



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 19, 2023

Twenty-fifth 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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

J.S. Bach

Choral Introit

Take My Life

Call to Worship

Leader: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

People: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.

Leader: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

People: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.

Leader: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

People: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. Amen.

Hymn No. 660

God is Here

ABBOT'S LEIGH

- 1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.
3. Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

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Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it.

You blessed each element of creation with your love.

You called us from slavery into witness and service.

Be with us this day as we gather to worship.

Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you.

Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in.

Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love

as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service.

For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter

Psalm 123

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
- 2 **As the eyes of servants**
Look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he has mercy upon us.
- 3 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt
- 4 **Our soul has had more than its fill**
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

Epistle Reading

[1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#)

Hymn No. 2214

Lead Me, Guide Me

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

Refrain:

Lead me, guide me along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness they face to see, lead me, O Lord, lead me. **Refrain**
2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **Refrain**
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without the Light to see,
Lord just always let me thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **Refrain**

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Gospel Reading

[Matthew 25:14-30](#)

Sermon

The Courage to Risk It All

Dr. Matt Bates

Affirmation of Faith No. 886

The World Methodist Social Affirmation

Leader: We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people;
and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us,
who died and rose again;
and in the Holy Spirit,
present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

People: We believe; God, help our unbelief.

Leader: We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:
in the upholding of human dignity and community;
in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;
in the abundance of God's gifts
entrusted to us that all may have enough;
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

People: Glory be to God on high; and on earth, peace.

Leader: We confess our sin, individual and collective,
by silence or by action:
through the violation of human dignity
based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith;
through the exploitation of people
because of greed and indifference;
through the misuse of power
in personal, communal, national, and international life;
through the search for security
by those military and economic forces
that threaten human existence;
through the abuse of technology
which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

People: Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.

Leader: We commit ourselves individually and as a community
to the way of Christ:
to take up the cross;
to seek abundant life for all humanity
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love,
praying that God's kingdom may come.

People: Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Anthem

Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing

Gordon Young

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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. 79

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

GROSSER GOTT

1. Holy God, we praise Your name; Lord of all, we bow before You.
Saints on earth Your scepter claim; all in heav'n above adore You.
Infinite, Your vast domain; everlasting is Your 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 Your 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 You,
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 morn.
6. Thou didst take the string 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 art 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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Benediction

Choral Response

Take My Life

Postlude

Toccata in 7

John Ritter

The altar flowers this morning are given in memory of mother, Catherine Ann Minnich by Todd Minnich.

*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

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - It is Centenary's tradition at Christmas to express honor and remembrance by donating poinsettias. The plants will be in the sanctuary for December 24 and 31. They will be available for pick up after the 8:30 pm worship on December 24. Order forms are available at the back of the sanctuary and downstairs by the kitchen bulletin board. You may also order [online](#).

CENTENARY FAMILY CHRISTMAS LUNCH – Join us December 10 following the Advent Lessons and Carols service. Ham and biscuits will be provided. Please bring your favorite holiday side to share.

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

November 20	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
November 21	Noon	AA
November 22	10:00 am	Bible Study – Zoom
November 23 & 24	<i>Office Closed ~ Happy Thanksgiving!</i>	
November 26	9:00 am	Being United Methodist Christians
	10:30 am	Worship - In person & Online
November 30	7:00 pm	Being United Methodist Christians – Zoom