



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 30, 2023

Ninth 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

Seek Ye First

Karen Lafferty

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The Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to God and call on God's name.

People: Sing to God; sing praises to God!

Leader: Make known God's deeds among the people.

People: Sing to God; sing praises to God!

Leader: Seek God's presence and God's strength.

All: Let us worship our God, for God is faithful.

The Hymn No. 79

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

GROSSER GOTT

1. Holy God, we praise thy name; Lord of all, we bow before thee.
all on earth thy scepter claim; all in heav'n above adore thee.
Infinite, thy vast domain; everlasting is thy reign.
2. Hark, the glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord!
3. Lo, the apostolic train joins thy sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow.
And from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
4. Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name thee,
though in essence only one; undivided God, we claim You,
and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.
5. Christ, thou art our glorious King, Son of God enthroned in splendor;
but deliverance to bring thou all honors didst surrender,
and wast of a virgin born humbly on that blessed.
6. Thou didst take the sting from death, Son of God, as Savior given;
on the cross thy dying breath opened wide the realm of heaven.
In the glory of that land thou are set at God's right hand.
7. As our judge thou wilt appear, Savior, who hast died to win us;
help thy servants, drawing near; Lord renew our hearts within us.
Grant that with thy saints we may dwell in everlasting day.

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The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Our gracious and ever loving God,
we come in the midst of summer
looking for refreshment.**

We rest in the knowledge of the wonderful works

**you have done for us,
 and of the deep and abiding love you have for us
 and for all God's people.**
Search our hearts.
Fill our soul with your indwelling Spirit
who whispers to our soul that all will be well
if we but trust in you.
Shine your light before us, that we may see our path to you
and to your kingdom on earth. Amen.

The Announcements

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Reading

Genesis 29:15-28

The Psalter No. 828

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Is. 40:31a
Don E. Saliers

They who wait for the Lord shall re - new their strength.

Response

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,
make known God's deeds among the peoples!
- 2 **Sing to the Lord, sing praises!**
Tell of all God's wonderful works!
- 3 Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!
- 4 **Seek the Lord and his strength;**
seek the Lord's presence continually!
- 5 Remember the wonderful works God has done,
the miracles and judgments God has uttered,
- 6 **O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,**
children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

Response

- 7 The Lord is our God,
whose judgments are in all the earth.
- 8 **The Lord is mindful of his everlasting covenant,**
of the word commanded for a thousand generations,
- 9 the covenant made with Abraham,
his promise sworn to Isaac,
- 10 and confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying,
- 11 **"To you I will give the land of Canaan**
as your portion for an inheritance."

Response

The Epistle Reading

Romans 8:26-39

The Hymn No. 2170

God Made from One Blood

ST. DENO

1. God made from one blood all the families of earth,
the circles of nurture that raised us from birth,
companions who join us to walk through each stage
of childhood and youth, adulthood and age.

2. We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
for all of the families we've known through the years,
the intimate networks on whom we depend
of parents and partner and roommate and friend.
3. We learn through our families how closeness and trust
increase when our actions are loving and just.
Yet, families have also distorted their roles,
mistreating their members and bruising their souls.
4. Give, Lord, to each family in conflict and storm
a sense of your wisdom and grace that transform
sharp anger to insight which strengthens the heart
and makes clear the place where rebuilding can start.
5. Then widen that wisdom and grace to include
the races and viewpoints our families exclude
till peace in each home bears and nurtures the bud
of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.

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The Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Sermon

What a Mess!

Dr. Matt Bates

The Affirmation of Faith No. 887

Affirmation from Romans 8

Leader: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation or distress,
or persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword?

People: No!

**In all things we are more than conquerors
through the One who loved us.
We are sure that neither
death nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Solo

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown
Jim Hill, soloist

Mennicke

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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. 2190

Bring Forth the Kingdom

BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM

1. You are salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain:

- Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the City of God!
2. You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God! ***Refrain***
 3. You are a seed of the Word, O people: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, Grow in the Kingdom of God! ***Refrain***
 4. We are a blest and a pilgrim people: Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: Love is the Kingdom of God! ***Refrain***

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The Benediction

The Postlude

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Paul Manz

Today our organist is Mark Koontz.

The altar flowers this morning are given by Karen Daly Junker and family in memory of her father's birthday and her parent's 60th wedding anniversary.

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.

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.

Scripture

Genesis 29: 15-28

Jacob Marries Laban's Daughters

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹ Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶ Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸ Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Romans 8:26-29

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God's Love in Christ Jesus

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ^[1] who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

The Parable of the Yeast

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

Three Parables

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Announcements

PECAN SALE BEGINS NOW - Please place your order by Sept 1. Halves, medium pieces, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and cinnamon glazed. Still \$12.00 pie bag. To order contact Leah Hundley 804-615-3581 or lchph@gmail.com

ALTAR FLOWERS - There are Sundays available in the upcoming months to enhance our worship with flowers. Please contact Mary E (mevetrovec@aol.com) if you would like to sign up. Available Sundays are:

- August 20 & 27
- September 3 (2 vases) & 24
- October 1 (2 vases), 15, 22 & 29
- November 5 (2 vases) & 12

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

August 1	Noon	AA
August 4	10:30 am Noon	Friday Lunch Program AA
August 6	10:30 am	In person & Live Stream Worship