



# Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**October 29, 2023**

**Twenty-second 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**

*A Mighty Fortress*

Charles Ore

**Choral Introit**

*O Church of God, United*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Our hearts are lifted up toward God.

**People: God created all that is!**

Leader: We celebrate that great love of God.

**People: God gifted us with God's only son, Jesus the Christ.**

Leader: Rejoice and be glad today!

**People: Our hearts and spirits praise God for all God's blessings. Amen.**

**Hymn No. 453**

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

MORE LOVE TO THEE

1. More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!  
Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee, more love to thee!
2. Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;  
now thee alone I seek, give what is best.  
This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee, more love to thee!
3. Let sorrow do its work, come grief and pain;  
sweet are thy messengers, sweet their refrain,  
when they can sing with me: More love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee, more love to thee!
4. Then shall my latest breath whisper thy praise;  
this be the parting cry my heart shall raise;  
this still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee, more love to thee!

**Opening Prayer**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Lord of light and hope,  
be with us this day**

**as we have gathered to hear your word.**

**Help us open our hearts to the commandments to love,  
even when loving is difficult.**

**Give us the courage to be people**

**who will commit their whole lives in your service.**

**For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

**Announcements**

## Children's Time

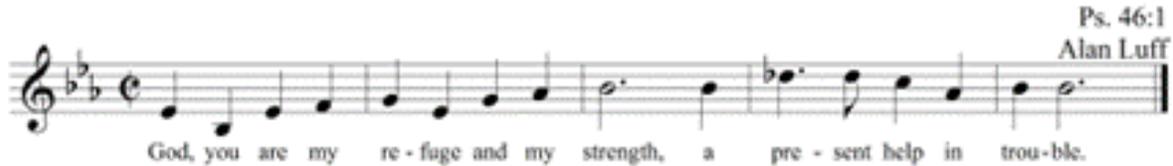
### Prayer for Illumination

### Old Testament Reading

[Deuteronomy 34:1-12](#)

### Psalter

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17



#### *Response*

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.
- 2 **Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- 3 You turn us back to the dust,  
and say, "Turn back, O mortal ones!"
- 4 **For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night.**
- 5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass which is renewed in the morning:
- 6 **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.**

#### *Response*

- 13 Return, O Lord! How long?  
Have pity on your servants!
- 14 **Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**
- 15 Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil.
- 16 **Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.**
- 17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and establish the work of our hands;  
**yes, establish the work of our hands.**

#### *Response*

### Epistle Reading

[1 Thessalonians 2:1-8](#)

### Hymn No. 170

*O How I Love Jesus*

O HOW I LOVE JESUS

1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;  
it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

#### *Refrain:*

- O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!
2. It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free;  
it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. *Refrain*
  3. It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;  
who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below. *Refrain*

**Gospel Reading**

[Matthew 22:34-46](#)

**Sermon**

*Maybe It's Not so Complicated*

Dr. Matt Bates

**Offertory Prayer**

**Offertory Anthem**

*The Gift of Love*

Hal Hopson

**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. 110**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.
4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever.

**Benediction**

**Choral Response**

*O Church of God, United*

**Postlude**

*Toccatina and Fugue in D minor, BWV 538*

J. S. Bach

*The altar flowers this morning are given in memory of my father, Herman Daly, by Karen Daly Junker*

*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*

**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 is on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am now through Nov. 26. The **online** format is on Thursday evenings now through Nov. 30 (excluding Thanksgiving) at 7:00 pm. A Zoom link is sent out weekly. Feel free to drop in when you can!

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** –Wednesdays at 10:00am. 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*

<b>October 30</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Change the World/RVA
<b>October 31</b>	<b>Noon</b>	AA
<b>November 1</b>	<b>10:00 am</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	Bible Study – Zoom Choir Rehearsal
<b>November 2</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Being United Methodist Christians - Zoom
<b>November 3</b>	<b>10:30 am</b> <b>Noon</b>	Friday Lunch Program AA
<b>November 6</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b>	Being United Methodist Christians In person & Online Worship