



# Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**March 10, 2024**

**Fourth 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**

*My Heart is Filled With Longing*

Johannes Brahms

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**Choral Introit**

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

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**Call to Worship**

Leader: God loves us with a steadfast love.

**People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!**

Leader: God loves us so much he gave us his Son.

**People: Let us believe and have eternal life!**

Leader: God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.

**People: Let us have faith to receive this grace!**

**All: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.**

**Hymn No. 340**

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

RESTORATION

1. Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

**Refrain (sung after each verse)**

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms;  
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

2. Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;  
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.
3. Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;  
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.
4. Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;  
all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.

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**Opening Prayer**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Great Triune God, we have gathered here in your name as an act of faith,  
believing that you are not only among us, but that you love us.  
It is often hard to recognize your love, see your mercy, and feel your presence.  
Help us today in our worship, that we might be transparent to your grace,  
as you reveal yourself to each one of us. Amen.**

Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Numbers 21:4-9](#)

Psalter

Psalm 22:23-31

Ps. 107:8  
Richard Proulx

Give thanks to the Lord for steady love,  
for all God's wonderful works.

*Response*

- 1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- 2 **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
those he redeemed from trouble**
- 3 **and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.**
- 17 Some were sick through their sinful ways  
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
- 18 **they loathed any kind of food,  
and they drew near to the gates of death.**
- 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress;
- 20 **he sent out his word and healed them  
and delivered them from destruction.**
- 21 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.
- 22 **And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices  
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.**

*Response*

New Testament Reading

[Hebrews 5:5-10](#)

Hymn No. 2259

*Victim Divine*

SELENA

1. Victim Divine, thy grace we claim while thus thy precious death we show;  
once offered up, a spotless Lamb, in thy great temple here below,  
thou didst for all our kind atone, and standest now before the throne.
2. Thou standest in the holiest place, as now for guilty sinners slain;  
thy blood of sprinkling speaks, and prays, all prevalent for helpless ones;  
thy blood is still our ransom found, and spreads salvation all around.

3. The smoke of thy atonement here darkened the sun and rent the veil,  
made the new way to heaven appear, and showed the great Invisible;  
well pleased in thee our God looked down, and called his rebels to a crown.
4. He still respects thy sacrifice, its savor sweet doth always please;  
the offering smokes through earth and skies, diffusing life, and joy, and peace;  
to these thy lower courts it comes, and fills them with divine perfumes.
5. We need not now go up to heaven, to bring the long sought Savior down;  
thou art to all already given, thou dost e'en now thy banquet crown:  
To every faithful soul appear, and show thy real presence here!

**Gospel Reading**

[John 3:14-21](#)

**Sermon**

Izaak "Izzy" Spiers

**Offertory Prayer**

**Offertory Anthem**

*God So Love the World*

Stainer

**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. 428**

*For the Healing of the Nations*

CWM RHONDDA

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,  
fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span, may we hallow life's brief span.
4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find.

## **Benediction**

### **Choral Response**

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### **Postlude**

*Fugue Op. 18*

César Franck

*The altar flowers this morning are given by Barry and Jayne Penn Hollar  
in honor of their 43<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary.*

### **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**

**SAVE THE DATE** - The Serving Team invites the congregation to a *Mission Fair*, immediately following the service on May 19, 2024. At the Mission Fair, you'll get a chance to visit local organizations offering volunteer opportunities. As you make your way through each booth, you will earn a ticket. The ticket(s) will allow you to build an ice cream sundae.

The Serving team will begin sharing volunteer opportunities with the congregation. Our first opportunity is with the Clean City Commission and a spring clean-up at Roy West Park, the morning of March 16, 2025. If you are interested, please sign up [here](#).

**THE COTTON PATCH GOSPEL** – We continue to meet Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall at 9:00am. Join us as we watch and discuss 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.

**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.

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## *Holy Week Schedule*

**March 24 – Palm/Passion Sunday**

10:00 am - Blessings of the Palms Processional at Second Presbyterian

10:30am – Palm/Passion Sunday Worship

**March 28 –Holy Thursday** Worship at 7:30 pm

**March 29 – Good Friday** Tenebrae Worship Service at 7:30 pm

**March 31 – Sunrise Service** at 7:00 am more details coming soon

**Easter Sunday** Worship at 10:30am

*All services held in the sanctuary of Centenary will be livestreamed.*

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## *Upcoming Events*

<b>March 11</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Change the World/RVA
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Noon</b>	AA
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Church Council on Zoom
<b>March 13</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Zoom Bible Study
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>March 15</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	Friday Lunch Program
	<b>Noon</b>	AA
<b>March 17</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<i>Cotton Patch Gospel</i>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	Worship – In person and online