



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 23, 2023

Third Sunday after Easter

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

The Prelude

Medley: Softly and Tenderly/Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus Will L. Thompson/Helen H. Lemmel

The Introit

O Thou who the mysterious bread
didst in Emmaus break,
return, herewith our souls to feed,
and to thy followers speak.

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The Call to Worship

Leader: Come, out of the darkness of doubt

People: We come seeking the Light

Leader: Open your hearts to receive God's healing love.

People: Lord, help us to see you and to feel your loving presence. Amen.

The Processional Hymn No. 2115

Christ Has Risen

HOLY MANNA

1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor. Christ is risen, God is here!
2. Christ has risen for the people whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation is not silenced by the tomb.
3. Christ has risen to companion former friends who fear the night,
sensing loss and limitation where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer, they expect no hopeful sign
till Christ ends their conversation, breaking bread and sharing wine.
4. Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

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The Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Sometimes our hearts ache within us, O Lord.
Like those travelers on the Emmaus road,
we feel the deep sadness about losing Jesus.
Our sadness finds its roots in many things
and we feel as though we cannot escape it.
It becomes part and parcel of our conversations.
Deep within, our spirits long for release and we silently cry.
Forgive us when we close our eyes to your presence.
Heal our brokenness.
Bind up our wounds.
Place us on the path of healing
and help us to be people who will bring
compassionate caring to others,
for we ask these things In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

Dear friends, let your hearts be healed.
God is here with you, right now and walks with you into the world.
Do not fear! Peace be with you all. Amen.

The Announcements

The Prayer of Illumination

The Psalter pages 837

Psalm 116:1-4,12-19

Ps. 116:19b, 8
Carlton R. Young

O ——— praise the Lord, who de -
3 liv - ers your soul — from death. ———

Response

- 1 I love the Lord, who has heard
my voice and my supplications,
- 2 and has inclined his ear to me
whenever I called.
- 3 **The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.**
- 4 Then I called on the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I beseech you, save my life!”

Response

- 5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
- 6 **The Lord preserves the simple;
when I was brought low, the Lord saved me.**
- 7 Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.
- 8 For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;
- 9 **I walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.**
- 10 I kept my faith, even when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted.”
- 11 **I said in my consternation,
“All humans are a vain hope.”**

Response

- 12 What shall I return to the Lord
for all my benefits?
- 13 **I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord,**
- 14 I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
- 15 **Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.**
- 16 O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid.
You have loosed my bonds.
- 17 **I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the Lord.**
- 18 I will pay my vows to the Lord,
in the presence of all his people,
- 19 **in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!**

Response

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:13-35

The Hymn No. 2199

Stay with Us

STAY WITH US

1. Stay with us, till night has come: Our praise to You this day be sung.
Bless our bread, open our eyes: Jesus, be our great surprise.
2. Walk with us, our spirits sigh: Hear when our weary spirits cry,
feel again our loss, our pain: Jesus, take us to Your side.
3. Walk with us, the road will bend: Make all our weeping, wailing end.
Wipe our tears, forgive our fears: Jesus, lift the heavy cross.
4. Talk with us, till we behold a joyful life you will unfold:
Heal our eyes to see the prize: Jesus, take us to the light.

5. Stay with us, till day is done: No tears nor dark shall dim the sun.
Cheer the heart, your grace impart: Jesus, bring eternal life.

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The Sermon

The Stranger in our Midst

Dr. Matt Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

Emily Downy, soprano; Taylor Jarrell, baritone

Blessed Be the God and Father

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which, according to His abundant mercy,
hath begotten us again unto a lively hope
by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Love one another with a pure heart fervently,
See that ye love one another.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed,
but of incorruptible, by the word of God;
for all flesh is as grass,
and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.
The grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away.

But the word of the Lord endureth forevermore. Amen.

1 Peter 1:3, 22-25

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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 Recessional Hymn No. 308

Thine Be the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

1. Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain

- Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
- 2 Lo! Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. ***Refrain***
- 3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. ***Refrain***

The Benediction

The Choral Response Enkindle now the heavenly zeal,
and make thy mercy known,
and give our pardoned souls to feel
that God and love are one.

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The Postlude *Minuet Finale* (from Music for the Royal Fireworks) G. F. Händel

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***Reminder! Help us know that you worshiped with us this morning
by signing the online attendance pad [here](#).***

***The altar flowers this morning are in honor of Stan Baker and his music
by the Centenary congregation.***

***Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us throughout the week to make all the worship
services this week possible.***

Scripture

1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Luke 24:13-35 ~ The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Announcements

EARTH DAY CALL FOR TUPPERWARE! The Pace Center (VCU campus ministry) is requesting new and used food storage containers. Pace provides food to students and, in order to honor our commitment to caring for creation, refrains from using disposable containers. Please drop off new or used containers (clean and with a tight fitting lid) by April 30. A drop off box is located outside the Ladies Parlor.

PUB THEOLOGY – Today at 4:00pm. Join us at Hardywood in Scott's Addition! Our discussion this month is "What is Heaven?" We look forward to seeing you there!

SMETHIE CIRCLE – Wednesday, April 26 - at 1:00pm - We have elected to once again create kits to be made up for general conference.

(Many of you might remember our taking the supplies to our treasured beach events and assembling them there - what fun!) This year we have chosen to make **20 health kits**. The materials will be purchased and will be brought to the home of Leah Hundley where we will gather together and have fun as we assemble the kits to have them ready in time for conference.

A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF STAN BAKER – April 30 immediately following worship. Join us as we honor and celebrate Stan's 31 years as the Music Director at Centenary! Please bring your favorite brunch type foods for the celebration. Items may be left in the church kitchen prior to the service.

SAVE THE DATE – May 4 at Noon. Calling all women. Quiche and Salad Lunch at the Vetrovec home. A tradition of food, fun, fellowship for more than 35 years. Please bring a quiche, salad, or dessert to share. This invitation is open to everyone and their guests. No reservations necessary! For more information, call 804-320-4349 and leave a message.

LOST AND FOUND – A DAY OF REFLECTION, HOPE AND HEALING – Saturday, May 20, 9:30am-3:00pm. Cost: \$35.

Our worlds have been turned upside down in the past three years. Our facilitator, David Hoover, will lead us in a day of meditation, silence and sharing as we examine together what has been the toll and treasure of these pandemic years. For more information, contact the church office. To register use QR or email davidwhoover@aol.com.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY at 10:00am - Join us on Wednesdays 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.

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| April 24 | 5:00 pm | Change the World/RVA |
| April 25 | Noon | AA |
| April 26 | 10:00 am | Zoom Bible Study |
| | 1:00 pm | Smethie Circle Mission Kits |
| | 7:15 pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| April 27 | 10:30 am | Friday Lunch Program |
| April 30 | 10:30 am | In person & Live Stream Worship |
| | 11:30 am | Celebration for Stan |
| | 4:00 pm | Pub Theology at Hardywood |

LOOKING AHEAD

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| May 4 | 12:00 pm | Smethie Circle Quiche and Salad Lunch |
| May 20 | 9:30 am | Lost and Found: A Day of Reflection, Hope and Healing |

Online Giving Made Easy – No Account Needed!

