Centenary
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 19, 2025 **Grounded**

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

Prelude *Prayer* Tate Pumfrey

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Choral Introit *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

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Call to Worship

Leader: Some prayers are loud and immediate - others are quiet and long unanswered.
People: Still, we lift our voices, trusting that God listens.
Leader: Justice may feel delayed, but it is never forgotten.
People: Still, we keep watch, believing that God is at work.
Leader: Faith is not always a flood - it is often a flame that refuses to go out.
People: Still, we gather, holding to truth, longing for the world to be made right.
Leader: In persistence, in patience, in hope that refuses to die -
People: We worship the God who is faithful, just, and near.

Hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* CONVERSE

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
   What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
   O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
   all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
   We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
   Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
   Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
   Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.
   Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
   In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

Prayer of Gathering

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray:
All: God of justice and mercy,
you hear the cries we are tired of praying
and the longings we can barely name.
You call us to hold fast to what is true,
to speak with courage, and to live with compassion.
In this time of worship,
renew our strength to persist in faith—

not with fear, but with hope;
not with despair, but with trust.
Draw near to us as we draw near to you.
Shape us through Scripture, awaken us through Spirit,
and send us out with holy urgency.

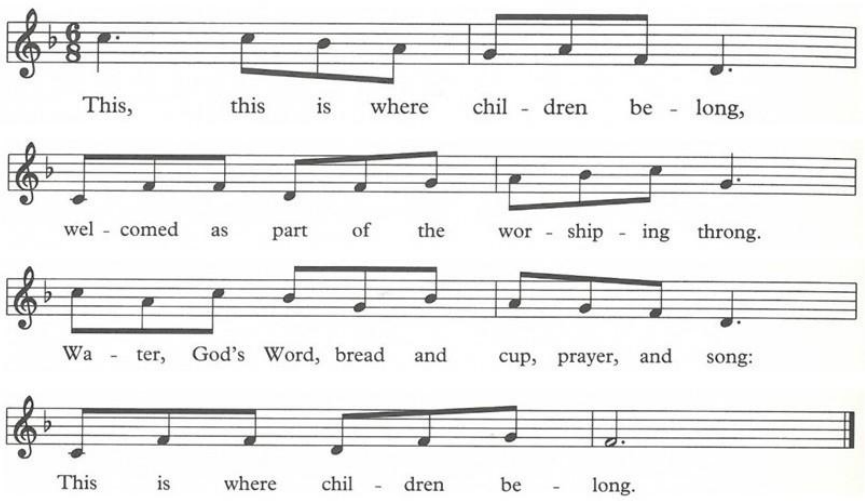
Leader: Hear the promise: God is already listening, already moving.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Welcome and Greeting

Passing the Peace *Where Children Belong* RITCHIE

During this time we invite you to turn and greet those around you. You may introduce yourself with name and pronouns and/or simply say: The Peace of Christ be with you. Children may come forward during the sung response for the Children's Time.



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Children's Time

All children are invited to come to the front and then may return to their adults or go to Children's Time in our Children's Area in Room 208.

Prayer of Illumination

Holy One, let these words from Scripture speak boldly and tenderly into our lives.
By your Spirit, teach us again what is true, what is just, what is faithful.
When we are tempted to give up, stir us with hope.
When we grow weary, remind us why we began.
Make your Word living and active in us - not only heard, but lived.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen

Creative Word *Justice* By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

However inexplicable may seem
Event and circumstance upon this earth,
Though favours fall on those whom none esteem,
And insult and indifference greet worth;
Though poverty repays the life of toil,
And riches spring where idle feet have trod,
And storms lay waste the patiently tilled soil -
Yet Justice sways the universe of God.
As undisturbed the stately stars remain
Beyond the glare of day's obscuring light,

So Justice dwells, though mortal eyes in vain
Seek it persistently by reason's sight.
But when, once freed, the illumined soul looks out.
Its cry will be, 'O God, how could I doubt!'

https://public-domain-poetry.com/ella-wheeler-wilcox/justice-32558

After the reading you are invited to pause for a moment of silent reflection.

New Testament Reading 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Hymn *Seek Ye First* SEEK YE

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!
2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

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Gospel Reading Luke 18:1-8

Sermon *Grounded* Rev. Emily Bagwell

Offertory Invitation and Prayer

Your presence is a gift. Your time, talents, and resources are all ways we offer ourselves to God and to one another. To give a financial offering, you may do so online, by scanning the QR code in the bulletin, or by placing your gift in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.

