



# Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**January 7, 2024**

**Baptism of the Lord**

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

**Prelude**

*Christ Our Lord Came to the Jordan*

J. S. Bach

**Choral Introit**

*This Is The Spirits' Entry Now*

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**Call to Worship**

Leader: In the beginning, God...

**People: Swept over waters, spoke light into existence,  
created day and night and called it good.**

Leader: As the days and nights of creation filled with life, God...

**People: Made humanity out of the dirt to love and tend creation,  
to be loved and tended by God.**

Leader: As we lost our way, God...

**People: Sent Jesus, Love Incarnate, to show us the way back.**

Leader: On the day Jesus came to the banks of the Jordan River  
to be baptized, God...

**People: Declared, "You are my Son, the Beloved;  
with you I am well pleased."**

Leader: Let us, then, follow Jesus into the waters,  
remembering our baptism in which God...

**People: Claims us as beloved children, the family of God.**

**Hymn No. 252**

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

COMPLAINER

1. When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,  
he did not come for pardon but as the sinless one.  
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,  
to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.
2. He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,  
for us and our salvation to die upon the cross.  
So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,  
the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.
3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;  
this very day invade us, and every bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:  
to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

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**Opening Prayer**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Holy God, Eternal Spirit, we thank you for baptizing us  
into one body in Jesus the Christ.**

Wash over us with your Spirit,  
that, like Jesus, we may serve you in serving humanity.  
Baptize us with the fire of your truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Announcements

## Children's Time

## Prayer of Illumination

## Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

## Hymn No. 2247

*Wonder of Wonders*

PENTECOST

1. Wonder of wonders, here revealed; God's covenant with us is sealed.  
And long before we know or pray, God's love enfolds us every day.
2. Here in this sacrament we see God's grace unbound, for all, for me!  
May we respond with joyful praise in loving service all our days.
3. This child of God, though young or old, we welcome now into Christ's fold,  
to know with us God's loving care; here all our joys and sorrows share.
4. Now we our vow of faith renew, stretch wide our sights to global view,  
and claim with Christians far and near a larger family held dear.

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## Homily

*Who You Really Are*

Dr. Matt Bates

## Service of Confirmation and Reception into Membership

UMH p. 33

## Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## Confession and Pardon (in unison)

**Merciful God,**  
**we confess that we have not loved you with**  
**our whole heart.**  
**We have failed to be an obedient church.**  
**We have not done your will,**  
**we have broken your law,**  
**we have rebelled against your love,**  
**we have not loved our neighbors,**  
**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**  
**Forgive us, we pray.**  
**Free us for joyful obedience,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*All pray in silence.*

Leader: Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love towards us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:*

And so, with your people on earth  
and with all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
5  
8 ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.  
12 Heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.  
16 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

*The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:*

And so,  
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

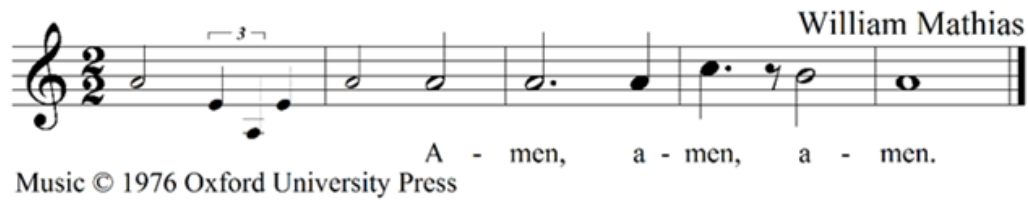
William Mathias

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a-gain!

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:*

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.



### 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.**

### Giving and Receiving of Communion

#### Communion Music

#### Hymn No. 604

*Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God*

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

1. Praise and thanksgiving be to God our maker,  
source of all blessings, prodigal creator.  
Baptized and made your own, now we come before you, and we adore you.
2. Not our own holiness, nor that we have striven  
brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have given.  
Baptized and set apart, strengthen us, O Savior, with grace and favor.
3. Come, Holy Spirit, come in visitation;  
you are the truth, our hope, and our salvation.  
Baptize with joy and pow'r, give, O Dove descending, life never ending.
4. Praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
one Lord, one faith, one source of ev'ry merit.  
Here now renew your church through this symbol given; grand peace from heaven.

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#### Benediction

#### Choral Response

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#### Postlude

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

Dietrich Buxtehude

*The altar flowers this morning are given in celebration of Rex's birthday by Mary Anne Dazey.*

***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.*

## **Scriptures**

### **Genesis 1:1-4**

#### **Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath**

1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### **Mark 1:4-11**

<sup>4</sup> so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

#### **The Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

## ***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 back on Wednesday, January 10. An email with more information and the Zoom link is sent out every Tuesday. If you would like to join us, contact the church office for the details and to be put on the email list.

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER** - With so many people in the world in danger of starvation, it is incumbent on all of us to do everything in our power to help to elevate this problem. In the past Centenary has participated in the Rise Against Hunger program by coming together to package meals for shipment to countries where hunger is a huge problem. We have packaged over 120,000 meals and on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> we will add 10,152 meals to that total. This event has always been a popular and exciting time to get together with friends and families for a worthwhile cause and can be done by people of any age or physical condition.

The actual packaging begins at 10:00 but we ask that everyone arrive by 9:30 for instructions and assignments and to help in setting up. We need about 50 people for 2 hours to accomplish our goal so invite family, neighbors and friends to come together for this opportunity to serve others. See you on the 20<sup>th</sup>!

**2024 ALTAR FLOWERS** - It's that time of year again, the 2024 weekly altar flower calendar is being set up. Cost: \$44/first Sunday and \$22 other Sundays. 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 Mary E Vetovec at 804-615-8175 and chose your date the "old fashioned way" in person.

**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 begins today with a lunch after worship. It will then meet at 9:00am each Sunday thereafter concluding on Sunday, February 11. Please see the newsletter for more detailed information

## *Upcoming Events*

<b>January 8</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Change the World/RVA
<b>January 8</b>	<b>Noon</b>	AA
<b>January 10</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Zoom Bible Study
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal

<b>January 12</b>	<b>10:30 am</b> <b>Noon</b>	Friday Lunch Program AA
<b>January 14</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b>	Illness, Suffering, Death and Meaning Worship – In person and online
<b>January 22</b>		Rise Against Hunger