



Centenary
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 12, 2023

Third 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

Give Me Jesus

Afro-American Spiritual
Arr. by Nolan Williams

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The Introit

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one, stoop down and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

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The Call to Worship

Leader: We come to the well of fear and doubt.

People: We have drawn deeply of those waters.

Leader: We come to the well of anger and hate.

People: These waters flourish in all the land.

Leader: Lord, bring us to the water of peace and hope.

People: Lord, bring us to the well of salvation. Amen.

The Hymn No. 731

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIA

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou mayst smile at all thy foes.
2. See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.
3. Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near!
Thus deriving from our banner light by night and shade by day,
safe we feed upon the manna which God gives us when we pray.
4. Blest inhabitants of Zion, washed in our Redeemer's blood;
Jesus, whom our souls rely on, makes us monarchs, priests to God.
Us, by his great love, he raises, rulers over self to reign,
and as priests his solemn praises we for thankful offering bring.

The Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of living waters, we confess that we have often turned from you
and wandered in our own wildernesses of fear and doubt.
Our thirst mounts daily,
seeking to be quenched by your redeeming love.
Yet, when that love is offered to us, we again turn away,
unable to truly believe that you would actually heal and love us.
We have behaved in very unloving ways.
We have chosen to ignore those in need
or to deal only passively with them.
Our hearts are not placed in service to others,
but rather in self-serving motives.
Heal us, merciful God. Wash us again in the living water.
Help us be faithful servants. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

The waters of mercy and healing are poured over you.
God is loving and faithful to those who come to God.
Come, seek the loving presence and be healed. Amen.

The Announcements

The Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter page 814

Psalm 95

Ps. 95:8a, 7c
Carlton R. Young



Hard-en not your hearts; lis - ten to God's voice.

Response

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- 2 Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!
- 3 For the Lord is a great God,
and a great Ruler above all gods,
- 4 in whose hands are the depths of the earth
and also the heights of the mountains.
- 5 **The sea belongs to God who made it,
and the dry land, because God formed it.**

Response

- 6 O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
- 7 For the Lord is our God,
**we are the people of God's pasture,
the sheep of God's hand.**
Hear the voice of the Lord today!
- 8 Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

- 9 when your forebears tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
- 10 **For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people who err in heart,
and they do not regard my ways."**
- 11 **Therefore I swore in my anger
that they should not enter my rest.**

Response

The Gospel Lesson

John 4:5-42

The Hymn No. 269

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

LAND OF REST

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
2. As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.
3. As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.
4. And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.
5. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

The Sermon

Living in An Alternative Reality

Dr. Matt Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

God Is a Spirit

Alexander Kopylov

God is a spirit, and they who worship Him,
must worship Him in spirit and in truth:
For he seeketh such to worship Him.

For the hour cometh when the true worshipers
shall worship Him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24, 23

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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. 648*God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

HYFRYDOL

1. God the Spirit, guide and guardian, windsped flame and hovering dove,
breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace;
send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.
2. Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, word made flesh, love crucified,
teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
in your tending may all pastors learn and live a shepherd's care;
grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.
3. Great Creator, life-bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall,
fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all:
as you know our strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts
oversee her life steadfastly yet not overlook her faults.
4. Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse,
deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:
help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim,
that our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.

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The Benediction**The Choral Response**

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my Star, my Sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till pilgrim days are done.

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The Postlude*A Dialog for the Loud Stops*

Louis Nicolas Clérambault

***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.***

***The altar flowers this morning are in memory of a godly woman,
Beth Smethie, by the Smethie Circle.***

Beth Smethie was a Godly woman. After losing her only child her life's mission was to serve young people. In May of 19961 she invited Centenary's young women to her home and said "You ladies need to be in a circle of the Women's Society of Christian Service." There are still 6 members of Centenary who were present that night. The WSCS later became the United

Methodist Women (UMW) when the Methodist Church became the United Methodist Church. Of course we loved and respected her so much we readily agreed. We were circle 10. Yes, there were 10 circles (with about 12 members each) at Centenary. The purpose is read at each meeting.

*“To know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ. To develop a creative supportive fellowship and
To expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”*

Over the years as church membership dwindled we became the “Smethie” circle of the UMW, welcoming all women interested in fellowship and missions. All the pledged money goes directly to global ministries. Local missions are supported by our yearly Pecan sale. We welcome all women of faith.

Scripture ~ John 4:5-42

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and

the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete

his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

2023 GERANIUM SALE – It’s that time again! Time to order your geraniums. They are \$4.50 per 4.5 in. pot. You can choose from red pink and white. The proceeds benefits Shalom Farms food ministry. To order or if you have any questions, contact the church office. Order deadline is March 24.

COLLECTION FOR THE DOORWAYS - We have another opportunity to collect non-perishable food for The Doorways. The Doorways provides a home away from home for the families with a loved one at participating Richmond-area hospital partners. Our collection of canned and packaged goods will help The Doorways supply the residents the items they need to prepare their own meals. To find out more about The Doorways, please visit their website – thedorways.org.

We will have a basket next to the parlor for your contributions from Sunday, March 12 through Sunday, March 26. Please help us provide food for those families during their time of need. Thanks, from the Serving Team.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED - Altar flowers are a special way to honor or remember a significant date. Flowers are needed for the following dates. Included are some reasons to celebrate – just in case you need an idea!

- April 2 (also National Ferret Day)
- May 7 (also National Lemonade Day)
- May 28 (also National Beefburger Day)



Sponsorships may be made online by scanning the QR code or contacting 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 today and every Sunday in Fellowship Hall following worship. We will journey with Jesus together as we watch season 3 of *The Chosen*.

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

March 12	11:30 am	The Chosen
March 13	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
March 14	Noon	AA
March 15	10:00 am 7:15 pm	Zoom Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
March 17	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
March 19	10:30 am 11:30 am	In-person and Livestream Worship The Chosen

Online Giving Made Easy – No Account Needed!

