



# Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**July 9, 2023**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**The Prelude**

*Be Thou My Vision*

Trad. Irish melody, arr. L. Covington

## **The Call to Worship**

Leader: Beloved of God, the winter is past,

**People: the flowers appear on the earth,**

Leader: the time of singing has come,

**All: Let us lift our voices in praise to our Creator.**

Leader: God calls us by name into the presence of holiness  
as God's holy people.

**People: We answer this call by the grace of God  
through the power of the Holy Spirit  
in the name of God's own Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**All: Come, let us worship God!**

**The Hymn No. 384**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

BEECHER

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## **The Prayer of Confession**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Lord, we marvel at the thought of a well-fitted yoke,  
a burden scaled to match our frames;  
we do not know how to rest in the promise of such labor.  
Some of us are weary from unceasing responsibility;  
others find no welcome in the marketplace.  
We confound your vision for our common life.**

**Forgive our blind striving,  
our stifled concern,  
the judgments we cast on others.  
Make yourself known to us in the silence.  
Shape your children for the commonwealth of your love.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **The Declaration of Forgiveness**

### **The Announcements**

### **The Prayer of Illumination**

### **The Psalter**

Psalm 45:10-17

- 10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;  
forget your people and your father's house,  
11 and the king will desire your beauty.  
**Since he is your lord, bow to him;**  
12 **and the people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,**  
**the richest of the people**  
13 **with all kinds of wealth.**  
The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;  
14 in many-colored robes she is led to the king;  
behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.  
15 **With joy and gladness they are led along**  
**as they enter the palace of the king.**  
16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;  
you will make them princes in all the earth.  
17 **I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations;**  
**therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever**

### **The Scripture Lesson**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### **The Hymn No. 451**

*Be Thou My Vision*

UFFINGHAM

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night.  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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### **The Sermon**

*A Yoke that Sets You Free*

Rev. Matthew Bates

### **The Offertory Prayer**

**The Offertory Solo**

*If We Live in the Spirit*  
Taylor Jarrell, soloist

Clement Barker

**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. 400**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

**The Benediction**

**The Postlude**

*Postlude on Old Hundredth*

Bock

*Today our organist is Mark Fleisher.*

*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

## Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

<sup>15</sup> Let anyone with ears listen!

<sup>16</sup> “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

## Jesus Thanks His Father

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

## *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.

## *Upcoming Events*

### THIS WEEK

<b>July 10</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Change the World/RVA
<b>July 11</b>	<b>Noon</b>	AA
<b>July 14</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	Friday Lunch Program
	<b>Noon</b>	AA
<b>July 16</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	In person & Live Stream Worship