



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

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

Prelude

Have Mercy On Me

J. S. Bach

Choral Introit

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us turn our minds from human things.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Leader: Let us set our minds on divine things.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Leader: We will deny ourselves and take up our cross.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Leader: We will lose all; that we may gain all.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Hymn No. 116

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of love;
Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.
2. The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heaven ascend.
I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore,
and sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.
3. The heavenly land I see, with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty, and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.
4. The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM, we worship thee!"

Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God, you have given us everything.

What can we give in return for our lives?

Be our guide on our Lenten journey.

Help us to deny ourselves,

pick up our cross and follow Jesus.

We welcome the chastening direction in our lives

as we worship you today. Amen

Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#)

Psalter

Psalm 22:23-31

General) Gary Alan Smith

All the ends of the earth shall re -
mem - ber and turn to the Lord.

Response

- 23 You who fear the LORD, praise him!
**All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**
- 24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him.
- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who worship the Lord.
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
**those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live for ever!**
- 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;
**and the families of the nations
shall worship before the Lord.**
- 28 For dominion belongs to the Lord
who rules over the nations.
- 29 **All who sleep in the earth shall bow down to the Lord.**
All who go down to the dust shall bow down
before the Lord, and I shall live for God.
- 30 **Posterity shall serve the Lord;**
each generation shall tell of the Lord,
- 31 and proclaim his deliverance
to a people yet unborn.
Surely the Lord has done it.

Response

Gospel Reading

[Mark 8:31-38](#)

Hymn No. 297

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST. CHRISTOPHER

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

2. Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Sermon

Reading the Fine Print

Dr. Matt Bates

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Anthem

Pater Noster

RT Jarrell

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. 415

Take Up Thy Cross

GERMANY

1. "Take up thy cross," the Savior said, "if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me."
2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear thy spirit up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
thy Lord for thee the cross endured, to save thy soul from death and hell.
4. Take up thy cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Benediction

Choral Response

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone

Postlude

Lift High the Cross

John Barr

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*The altar flowers this morning are given by the Smethie Circle in honor of Leah Hundley in
recognition of her leadership for many years.*

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

ONE VOICE CHORUS OF RICHMOND, singing the beauty and power of diversity, will present their 2024 Winter Concert on Saturday, March 9, 4:00pm at the J.R. Tucker High School, 2910 North Parham Road, Henrico. The chorus will be joined with special guests - The J.R. Tucker High School Choir.

One Voice Chorus is a 120+ member interracial adult community chorus that performs a wide array of choral music for the community and promotes the work of racial reconciliation. Four members of Centenary UMC perform with One Voice Chorus. If you have interest in attending or need more info, please contact the church office.

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.

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*). 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.

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 26	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
February 27	Noon	AA
February 28	10:00 am	Zoom Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
March 1	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
	Noon	AA
March 3	9:00 am	<i>Cotton Patch Gospel</i>
	10:30 am	Worship – In person and online