



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 5, 2023

Second 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

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball

© 1971 Paxton Music Ltd. All rights reserved.

The Introit

God sent Christ not in wrath and power, but grace and peace to bring;
in kindness, as a king might send his son, himself a king.

The Call to Worship

Leader: Come, all who need help!

People: Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Come, all who desire blessing!

People: Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.

Leader: Come, all who long for salvation!

People: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.

The Hymn No. 116

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of love;
Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.
2. The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heaven ascend.
I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore,
and sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.
3. The heavenly land I see, with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty, and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.
4. The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM, we worship thee!"

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God of the ages, we come into this holy space asking for your blessing,
only to find that the abundance of your love is already around us.**

Open our eyes to see the blessing of your creation in the beauty all around us.

Open our ears to hear the blessing of your word
as it is proclaimed in story and song this day.
Open our hearts to experience the blessing of faith
through the gentle touch of a friend or the supportive smile of a stranger.
And open our doors, that we may become vessels of your blessing
to a world still in need of salvation.
All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Announcements

The Prayer of Illumination

The Psalter pages 844

Psalm 121

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

S T Kimbrough, Jr. (Ps. 112:4,5)
Carlton R. Young



Response

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From whence does my help come?
- 2 **My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**
- 3 The Lord will not let your foot be moved,
the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 **Behold, the One who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**
- 5 The Lord is your keeper;
**the Lord is your shade
on your right hand.**
- 6 The sun shall not smite you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil,
and will keep your life.
- 8 **The Lord will keep your
going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.**

Response

The Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Hymn No. 508*Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom*

FOR THE BREAD

1. Faith while trees are still in blossom, plans that picking if the fruit;
faith can feel the thrill of harvest, when the buds begin to sprout.
2. Long before the dawn is breaking, faith anticipates the sun.
Faith is eager for the day-light, for the work that must be done.
3. Long before the rains were coming, Noah went and built an ark.
Abraham, the lonely migrant, saw the Light beyond the dark.
4. Faith, uplifted, tamed the water of the undivided sea and
the people of the Hebrews found the path that made them free.
5. Faith, believes that God is faithful, He will be who He will be.
Faith accepts His call responding: "I am willing; Lord, Send me."

*Text © 1976 & Music © 1988 Hope Publishing Co. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.***The Homily***Go!*

Dr. Matt 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***As Moses Lifted Up the Serpent*

Edward C. Bairstow

Quartet: Emily Downey and Lynn LaBarre, sopranos
Todd Minnich, tenor; Taylor Jarrell, bass

As Moses lifted up the serpent
in the wilderness,
even so must the Son of man
I, if I be lifted up,
will draw all men unto me.

be lifted up:
That whosoever believeth in him
should not perish,
but have eternal life,

For God so lov'd the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

John 3:14-16; 12:32

Copyright © 1977 Banks Music Publications. 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.

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

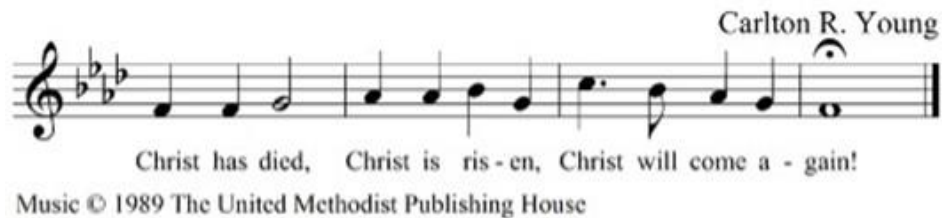
8 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

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

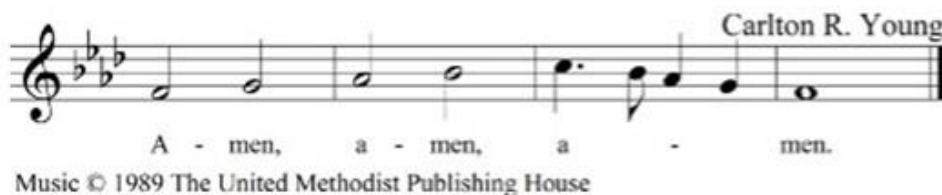
Music © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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.



*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:
All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.*



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 Giving and Receiving of Communion

The Communion Music

Sursum corda
Copyright 1983 Novello & Company Limited. All rights reserved.

John Ireland

The Recessional Hymn No. 415

Take Up Thy Cross

GERMANY

1. "Take up thy cross," the Savior said, "if thou wouldst my disciple be; deny thyself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me."
2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak spirit with alarm; his strength shall bear thy spirit up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
thy Lord for thee the cross endured, to save thy soul from death and hell.
4. Take up thy cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown

The Benediction

The Choral Response

Not to oppress, but summon all their truest life to find,
in love God sent his Son to save, not to condemn mankind.

The Postlude

Standing on the Promises

R. Kelso Carter

*The altar flowers this morning are in memory of Phil Crick for his birthday on March 17,
given by A.J. Crick and family.*

*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

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Call of Abram

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

John 3:1-17

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born

from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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 – Join us immediately following the worship service in the social hall as we continue watching *The Chosen – Season 3*.

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

March 6	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
March 7	Noon	AA
March 8	10:00 am 7:15 pm	Zoom Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
March 10	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
March 12	10:30 am 11:30 am	In-person and Livestream Worship The Chosen