



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 28, 2024

Fourth 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

Prayer

Tate Pumfrey

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Choral Introit

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Call to Worship

Leader: From the pillar of fire and cloud of smoke, God led the people.

People: Praise be to God!

Leader: Through the voices of the prophet, God proclaimed the way to live.

People: Praise be to God!

Leader: Through the power and witness of Jesus Christ, God offered us new life.

People: Thanks be to God who has showered us with blessing upon blessing! Amen.

Hymn No. 173

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
3. Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Open our hearts and spirits this day to hear the great good news
of your power and presence with all your people.**

Fill our hearts with rejoicing

as the words are proclaimed in song and story.

Enliven us and remind us that you are with us,

through the pillar of fire, through the magnificent words of the prophets,

through the ministry and love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

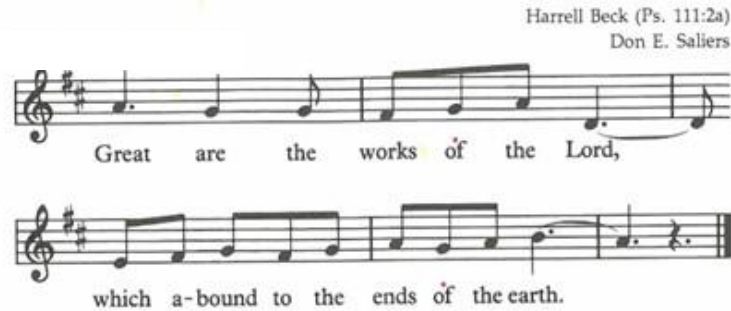
Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Deuteronomy 18:15-20](#)

**Response**

- 1 Praise the Lord.
**I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**
- 2 Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who have pleasure in them.
- 3 **Full of honor and majesty are the works of the Lord
whose righteousness endures forever,**
- 4 who has caused his wonderful works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.
- 5 **The Lord provides food for the faithful
and is ever mindful of his covenant.**

Response

- 6 The Lord has shown his people the power of his works
by giving them the heritage of the nations.
- 7 **The works of the Lord's hands are faithful and just;
the precepts of the Lord are trustworthy;**
- 8 **they are established for ever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**
- 9 The Lord sent redemption to his people
and has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and wondrous is God's name!
- 10 **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
The praise of the Lord endures forever.**

Hymn No. 451*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night.
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Gospel Reading

[Mark 1:21-28](#)

Sermon

See the Gifts!

Dr. Matt Bates

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Anthem

Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me Out
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Healey Willan

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. 2001

We Sing to You

DARWALL'S 148th

1. We sing to You O God, the Rock who gave us birth,
let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth.
To You O God let songs be raised, in joyful hymns our feast of praise
2. We wandered far from home out in a desert land,
you shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band.
You kept us safe within your arms and sheltered us against the storm.
3. You bear us through the world, an eagle to her young,
who rises on her wings and bears us toward the sun.
We ride the vaults of light and air and trust in your unfailing care
4. O God eternal God, we hide within your wings,
the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.
Your Word is true, your way is just, you are the God in whom we trust.

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Benediction

Choral Response

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Postlude

Variations on a Norwegian Folk Song
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Bjarne Sløgedal

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

THE COTTON PATCH GOSPEL - Imagine Jesus born in the 1940's in Gainesville, Georgia, when Herod was Governor in Atlanta. The Good Samaritan is a Black truck driver, the Apostles are a bluegrass quartet, and John the Baptist is a hellfire and brimstone revival preacher.

That's the setting for Tom Key and Russell Trez' stage adaptation of radical preacher and New Testament scholar Clarence Jordan's *Cotton Patch Gospels*, with music by the late Harry Chapin (*Cats in the Cradle*). Starting February 18, and led by Rev. Brooke Willson, we will meet at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall for each of the seven Sundays of Lent. We'll view a portion of the stage production of the musical, and then talk about how it helps us hear the old, old story in new, new ways.

Brooke Willson is retired United Methodist clergy who got to play banjo and sing in a production of *Cotton Patch* a few years ago. He has since traded his banjo and preaching robe for carpentry tools and a bassoon.

HYMN SING AND POTLUCK - Our worship service on February 11 will be a time of singing some of our favorite hymns along with some old hymns some folks grew up on but have perhaps been forgotten. A potluck will follow worship. Here's how Mary E. Vetrovec, our Gathering Team chair has described this day which builds on our Centenary Connects theme for the year:

Question: How do I become a Methodist?

Answer: Easy - Believe in Jesus Christ and own a 9 X 12 casserole dish

Join mid-winter fun! Let's celebrate nostalgia with an old-fashioned hymn sing followed by a meal in the church fellowship hall. Think "All Hail the Power..." with casseroles and Jell-O salads! Bring your favorite casserole, main dish, salad, or dessert to share. Family recipes are welcomed. Index cards are available to list your favorite hymns. Also, please include what potluck dish you would like to bring to share. (casserole, salad/side, or dessert)

ILLNESS, SUFFERING, DEATH, AND MEANING – Join us for this course that draws upon the Health Humanities to help us wrestle with those challenges. The course will be led by 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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – Join us on Zoom at 10:00am. 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.

Upcoming Events

January 29	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
January 30	Noon	AA
January 31	10:00 am	Zoom Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
February 2	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
	Noon	AA
February 4	9:00 am	Illness, Suffering, Death and Meaning
	10:30 am	Worship – In person and online