



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 4, 2024

Fifth 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

*Adoration
Public Domain*

Florence Price

Choral Introit

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, rejoice and sing!

God's love is showered over you this day.

People: We gather to praise God

and celebrate God's presence with us.

Leader: God shows compassion to all who are weak and downtrodden.

People: Jesus Christ offers healing mercies to our troubled souls.

Leader: Praise be to God who has called us here.

People: Thanks be to God for God's eternal love. Amen.

Hymn No. 267

O Love, How Deep

DEO GRACIAS

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high, it fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake!
2. For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore,
for us temptation sharp he knew; for us the tempter overthrew.
3. For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his daily works he wrought;
by words and signs and actions thus still seeking not himself, but us.
4. For us to evil power betrayed, scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death, for us gave up his dying breath.
5. For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here, to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
6. All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore, forever and forevermore.

Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Powerful God,

from the very beginning you blessed creation.

You have loved and shielded your people

through all the joys and trials of life.

We come to you this day,

rejoicing in the many blessings you have given to us.

We open our hearts again to hear your word for us

and to gather strength and joy for service in your world.

Be with us and bless us again, we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalter

Psalter Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Charles Wesley
Robert Williams



Praise the Lord who reigns a - bove: Al - le - lu - ia!

Response

- 1 Praise the Lord!
For it is good to sing praises to our God;
a song of praise is fitting.
- 2 **The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
and gathers the outcasts of Israel.**
- 3 The Lord heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 **The Lord determines the number of the stars,
and give to all of them their names.**
- 5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power,
whose understanding is beyond measure.
- 6 **The Lord lifts up the downtrodden,
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Response

- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody upon the lyre to our God
- 8 who covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow upon the hills.
- 9 **The Lord gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.**
- 10 The Lord takes no delight in the might of a horse
nor pleasure in the strength of a runner,
- 11 **but the Lord takes pleasure in the faithful,
in those who hope in the Lord's steadfast love.
Praise the Lord!**

Response

Hymn No. 2151

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

I'M SO GLAD

1. I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.
2. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me, Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

3. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:29-39

Homily

The Virtue of Wasting Time

Dr. Matt Bates

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.

Offertory Anthem

There Is a Balm in Gilead

William Dawson

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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

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly,

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.

William Mathias

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

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. 139

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning,
bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining.!
God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds. Hast thou not known his sustaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with is love doth befriend thee.
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the task that are ever fore thee.
Then to thy need, God as a mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.
5. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from His people again; gladly forever adore Him.

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Benediction

Choral Response

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

Public Domain

Postlude

Variations de Concert

Public Domain

Joseph Bonnet

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

Isaiah 40:21-31

- ²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
and spreads them like a tent to live in,
²³ who brings princes to naught
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- ²⁵ To whom, then, will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
- ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and assert, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
- ²⁹ He gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.
- ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,
³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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.

HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING TO BE MORE INVOLVED? Do your spiritual gifts include Helping, Comforting, Discerning, Pioneering and/or Problem Solving? *The Serving Team* is looking for members to join our efforts. If you would like to get involved, please contact the church office. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 25th via zoom. We will be working to discuss serving opportunities to make available March – May.

HYMN SING AND POTLUCK - *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 is led Rev. Barry Penn Hollar. We meet at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall, concluding on Sunday, February 11.

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

February 5	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
February 6	Noon	AA
February 7	10:00 am	Zoom Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
February 9	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
	Noon	AA
February 11	9:00 am	Illness, Suffering, Death and Meaning
	10:30 am	Hymn Sing and Potluck