

Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 17, 2024

Fifth 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

Rhosemedre

Ralph Vaughn Williams

Choral Introit

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

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Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**People: He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor requite us according to our iniquities.**

Leader: What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

People: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Hymn No. 168

At the Name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON

1. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.
2. Humbled for a season, to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully He bore it, spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious when from death he passed.
3. Bore it up triumphant with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.
4. In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue
all that is not holy, all that is not true.
Crown him as your captain in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you in its light and power.

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Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people,
you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all should follow the example of his great humility.
Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

Psalter

Psalm 51:1-12

Ps. 51:10
Alan Luff

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O

God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Response

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
**according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.**
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
- 3 **For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**
- 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned,
and done that which is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence,
and blameless in your judgment.
- 5 **Behold, I was born into iniquity,
and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me.**

Response

- 6 Behold, you desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- 7 **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow;**
- 8 Make me hear with joy and gladness;
let the bones which you have broken rejoice.
- 9 **Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Response

- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- 11 **Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**
- 12 **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Response

Gospel Reading

[John 12:20--33](#)

Hymn No. 2083*My Song is Love Unknown*

RHOSYMEDRE

1. My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail flesh and die?
My God should take frail flesh and die?
2. God left the richest throne salvation to bestow;
but Christ as flesh and bone the world refused to know,
But, O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need His life life expend;
who at my need did life expend.
3. Sometimes they threw down palms and sweetest praises sang.
Hosannas and glad psalms through streets and markets rang.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath, for blood and death they thirst and cry;
for blood and death they thirst and cry.
4. What has my Sovereign done? What makes this rage and spite?
Christ gave new strength to run, restored the gift of sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise;
themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise.
5. I sing my plain belief, one song my heart out-pours:
never was pain nor grief, never was love like yours.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend;
I all my days could gladly spend.

Sermon*The Cradle and the Cross*

Dr. Matt Bates

Offertory Prayer**Offertory Anthem***Wash Me Thoroughly*

S. S. Wesley

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. 396*O Jesus I Have Promised*

ANGEL'S STORY

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
3. O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

Benediction

Choral Response *Jesus Calls Us*

Postlude *Lamb of God Without Blemish* Johann Pachelbel

*The altar flowers this morning are given by Heidi Kara in memory of her mother, Cheryl Mayes,
and Phil Crick, on their birthdays.*

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

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH - Our new Centenary/Ginter Park Circle will meet next Wednesday, March 20th at 1:30 at Ginter Park UM Church at 1010 W. Laburnam Ave... with parking right at the side door! We are very excited about this new joint venture and would love for you to join us! Call the church office with any questions or for more information.

PALM SUNDAY COFFEE GATHERING - You are invited to gather for coffee and treats following the Palm Sunday service. This gathering will be held in the street level social hall, Sunday March 24. Greet church family and welcome spring.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE- March 31 at 7:00am. Join with the Richmond community as we watch the Easter sunrise over the Richmond skyline and James River with the sound of bagpipes! If you would like to greet or help serve communion at this service, please contact Jonathan Fuller – jonathanfuller@vaumc.org.

GERANIUM SALE - \$4.50 for a 4.5” pot. The geraniums come in red, pink and white. You may order a specific color, but color is not guaranteed. Orders due by March 31. Plants arrive April 20. To order or for more information, please contact the church office.

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.



Holy Week Schedule

March 24 – Palm/Passion Sunday

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

10:30am – Palm/Passion Sunday Worship

Coffee and treats following the service


March 28 –Holy Thursday Worship at 7:30pm

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

March 31 – Sunrise Service at 7:00am at Hollywood Cemetery

Easter Sunday Worship at 10:30am

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



Upcoming Events

March 18	5:00pm	Change the World/RVA
March 19	Noon	AA
March 20	10:00am	Zoom Bible Study
	1:30pm	United Women in Faith (Smethie Circle) at Ginter Park UMC
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
March 22	10:30am	Friday Lunch Program
	Noon	AA
March 24	9:00am	<i>Cotton Patch Gospel</i>
	9:45am	Meet to process to Second Presbyterian for Blessing of the Palms
	10:30am	Worship – In person and online Coffee and Treats following the service