



# Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**October 1, 2023**

**World Communion Sunday**

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

**Prelude**

*Prayer for Peace  
Cantabile*

Paul Fey  
Paul Fey

**Choral Introit**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Place your trust in the Lord, for God will provide.

**People: There are times when we are so fearful.**

Leader: Place your trust in the Lord, for God is with you.

**People: There are times when we wonder if we can get past our troubles.**

Leader: Come, place your trust in the Lord, every day, in all your ways.

**People: Lord, we come to you, seeking your healing love and mercy. Amen.**

**Hymn No. 158**

*Come Christians, Join to Sing*

SPANISH HYMN

1. Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!  
loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;  
praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;  
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!
3. Praise yet the Lord again: Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,  
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

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**Opening Prayer**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God of hope and peace,**

**you are with us in all our days and in all our ways.**

**As you walked with the Israelites in the desert, when they had given up hope,  
you came to them with nourishment and your steadfast love.**

**As Jesus walked through Jerusalem, healing the sick and those afflicted,  
your love was made abundantly clear through acts of love and mercy.**

**Be with us this day as we gather to hear your word.**

**Inspire and encourage us in all that we do,**

**that we may serve you faithfully,**

**bringing hope and your message of love to your thirsting world.**

**In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer of Illumination

Psalter page 799 (selected verses)

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16



*Response*

- 1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching:  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
- 2 **I will open my mouth in a parable;**  
**I will utter dark sayings from of old,**
- 3 things that we have heard and known,  
that our forebears have told us.
- 4 **We will not hide them from their children,**  
**but tell to the coming generation**  
**the glorious deeds of the Lord, the might,**  
**and wonders God has wrought.**

*Response*

- 12 **The Lord wrought marvels in the sight of their forebears**  
**in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan,**
- 13 the Lord divided the sea and let them pass through it,  
and made the waters stand like a heap,
- 14 **led them with a cloud in the daytime,**  
**and all the night with a fiery light,**
- 15 cleft rocks in the wilderness,  
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep,
- 16 **made streams come out of the rock,**  
**and caused waters to flow down like rivers.**

*Response*

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

Hymn No. 92

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;

*Refrain:*

- Christ our Lord, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
2. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light; **Refrain**
  3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight; **Refrain**
  4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild; **Refrain**
  5. For thy church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love; **Refrain**

6. For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven: *Refrain*

**Homily**

*One in Christ*

Rev. Robert Blinn

**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.

**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.**

**Offertory Anthem**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*  
© 1941 by G. Schirmer, Inc

Carl F. Mueller

**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:

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert; adapt. by Richard Proulx

6 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
11 power and might. Heav - en and earth are full,  
16 Bless - ed is he who comes in the  
21 of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
name of the Lord.  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Adapt. © 1985 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

*(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.

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert, arr. by Charles H. Webb

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

Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

*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.

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert, arr. by Charles Webb

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

Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

## 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.**

## Giving and Receiving of Communion

### Communion Music

#### Hymn No. 712

*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

GRAND ISLE

1. I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,  
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green;  
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.
2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and his love made them strong;  
and they followed the right for Jesus' sake the whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast;  
and there's not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.
3. They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still.  
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school, on the street, in the store, in church, by the sea, in the house  
next door;  
they are saints of God, whether rich or poor, and I mean to be one too.

### Benediction

### Choral Response

#### Postlude

*Festive Postlude*

Paul Fey

***The altar flowers this morning are given by Marti Hurlburt in honor of all my family.***

***Please welcome guest preacher the Rev. Robert C. "Bob" Blinn.*** Bob has degrees from Emory & Henry College and Vanderbilt University. He is an ordained elder in the Virginia Annual Conference and has pastored churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia. In 2014, he retired from pastoral ministry and developed a home maintenance business in Richmond. Bob is married to the Rev. Kathryn Forest Talley. He has two children and three grandchildren. In his free time, Bob enjoys reading, swimming, and biking.

***Please welcome guest organist Larry Heath to our service today.*** Larry served River Road Presbyterian Church as Director of Music/Organist from 2004-2017. Since then, he served as assistant organist at Grace and Holy Trinity Church, Choir Director/Organist at Ginter Park UMC, and as Interim Musician or substitute in various churches. Larry holds a Master's degree from Westminster Choir College. In the late 1990's he brought the Handbell choirs from 1st Presbyterian in Beaver, PA, to ring a concert at Centenary UMC, particularly memorable as a dove soared over the ringers while they played 'On Eagles' Wings'.

*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 ~ Philippians 2:1-13

### Imitating Christ's Humility

2 If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Shining as Lights in the World

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## *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*

**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. 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.

**REMINDER** – The funeral service for Merle Brown will be held at Centenary on Saturday, October 7 at 2:00 pm. A time to visit will be family in Fellowship Hall will follow the service.

**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*

<b>October 2</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Change the World/RVA
<b>October 3</b>	<b>Noon</b>	AA
<b>October 4</b>	<b>7:15 pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>October 6</b>	<b>10:30 am</b> <b>Noon</b>	Friday Lunch Program AA
<b>October 8</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> <b>11:30 am</b>	Being United Methodist Christians Welcome Carina Brackin
<b>October 12</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Being United Methodist Christians
<b>October 15</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Charge Conference at Reveille UMC