP TO RUDY THEATER – Join the fun on March 16, 2023, at the wonder Easter Jubilee Musical Show. Reserve your spot today! Contact the church office for more detailed information and the reservation form.

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

February 12	11:30 am	The Chosen
February 13	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
February 14	Noon	AA
February 15	10:00 am 7:15 pm	Zoom Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
February 17	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
February 19	10:30 am 11:30 am 4:00 pm	In-person and Livestream Worship The Chosen Pub Theology –Hardywood Brewery, Scotts Addition

Online Giving Made Easy – No Account Needed!

