



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth 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.

Prelude

Meditation

Harvey Grace

Choral Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,

**People: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: Whether we are longtimers or latecomers in the life of faith,

**People: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,

**People: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

All: We praise God's name forever and ever!

Hymn No. 147

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.

1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings. *Refrain*
2. The purple-headed mountains, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky. *Refrain*
3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one. *Refrain*
4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. *Refrain*

Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Generous God, you come to us again and again,
no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives.**

**Calling to us, gathering us in,
you give us your good work to do,
daily bread, and boundless grace.**

**Increase in us a generous spirit
so that we may do your work with joy
alongside others whom you also love.**

**We celebrate your salvation not only in our lives,
but also in the lives of other people,
even those we had not imagined would be included**

**in the kingdom you are bringing.
Align us with your ways and help us receive your gift
of justice and mercy as good news.
In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination


Old Testament Reading

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalter No. 857

Psalm 145:8-21

Ps. 85:7
Adapt. from Leisentritt's *Gesangbuch*



Let us see your kind-ness, Lord; grant us your sal - va-tion.

Response

- 8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 **The Lord is good to all,
his compassion is over all his creation.**
- 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and your faithful ones shall bless you!
- 11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,
- 12 to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Response

- 14 The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.
- 15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
- 16 You open your hand,
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- 17 All the Lord's ways are just,
all the Lord's doings are kind.
- 18 The Lord is near to all who call,
to all who call upon the Lord in truth.
- 19 The Lord fulfills the desire of all the faithful,
and hears their cry and saves them.
- 20 All who love the Lord, the Lord preserves.
All the wicked the Lord destroys.
- 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord;
let all flesh bless God's holy name for ever and ever.

Response

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
2. There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
3. For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
4. If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

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Scripture Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

God's Minimum Wage

Rev. Pat Shipley

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Anthem

Lord, for Thy tender mercies' sake

Farrant

Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer
The Pastoral Prayer

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. 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.

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress

John Leavitt

Please welcome guest preacher Rev. Pat Shipley.

Please welcome guest organist Sharon Freude to our service today. Sharon was the organist/choirmaster at several Richmond churches and was Dean of the Richmond Chapter, American Guild of Organists, from 1997 to 1999. After retiring from St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, she has continued playing organ as a substitute at many Richmond-area churches.

The altar flowers this morning are given by Vic and Nancy Grand in celebration of their 29th anniversary!

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.

Announcements

SMETHIE CIRCLE NEWS - UMW Smethie Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 27, 2023. Join us at 1:00 pm at the home of Leah Hundley. Light lunch provided. Rev. Kathy Talley will be our speaker.

BEING UNITED METHODIST CHRISTIANS - You are invited to join Kathy Talley, Bob Blinn, and Matt Bates in a 6-8 week course to refresh your understanding of the United Methodist version of the Christian faith, or explore this spiritual tradition for the first time. We will offer the course at two different times and in two different formats. The **in-person** format will be from Sunday, Oct. 8 - Nov. 26. We will gather at the church at 9:00am for coffee and fellowship and start our conversation at 9:15am and conclude at 10:15am. The **online** format will begin on Thursday, Oct. 12 - Nov. 30 (excluding Thanksgiving, Nov. 23) at 7:00pm and conclude at 8:00pm.

We invite all people to join us whether long-time Centenary members or those just exploring Centenary as well as people from the larger community who are interested in learning more about Christian faith from a United Methodist perspective. This will be an opportunity not only to learn but to build new relationships and experience the joy of Christian community! To register, please call the church office. 804-648-8319.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR and make plans to join the Staff Parish Relations team in welcoming Carina Brackin, our new Organist/Choir Director, to Centenary on **Sunday, October 8**. We plan to gather in the Fellowship Hall following the service to “meet and greet” Carina and her family and to enjoy light refreshments. This is a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to extend its warm hospitality to Carina and her family!

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2023 - You are invited to attend our Charge Conference this year on Sunday, October 15 at 7 p.m. at Reveille United Methodist Church. We, along with 10 other churches in our cluster, will present reports about where we have seen God working in our congregation in the past year and our hopes and dreams for ministry for 2024. Other items of business will include setting the pastor's compensation for 2024 and electing leaders for 2024.

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK

September 25	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
September 26	Noon	AA
September 27	1:00 pm 7:15 pm	Smethie Circle Choir Rehearsal
September 29	10:30 am Noon	Friday Lunch Program AA
October 1	10:30 am	In person & Online Worship

LOOKING AHEAD

October 8	9:00 am 11:30 am	Being United Methodist Christians Welcome Carina Brackin
October 12	7:00 pm	Being United Methodist Christians
October 15	7:00 pm	Charge Conference at Reveille UMC