Offertory Anthem *With Prayer and Supplication* Amy Beach

Doxology 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!

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our *Father,* **who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**
Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Jesus gives us this prayer as a model for connection with God.
Please feel free to address God in a way that connects with your soul.

Hymn *Lord, Speak to Me* CANONBURY

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone;
as thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.
2. O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock, and strong in thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the troubled sea.

3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart;
   and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
4. O fill me with thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow
   in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.
5. O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when, and where,
   until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

Benediction

Choral Response *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

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Postlude *Toccata in E minor* Johann Pachelbel

The altar flowers this morning are given by Troy and Jan Nelson in honor of their granddaughters.

This morning the liturgist is Vic Grand; the ushers are Troy and Jan Nelson; and the A/V tech is Dan Corcoran.

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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – A TIME OF SACRED REMEMBRANCE On All Saints Sunday, November 2, we will honor and remember those who have joined the Communion of Saints. During this service, we will toll a bell for each person from our community who has died in the past year. We will also give thanks for all the saints — the faithful across generations — whose lives have shaped our own. If you would like us to include the name of a family member or loved one who has died since last All Saints Sunday, please send their full name to admin@centumc.org by Wed., October 29.

INTERESTED IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP? Feel like Centenary could be your new church home? We'd love to welcome you into our church community! **New Member Sunday: October 26.** To learn more, please contact Pastor Emily: srpastor@centumc.org

WELCOME RECEPTION – Immediately following worship on October 26. Help us welcome our new members! Join us for some light refreshments as we welcome our newest members to the Centenary family!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH - *Today!* Immediately following the service we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a light lunch. Our speaker this month is Pastor Emily. We hope you will join us!

CLEAN CITY COMMISSION – Saturday, October 25 at 10:00am. Join the Serving team October 25 to clean up the blocks around the church. We will meet in front of the church at 10:00 and fan out to pick up trash in the blocks near the church. Graspers, garbage bags and reflective vests will be provided. We usually cover the area in less than 2 hours and may go to lunch somewhere in the area if there's interest. For questions contact the church office.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CENTENARY BUILD ON NOV. 8. We have sponsored a house being built on the southside. If you are interested in joining us on November 8 to help with this build, please sign up at the Welcome Table in the back of the sanctuary. Space is extremely limited! Sign up now! For more information, please talk with Pastor Emily.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS - 100% COMMITMENT TO VOTE - Centenary has joined the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy in committing to serve the community, the state, and the nation through voting. Election day is November 4th and Virginia's registration deadline is October 24! If you are not registered, or have moved since you last registered, you can use the Virginia Citizen Portal to register, update your registration, check your voting status, and find your polling place. Use this QR code to reach the Citizen Portal. Please join with the rest of our congregation and commit to using your civic voice by voting.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY at 10:00am on Zoom. Join us as Pastor Emily guides us through a look at the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. A reminder email with the Zoom link is sent out on Tuesdays. If you would like to receive this email, please contact the church office.

FRIDAY LUNCH PROGRAM - Our Friday lunch program for the homeless has been feeding the hungry for over 30 years. On October 10 we served 118 guests as fellow Christians from Bon Air UMC joined with Centenary volunteers to prepare, serve and clean up. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

This Week at Centenary

Today	**11:30am**	United Women in Faith
October 20	**5:00pm**	Change the World/RVA
October 21	**Noon**	AA
October 22	**10:00am**	Wednesday Bible Study on Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
October 24	**10:30am**	Walk In Lunch
	Noon	AA
October 25	**10:00am**	Clean City Commission Clean Up
October 26	**10:30am**	Worship – In person and online
	11:30am	Welcome Reception for New Members

Online Giving Made Easy – No Account Needed!

Connections

Rev. Emily Bagwell	srpastor@centumc.org
Carina Brackin	dirmusic@centumc.org
Office/Laura Nealley	admin@centumc.org
Al Richardson	Facilities Manager
Melissa Martinez	Child Care Coordinator
Shawntay White	Child Care Worker

Wi-Fi Network: CentenaryGuest Password: CentGuest2021@!