



Centenary  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**February 26, 2023**

**First Sunday in Lent**

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

**The Prelude**

*He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought*

William B. Bradbury

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**The Introit**

Forty days and forty nights  
thou wast fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled.

**The Call to Worship**

Leader: Happy are those whose sins are forgiven.

**People: Happy are those whose sins are cast away.**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord! Be glad!

**People: Sing out! Shout for joy!**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord!

**People: Rejoice! Amen!**

**The Hymn No. 2105**

*Jesus, Tempted in the Desert*

EBENEZER

1. Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread;  
“Use your power,” the tempter tells him; “Turn these barren rocks to bread!”  
“Not alone by bread,” he answers, “Can the human heart be filled.  
Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!”
2. Jesus, tempted at the temple, high above its ancient wall;  
“Throw yourself from lofty turret; angels wait to break your fall!”  
Jesus shuns such empty marvels, feats that fickle crowds request;  
“God, whose grace protects, preserves us, we must never vainly test.”
3. Jesus, tempted on the mountain by the lure of vast domain;  
“Fall before me! Be my servant! Glory, fame, you’re sure to gain!”  
Jesus sees the dazzling vision, turns his eyes another way;  
“God alone deserves our homage! God alone will I obey!”
4. When we face temptation’s power, lonely, struggling, filled with dread,  
Christ, who knew the tempter’s hour, come and be our living bread.  
By your grace, protect, preserve us lest we fall, your trust betray.  
Yours, above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.

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**The Opening Prayer**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Holy One, we are constantly bombarded with temptations and enticements.  
When we yield, when we fail, who will help us?  
You, Lord, have come to our aid.  
You teach us, counsel us, and guide us in the ways we should go.  
We rejoice in your unfailing love. Amen.**

**The Announcements**

**The Prayer for Illumination**

**The Psalter page 766**

Psalm 32

Ps. 32:11  
Gary Alan Smith

Be glad in the Lord and re - joice;  
shout for joy, you up - right in heart.

**Response**

- 1 Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.
- 2 **Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- 3 When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.
- 4 **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
- 5 I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity.  
**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord";  
then you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

**Response**

- 6 Therefore let those who are godly  
offer prayer to you;  
**at a time of distress, the rush of great waters  
shall not reach them.**
- 7 You are a hiding place for me,  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you encompass me with deliverance.
- 8 **I will instruct you and teach you  
the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**
- 9 Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule,  
without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle.

- 10 **Many are the pangs of the wicked;  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**
- 11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous;  
**shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

*Response*

**The Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 4:1-11

**The Hymn No. 480**

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

ST. MARGARET

1. O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths  
its flow may richer, fuller be.
2. O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze  
its day may brighter, fairer be.
3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow thru the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.
4. O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms  
red life that shall endless be.

**The Sermon**

*Dialogue with the Devil*

Dr. Matt Bates

**The Offertory Prayer**

**The Offertory Anthem** *For He Shall Give His Angels Charge Over Thee* Kenneth Jennings

For he shall give his angels charge over thee,  
to keep thee in all thy ways.  
They shall bear thee up in their hands,  
lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.  
He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high  
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.  
For he shall give his angels charge over thee,  
to keep thee in all thy ways.

Psalm 91:11,12,1

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## **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. 2123**

*Loving Spirit*

KINGDOM

1. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—  
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.
2. Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.
3. Like a father you protect me, teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.
4. Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed:  
In your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.
5. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—  
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.

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## **The Benediction**

### **The Choral Response**

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,  
ever constant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.

## **The Postlude**

*Postlude on EBENEZER*

Charles W. Ore

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***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 4:1-11

### The Testing of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

## *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** - 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 – Sunday mornings at 11:30am** - We will not meet today but join us next week as we continue with *The Chosen – Season 3*.

## *Upcoming Events*

### **THIS WEEK**

<b>February 27</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Change the World/RVA
<b>February 28</b>	<b>Noon</b>	AA
<b>March 1</b>	<b>10:30 am</b> <b>7:15 pm</b>	Smethie Circle Choir Rehearsal
<b>March 3</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	Friday Lunch Program
<b>March 5</b>	<b>10:30 am</b> <b>11:30 am</b>	In-person and Livestream Worship The Chosen

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

