

Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

Prelude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Paul Manz

Choral Introit

Open My Eyes

Call to Worship

Leader: Come joyfully before the Lord!

People: God knows us and loves us!

Leader: Come prayerfully before the Lord!

People: God sees our concerns, our fears, our sins!

Leader: Come hopefully before the Lord!

**People: Christ proclaimed God's love and forgiveness
for all God's people!**

Leader: Know throughout all of your being,
that God absolutely loves you!

**People: How precious and powerful that knowledge is!
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Hymn No. 400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Lord, somewhere long ago, someone convinced us
that we would not be good material for God to use
in healing and helping ministries for this world.
We don't really believe that we have anything
worthwhile to offer.
It is relatively easy for us to donate funds
for missions and the good works of the church,
but we do not see ourselves worthy of further involvement.**

Remind us of your forgiving love,
 when we stubbornly refuse to believe
 your claim on our lives.
 Open our eyes and spirits to see
 the gifts with which you have blessed us,
 and to commit those gifts to serving you
 by serving others.
 There are so many things that we can do.
 And everything starts with prayer.
 So, patient God, bear with us as we settle down to pray,
 asking for your wisdom in our lives.
 Give us courage and strength
 to accomplish any task that you set before us.
 And give us hearts of grateful love
 to acknowledge your presence in our lives
 and live that presence with great joy.
 In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

From the very beginning, God has blessed you and planted within your spirit the words "I can do all things through God who strengthens me". Do not fear the task God sets before you. Rejoice, for God is with you every moment and God's love washes over you always, healing and nourishing your life. Amen.

Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading

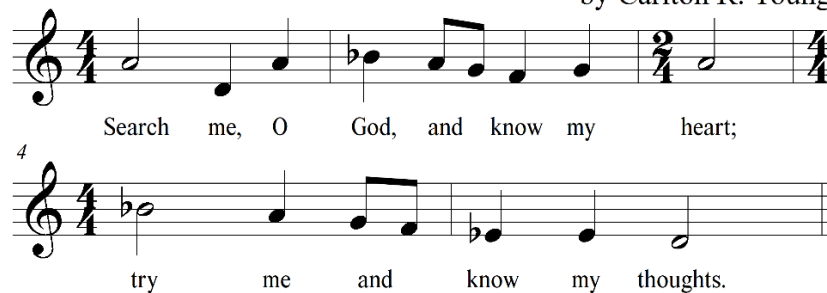
I Samuel 3:1-20

Psalter

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

Ps. 139:23

Adapt. from Martin Luther
 by Carlton R. Young



Response

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
- 2 **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;**
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You searched out my path and my lying down,
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 **Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord,**
you know it altogether.

- 5 You pursue me behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- 6 **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high, I cannot attain it.**

Response

- 13 For it was you who formed my inward parts,
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you, for you are fearful and wonderful.
Wonderful are your works!
You know me very well;
- 15 **my frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.**
- 16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;
**in your book were written
the days that were formed for me,
every day, before they came into being.**
- 17 How profound to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 **If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
When I awake, I am still with you.**

Response

Hymn No. 593

Here I Am, Lord

HERE, I AM LORD

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

- Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, If You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? **Refrain**
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? **Refrain**

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Gospel Reading

John 1:43-51

Sermon

Hearing God in the Noise

Dr. Matt Bates

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

James Gillette

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. 519

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

- 1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.
- 2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
- 3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Benediction

Choral Response

Open My Eyes

Postlude

Sonata No. 2, 2nd movement Allegro maestoso e vivace

Felix Mendelssohn

The altar flowers this morning are given in memory of my dad, E. Marvin Sprecher by Sharon Steele.

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

I Samuel 3:1-20

Samuel's Calling and Prophetic Activity

³ Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵ and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶ The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³ For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵ Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷ Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹ As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

John 1:43-51

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw

Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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! 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 - Centenary has participated in the Rise Against Hunger program by coming together to package meals!. We have packaged over 120,000 meals and on Saturday, January 20th we will add 10,152 meals to that total. This event is a popular and exciting time to get together with friends and families and can be done by people of any age or physical condition. The 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 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 20th!

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 the church office and chose your date the "old fashioned way" in person.

ILLNESS, SUFFERING, DEATH, AND MEANING – Join us for a this course that will draw upon the Health Humanities to help us wrestle with those challenges. The course will be led Rev. Barry Penn Hollar. We meet at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall, concluding on Sunday, February 11. Please see the newsletter for more detailed information

Upcoming Events

January 15	<i>Office Closed/MLK Jr. Day</i>	
January 16	Noon	AA
January 17	10:00 am	Zoom Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
January 19	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
	Noon	AA
January 14	9:00 am	Illness, Suffering, Death and Meaning
	10:30 am	Worship – In person and online
January 20	9:30 am	Rise Against Hunger