

Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 8, 2023

Nineteenth 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

Aria

Flor Peeters

Choral Introit

The God of Abraham Praise

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to God's house, a place of faith.

People: From our homes, we come seeking God's word.

Leader: Here you will find nourishment and hope.

People: May we learn lessons of courage and peace.

Leader: Here you will find rest from your struggles

People: Lord, prepare our hearts to receive your words

**that we may leave this holy house of faith and return to our homes,
encouraged and challenged to be your people. Amen.**

Hymn No. 368

My Hope Is Built

THE SOLID ROCK

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

- On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.
2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. **Refrain**
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. **Refrain**
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! **Refrain**

Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Lord, from the mountaintop in ancient Israel,
you gave your people ways in which to live
in harmony with all creation.**

**As time has progressed the power of those words
seems to have faded in our lives
and we often succumb to base temptations
of power and greed.**

**Bring us back to your words of compassion and hope,
offered to all creation by your Son Jesus.**

**Open our hearts to receive your love
and your direction in our lives. Amen.**

Announcements

Children's Time

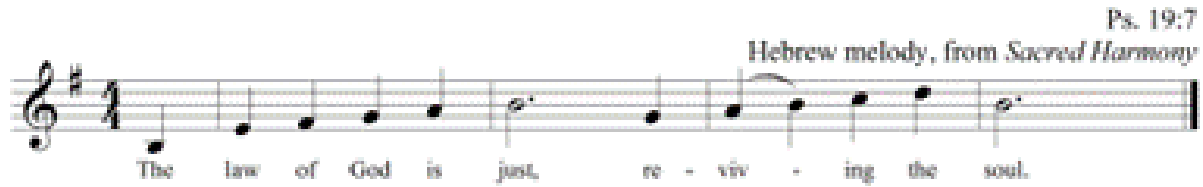
Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalter No. 750

Psalm 19



- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
- 2 **Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
- 4 **yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**
In them God has set a tent for the sun,
- 5 which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and runs its course with joy like a strong man.
- 6 **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and there is nothing hid from its heat.**

Response

- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
**the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;**
- 8 the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
**the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;**
- 9 the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring for ever;
**the ordinances of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.**
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
**sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Response

- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 **But who can understand one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**
- 13 Also keep your servant from the insolent;
let them not have dominion over me!
**Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

- 14 **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

Response

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Hymn No. 2213

Healer of Our Every Ill

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

Refrain

Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

1. You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. **Refrain**
2. In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. **Refrain**
3. Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. **Refrain**
4. You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. **Refrain**

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Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon

Letting Go

Dr. Matt Bates

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.**

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Anthem

The Heavens Are Telling

Beethoven
arr. Virgil Thompson

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. 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 always.
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.

Benediction

Choral Response

The God of Abraham Praise

Postlude

Toccata in G Major

Theodore Dubois

*The altar flowers this morning are given in memory of John B. Mingus
by Barrett Brown and the family of John B. Mingus.*

*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

WELCOME CARINA BRACKIN, NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST – We are thrilled to welcome Carina, her husband T.J. and daughter Norah to the Centenary community. Carina brings a wealth of experience to our music ministry! Please join us following the service for light refreshments and the opportunity to meet Carina and her family.

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES - *One Night Only!!!* Friday, October 20th at 7:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. **ADMISSION FREE!** In celebration of the end of Summer, Theatre on the Mount, everyone's favorite performing arts ministry, is proud to present the Oscar Winning Classic...*Field Of Dreams*. The feature will be preceded by a famous Bugs Bunny Baseball cartoon! Popcorn, soda and special treats will be provided. Come join your church family for a night of baseball and family fun...and some interesting facts you probably didn't know about the film!

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2023 - You are invited to attend our Charge Conference this year on Sunday, October 15 at 7 p.m. at Reville UMC. We 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.

BEING UNITED METHODIST CHRISTIANS - You are invited to join us to refresh your understanding of the United Methodist version of the Christian faith, or explore this spiritual tradition for the first time. We offer the course at two different times and in two different formats. The **in-person** format started today and runs through Nov. 26. Feel free to join us next week! The **online** format run Thursday, Oct.12 - Nov. 30 (excluding Thanksgiving) at 7:00pm and conclude at 8:00pm. To register, please call the church office. 804-648-8319.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY –We are back on **Wednesday, October 11 at 10:00 am!** Each week we will look at the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. An email is sent out every Tuesday with the Zoom link and all the details. If you would like to join us, contact the church office to be put on the email list.

Upcoming Events

October 9	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
October 10	Noon	AA
October 11	10:00 am 7:15 pm	Bible Study on Zoom Choir Rehearsal
October 12	7:00 pm	Being United Methodist Christians
October 13	10:30 am Noon	Friday Lunch Program AA
October 15	9:00 am 10:30 am 7:00 pm	Being United Methodist Christians In person & Online Worship Charge Conference at Reville UMC