



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday in Easter

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

Prelude

Festivity

Douglas Wagner

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Call to Worship

Leader: We gather in the name of the risen Lord.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: We gather as sisters and brothers of the resurrected one.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: We gather to share our faith and to worship God.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: We gather to proclaim the good news of Easter!

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Hymn No. 318

Christ is Alive

TRURO

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.
3. Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.
4. In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.
5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God of the resurrection,
we gather this morning as a community of believers.
We come with joy to greet one another
and to tell again and again the amazing news:
Christ is risen!
Love is victorious over death!
You have given us new life in the name of your Son!
May our singing, praying, listening, and proclaiming
be a testimony to the power of your love
to make us a new creation as a community of faith.
We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.**

Announcements

Children's Time

Prayer of Illumination

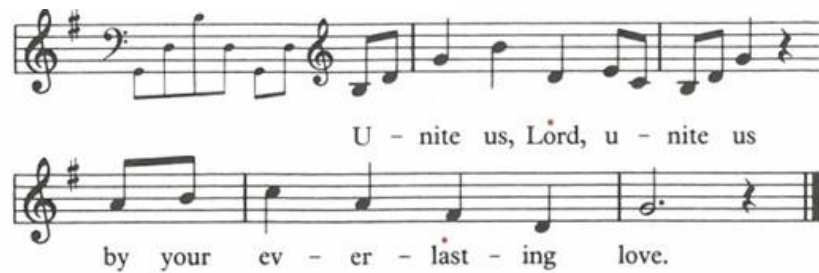
First Reading

[Acts 4:32-35](#)

Psalter

Psalms 133

S T Kimbrough, Jr.
Swedish folk tune



U - nite us, Lord, u - nite us
by your ev - er - last - ing love.

Response

- 1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when we live together in unity!
- 2 **It is like the precious oil upon the head,
running down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!**
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon
which falls on the mountains of Zion!
**For there the Lord has
commanded the blessing,
life for evermore.**

Response

Hymn No. 623

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee

PENITENTIA

1. Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face; here would I touch and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace, and all my weariness upon thee lean.
2. This is the hour of banquet and of song; this is the heavenly table spread for me;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong the hallowed hour of fellowship with thee.
3. Here would I feed upon the bread of God, here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load, here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.
4. Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear; the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
The bread and wine remove; but thou art here, nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.
5. Feast after feast thus comes and passes by; yet, passing, points to the glad feast above,
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

Gospel Reading

[John 20:19-31](#)

Homily

The Work of Easter

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

The Call

K. Lee Scott

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Doxology No. 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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. 636

Christian People, Raise Your Song

AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM

1. Christian people, raise your song, chase away all grieving.
Sing your joy and be made strong, our Lord's life receiving.
Nature's gifts of wheat and vine now are set before us;
As we offer bread and wine, Christ comes to restore us.
2. Come to welcome Christ today, God's great revelation,
Who has pioneered the way of the new creation.
Greet the Christ, our risen King, gladly recognizing,
As with joy we greet the spring out of winter rising.

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Benediction

Postlude

A Festive Trumpet Tune

Douglas Wagner

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***The altar flowers this morning are in honor our the wedding of
Molly Monaghan and Christoph Sutphin. Congratulations!***

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

JOIN US ON APRIL 21 AS WE CELEBRATE IZZY SPIERS on his last Sunday as our 2023-2024 intern. A reception following the worship service will offer a chance to say farewell and give our best wishes as Izzy graduates from Union Presbyterian Seminary and gets married in the same May weekend!!

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.

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

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|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 8 | 5:00pm | Change the World/RVA |
| April 9 | Noon 7:00pm | AA Church Council on Zoom |
| April 10 | 10:00am 7:00pm | Zoom Bible Study Choir Rehearsal |
| April 12 | 10:30am Noon | Friday Lunch Program AA |
| April 14 | 10:30 am | Worship – In person and online |