



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 7, 2023

Fifth 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

Ubi Caritas et Amor

Gerald Near

The Introit

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.

The Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is our refuge.

People: We can find peace in God's abiding love.

Leader: When troubles assail us, we call upon the Lord.

People: When joys abound, we call upon the Lord.

Leader: Welcome this day to God's house, one of many dwellings of the Almighty One.

People: We thank you and praise God for God's refuge and sanctuary. Amen.

The Processional Hymn No. 60

I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath

OLD 113th

- 1 I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death, praise shall employ my nobler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past, while life, and thought, and being last, or immortality endures.
- 2 Happy are they whose hopes rely on Israel's God, who made the sky and earth and seas, with all their train; whose truth for ever stands secure, who saves th'oppressed and feeds the poor, for none shall find God's promise vain.
- 3 The Lord pours eyesight on the blind; the Lord supports the fainting mind and sends the laboring conscience peace. God helps the stranger in distress, the widow and the fatherless, and grants the prisoner sweet release.
- 4 I'll praise my God who lends me breath; and when my voice is lost in death, praise shall employ my nobler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past, while life, and thought, and being last, or immortality endures.

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: O God, the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven.**

**Do not leave us comfortless,
but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us,
and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

The Announcements

The Prayer of Illumination

The Psalter pages 764

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Francis of Assisi
trans. by William H. Draper
Geistliche Kirchengesänge
harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Let all things their cre - a - tor bless: Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one flat) and 3/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/8 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, followed by a half note G4. The second staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/8 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, followed by a half note G4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Response

- 1 In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness, deliver me!
- 2 **Incline your ear to me,
rescue me speedily!**
**Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!**
- 3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
- 4 **take me out of the net which is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.**
- 5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
- 6 **I hate those who pay regard to vain idols;
but I trust in the Lord.**
- 7 I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction,
and have taken heed of my adversities.
- 8 **You have not delivered me into the hand of my enemy;
you have set my feet in a broad place.**

Response

- 9 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye is wasted from grief,
my soul and body also.
- 10 **For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.**
- 11 I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbors,

an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.

**12 I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become a broken vessel.**

13 For I hear the whispering of many—
terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

**14 But I trust in you, O Lord,
I say, “You are my God.”**

15 My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

**16 Let your face shine on your servant,
save me through your steadfast love!**

Response

The Gospel Lesson

John 14:1-14

The Hymn No. 164

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

THE CALL

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife, such a life as killeth death.
2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast,
such a feast as mends in length, such a strength as makes his guest.
3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part, such a heart as joys in love.

The Homily

Greater Works

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

Peace I Leave With You

Alan MacMillan

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
 not as the world gives, give I unto you.
 Let not your heart be troubled.
 Peace I leave with you, my peace, I give unto you.
 Alleluia, Amen.

John 14:27 KJV

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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:

William Mathias

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly,

8 ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

12 Heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.


16 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

(The congregation may be seated.)

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.




William Mathias

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a-gain!

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

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.



William Mathias

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

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

O Waly Waly (When Love is Found or The Gift of Love)

Emma Lou Diemer

The Recessional Hymn No. 559 *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* WESTMINSTER ABBEY

1. Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone;
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone.
2. To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, today!
With thy faithful loving-kindness hear thy people as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls away.

3. Here vouchsafe to all thy servants what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee forever with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory evermore with thee to reign.
4. Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one;
one in might and one in glory, while unending ages run.

The Benediction

The Choral Response Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.

The Postlude *Praeludium in C (BWV 545)* Johann Sebastian Bach

Today our organist is Mark Koontz.

The altar flowers this morning are in honor of all who love and care for pets by Ruth Stewart.

*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 throughout the week to make all the worship
services this week possible.*

Scripture

John 14:1-14

Jesus the Way to the Father

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know^[d] my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the

one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Announcements

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. Register online or email davidwhoover@aol.com.

DEAR CENTENARY FRIENDS - If kindness could kill, I'd be dead after yesterday! (*last Sunday*) Never could I have imagined such an outpouring of gifts and tributes. Thank you all so much for the very generous love offering, the beautiful photo memory book and the incredible Stanley M Baker orchid! The planning and preparation to accomplish all of the above has not gone unnoticed either. It has been my distinct pleasure and privilege to serve as your Director of Music/Organist for these past 32+ years. I wish all of you the very best in the years to come! Very sincerely, Stan

THIS SUMMER WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO WELCOME CO-INTERIM ORGANISTS TO CENTENARY. These two talented gentlemen will be playing for us throughout the summer, directing the choir until its season ends June 4, and working with soloists throughout the remainder of the summer. We are grateful to both of them--Mark Koontz who is playing and leading the choir today and Mark Fleisher whose first Sunday with us will be May 21. And we're grateful for Lee Covington who continues as a vital part of our music ministry.

Mark Koontz has spent many years as a church musician, serving Methodist, Evangelical Covenant, Presbyterian and Episcopal denominations as organist and music director. He has a B.A. and M.A. in Theatre, and majored in church music at Azusa Pacific University in California. He is retired from his IT career, and lives with his wife Joyce in Henrico County, having three grown sons and an almost 3-year-old granddaughter.

Mark Fleisher writes: "I am delighted to be spending time with Centenary UMC and joining you in making a joyful noise to the Lord. I began my church music experience 50 years ago when I first played in my home church at age 5 and started piano lessons at 7 (which followed learning to play Amazing Grace by my uncle at age 3). Music was second-nature to my family, as my grandmother was the babysitter and friend of the Statler Brothers as I grew up in Staunton, Virginia. Years later, at King's College, New York, the distinguished Dr. D. Dewitt Wasson invited me to begin organ lessons after hearing me accompany a vocal recital on piano in my freshman year. I sang in choirs as long as I can remember, and most recently including as director. I have served mostly in Northern Virginia - at churches mostly in the Methodist and Episcopal traditions - where I have been the organist and also the Director of Music. I am looking forward to this opportunity at Centenary to celebrate with you our faith through the wondrous diversity of music He has blessed us with. And I am particularly excited to lead the choir and congregation in worship through the hymnody of the Methodist tradition."

Please welcome these musicians to Centenary and thank them for the service among us this summer.

With Sympathy

Please pray for the family of Louise Smith. Louise passed away Friday, April 28 at the age of 106. There will be a funeral service for Louise on Saturday, May 13, 11:00 a.m., at Cedarfield, 2300 Cedarfield Parkway, Richmond, VA.

Please pray for Barret Brown in the recent loss of her aunt, Eileen Salame. You are invited to a funeral service for Eileen on Saturday, May 20, 4:00 p.m. in the chapel here at Centenary.

Please pray for Sonia Topey Smith whose sister, Faith Angela Topey passed away. Arrangements are pending.

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

May 8	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
May 9	Noon 7:00 pm	AA Council Meeting
May 10	10:00 am 7:15 pm	Zoom Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
May 12	10:30 am Noon	Friday Lunch Program AA
May 14	10:30 am	In person & Live Stream Worship

LOOKING AHEAD

May 20	9:30 am	Lost and Found: A Day of Reflection, Hope and Healing
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