



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

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

Prelude

What Child is This

arr. Guaraldi

Call to Worship

Leader: We have welcomed the Christ child
and declared the glory of God's salvation
that comes to live among us.

And yet, still, we wait.

People: We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Leader: We prepare to welcome a new year,
thankful for how God has brought us through the past year
and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

People: We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Leader: We join generations of Simeons and Annas
who learned and taught us how to listen, notice,
and discern divine love at work in the world.

People: We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Leader: Come, let us worship God,
whose love endures from generation to generation,
guiding us from one year to the next.

**People: Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation
of God's kingdom on earth as it is heaven. Amen.**

Hymn No. 224

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News, news!
Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news!
Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door,
and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: News, news!
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God of stars and angels, God of sheep and lambs, God of abundance and grace:
You know us well, better than we know ourselves.**

You hear us cry “Gloria!” and “Praise!”
And you watch us tear things apart
with our words and deeds.
You hear us say “Thy will be done” and “Use me, O God”
And you watch us do nothing in response to cries for help.
You know us, and you love us, and you forgive.
Hear us now say, “Help us to change; turn us around,
Make us more loving and courageous and hopeful.”
This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Announcements

Children’s Time

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter

Psalm 148

- 1 Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise the Lord, in the heights!
- 2 **Praise the Lord, all his angels,
praise the Lord, all his hosts!**
- 3 Praise the Lord, sun and moon,
praise the Lord, all shining stars!
- 4 **Praise the Lord, highest heavens,
and all waters above the heavens!**
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded and they were created,
- 6 **who established them for ever and ever,
and fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.**
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
sea monsters and all deeps,
- 8 **fire and hail, snow and smoke,
stormy winds fulfilling God’s command!**
- 9 Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
- 10 **Beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
- 12 **Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!**
- 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name alone is exalted,
whose glory is above earth and heaven.
- 14 **God has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful ones,
for the people of Israel who are near their God.
Praise the Lord!**

Epistle Reading

[Colossians 3:12-17](#)

Hymn No. 2093*The Snow Lay on the Ground*

VENITE ADOREMUS

1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum.* Venite adoremus Dominum.

Refrain:

Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

2. 'Twas Mary, daughter pure of holy Anne,
that brought into this world the God made man.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;
the ass and oxen shared the roof with them. **Refrain**
3. And thus that manger poor became a throne;
for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host;
to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Refrain**

* *Venite adoremus Dominum = Veh-nee-the ah-doe-reh-moos Doe-mee-noom***Gospel Reading**[Luke 2:41-52](#)**Sermon***Clothe Our Hearts*

Izzy Spiers

Offertory Prayer**Offertory Music***Angels We Have Heard On High*

arr. Covington

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.****Hymn No. 219***What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. **Refrain**

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain*

Benediction

Postlude

Skating

Guaraldi

*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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY –We are taking a break over the holidays. We will be back on January 10 and look forward to seeing you then!

2024 ALTAR FLOWERS - It's that time of year again, the 2024 weekly altar flower calendar is being set up. Time to choose that special date to honor or remember friends and family or recognize a special event. You may sign up in any of the following ways:

1. Select a date from the list placed by the bulletin board across from the kitchen.
2. Request a date using our online form. You will be contacted to confirm the date.
3. Call the church office and chose your date the "old fashioned way" in person.

You may select any date that is open. First come is first served. Cost is \$44.00 for the first Sunday Communion Sunday (2 arrangements). \$22.00 for all other Sundays. (1 arrangement)

ILLNESS, SUFFERING, DEATH, AND MEANING – Join us for a six week course that will draw upon the Health Humanities to help us wrestle with those challenges. The course will be led Rev. Barry Penn Hollar and begin with a lunch after worship on January 7. It will then meet at 9:00am each Sunday thereafter concluding on Sunday, February 11. Please see the newsletter for more detailed information. Contact the church office to register for the course, or for the lunch where you can find out more.

Upcoming Events

January 1	Office Closed – Happy New Year	
January 2	Noon	AA
January 2	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
January 5	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
	Noon	AA
January 7	10:30 am	Worship - In person & Online
	11:30 am	Illness, Suffering, Death and Meaning Lunch