



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

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

Prelude

Ubi Caritas et Amor

Gerald Near

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Choral Introit

Bread of the World

Call to Worship

Leader: Weary and overwhelmed, we gather.

People: God's holy word revives us.

Leader: Simple and confused, we yield.

People: God's word gives us wisdom.

Leader: Blind and uncomprehending, we await.

People: God's word enlightens our eyes.

Leader: More precious than gold is God's word.

People: Sweeter than honey are God's commands.

Hymn No. 159

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Refrain: (sung after each verse)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.
2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.
4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!

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Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: O God, your weakness is mightier than human strength,
your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.**

We rejoice that you are with us today.

Open our hearts and discipline our will.

Teach us to follow your perfect ways.

Test us with your righteous decrees.

Drive us from unholy living

and turn us toward your holy light.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ,

comfort and redeem us with your holy gospel.

Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer of Illumination

Psalter

Psalm 19



Response

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
- 2 **Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
- 4 **yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**
In them God has set a tent for the sun,
- 5 which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and runs its course with joy like a strong man.
- 6 **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and there is nothing hid from its heat.**

Response

- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
**the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;**
- 8 the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
**the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;**
- 9 the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring for ever;
**the ordinances of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.**
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
**sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Response

- 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 **But who can understand one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**
- 13 Also keep your servant from the insolent;
let then not have dominion over me!

- Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Response

Epistle Reading

I Corinthians 1:18-25

Hymn No. 504

The Old Rugged Cross

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: (to be sung after each verse)

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.
3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me.
4. To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.

Homily

The Hidden Power of the Cross

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

Bless the Lord

M. Ippolitof-Ivanof

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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. 295

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.
5. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

Benediction

Choral Response

Bread to the World

Postlude

Rathbun

Seth Bingham

We welcome back Mark Koontz as our organist this morning. Mark has spent many years as a church musician, serving Methodist, Evangelical Covenant, Presbyterian and Episcopal denominations as organist and music director. He is retired from his IT career, and lives with his wife Joyce in Henrico County, and has three grown sons and a granddaughter.

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 Corinthians 1:18-25

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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. For more information please contact the church office.

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

March 4	5:00 pm	Change the World/RVA
March 5	Noon	AA
March 6	10:00 am	Zoom Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
March 8	10:30 am	Friday Lunch Program
	Noon	AA
March 10	9:00 am	<i>Cotton Patch Gospel</i>
	10:30 am	In person and Online Worship