



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 10, 2023

Advent Lessons and Carols

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

Prelude

He Shall Feed His Flock

G. F. Handel

Martin Responsory

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Cantor – Taylor Jarrell Tenor – Todd Minnich
Soprano – Emily Downey Alto – Kate Hundley

Cantor: I look from afar:
Tenor: and lo, I see the power of God coming,
 and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Cantor: Go Ye out to meet him and say:
Choir: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign
 over thy people Israel?
Soprano: High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
Choir: Go ye out to meet him say:
Alto: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel,
 thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
Choir: Tell us, art thou he that should come?
Women: Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come
Choir: to reign over thy people Israel.
Cantor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Choir: I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,
 and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Men: Go ye out to meet him and say:
Choir: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign

Hymn No. 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

- Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.
2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and ordered all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in its ways to go. **Refrain**
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**
 4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. **Refrain**
 5. O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery. **Refrain**
 6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**
 7. O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one the hearts and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. **Refrain**

Greetings

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way.
May the Word sent from God through the prophets
lead us to the way of salvation.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas,
let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.
Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture,
how the prophets of Israel foretold
that God would visit and redeem the waiting people.
Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.
Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
will bring all peoples and all things
into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.
The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up,
and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves,
for those who have not heard the good news of God,
or who do not believe it;
for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death;
and for the Church in this place and everywhere,
that it may be freed from all evil and fear,
and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.
These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God,
in the words that Christ himself taught us.

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.**

First Lesson ~ Isaiah 40:1 –8

To God's people in exile in a faraway land,
the prophet Isaiah announces good news:
God is coming back, and bringing the exiles home!

Doug Wilson

Choral Anthem

Comfort Comfort Ye My People

Claude Goudimel

Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

Second Lesson ` Jeremiah 23:5 –6

Karen Daly Junker

The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch, a just king who is yet to come.

Hymn No. 203

Hail to The Lord's Anointed

ELLACOMBE

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.
4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

Choral Anthem

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green;
the trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil - here I will sit and rest awhile,
under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Third Lesson ~ Zechariah 9:9 –10

George Thrower

To a nation grown weary of war and weapons, God promises a king who will establish a reign of peace.

Hymn No. 196*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Choral Anthem*Rejoice in the Lord Alway*

Anonymous

Rejoice in the Lord alway,
and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men:
the Lord is at hand.
Be careful for nothing:
but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God,
which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Fourth Lesson ~ Haggai 2:6 –9

Jan Nelson

The prophet Haggai promises to God's people a temple even more glorious than the temple of old.

Hymn No. 213*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!
2. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
3. Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.
4. Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!

Choral Anthem*The Truth Sent From Above*
Lynn LaBarre & Emily Downey, soloists

Ralph Vaughn Williams

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love,
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year
Our blest redeemer did appear;
He here did live and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

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Fifth Lesson ~ Isaiah 35:1 –6

Robb Stottlemeyer

The prophet Isaiah announces the renewal both of the land and of God's people
on the coming day of redemption.

Hymn No. 216

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as those of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright, Amid the cold of winter, when half-gone was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-gone was the night.
3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us and share our every load

Sixth Lesson ~ Luke 1:26 –35, 38

Izzy Spiers

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler
whose reign shall never end.

Hymn No. 198

My Soul Gives Glory

MORNING SONG

1. My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.
2. My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is this name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.
3. From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.
4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

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Choral Anthem

Angelus ad Virginem

arr. David Willcocks

Emily Downey, soloist

Gabriel to Mary came,
And entered at her dwelling,
With his salutation glad,
Her maiden fears dispelling
'All hail, thou queen of virgins bright!
God, Lord of earth and heaven's height,
Thy very Son Shall soon be born in pureness,
The Saviour of mankind.
Thou art the gate of heaven bright,
The sinners' healer kind.'

'How could I a mother be
That am to man a stranger?
How should I my strong resolve,
My solemn vows endanger?'

'Pow'r from the Holy Ghost on high
Shall bring to pass this mystery.

Then have no fear: Be of good cheer, Believing
That still thy chastity
In God's Almighty keeping
Shall all unsullied be.'

Then to him the maid replied,
With noble mien supernal
'Lo! the humble handmaid I
Of God the Lord eternal
With thee, bright messenger of heav'n,
By whom this wondrous news is giv'n,
I well agree And long to see Fulfilled
Thy gracious prophecy.
As God my Lord doth will it,
So be it unto me!"

Hail! thou Mother of the Lord,
Who bring'st of gifts the rarest,
Peace to angels and to men
When Christ the Lord thou barest!
Do thou, we pray, entreat thy Son
For us our long'd redemption
Himself to win And from our sin Release us;
His succor for to give
That, when we hence are taken
We too in heav'n may live.

Seventh Lesson ~ Mark 1:1–15

Rev. Matt Bates

Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.

Hymn No. 2089

Wild and Lone, The Prophet's Voice

LA GRANGE

1. Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sin you prized, yield your life to God's control.
2. "Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store."
3. With such preaching stark and bold John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John - to behold the Lamb of God.

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Offertory Prayer

Offertory Anthem

Prepare the way, O Zion

Lau

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is Drawing Near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace freedom, justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, o Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name. Prepare!

Collect

Hymn No. 718

Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.
3. The dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee, high on thy eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Everlasting God, come down!

Dismissal With Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Vesper Responsory

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Cantor – Taylor Jarrell

Cantor: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed.
Choir: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.
Cantor: Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
Choir: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.
Cantor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Choir: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.

Postlude

Veni Emmanuel

Andrew Carter

Acolyte: John Thrower

*The altar flowers this morning are given in memory of Lida & Bill Brock and Mae & Johnny
Dangerfield by Bill & Vikki Brock.*

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.*

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 Dec. 24 and 31. They will be available for pick up after worship on Dec. 31. Order forms are available at the back of the sanctuary and downstairs by the kitchen bulletin board. You may also order online. See the newsletter for the link.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR MCGUIRE HOSPITAL. We will once again send Christmas greetings to our military veterans at McGuire Hospital this year. There will be a box located at the entrance to the Sanctuary for your cards. Deadline to contribute cards is December 17. Please address the envelopes with: To a Veteran, To a Hero, To a Brave Person, etc. Inside the card, please thank them for their service to our country, their devotion to freedom, their sacrifice, admiration for their service, etc. Please sign your card. Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge these women and men after all they have done in service to our country.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING – As our tradition, our Christmas Eve offering will go to United Methodist Family Services. UMFS is an unwavering champion for high-risk children and families in Virginia. UMFS serves children in foster care and children struggling with mental health and behavioral challenges. They provide foster care and adoption programs, specialized education schools, and mental health programs. Your support of UMFS through this offering will help high-risk children achieve a brighter future. Thank you for supporting this transformative ministry.

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

December 11	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
December 12	Noon	AA
December 13	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Bible Study – Zoom Choir Rehearsal
December 15	10:30 am Noon	Friday Lunch Program AA
December 17	10:30 am	In person & Online Worship