



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!

Welcome to worship! In this shared space, we trust that God meets us just as we are - drawing us together in grace, hope, and love. Whether this is your first time with us or you return often, you are welcome here.

May this time of worship open our hearts to God and to one another.

October 18, 2026

Prelude 🎵

Ar hyd y nos

Wilbur Held

© 1991 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers.
Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.

Choral Introit 🎵

What Does the Lord Require of You

© 1988 Oxford University Press. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.

Call to Worship 📖

Leader: God gave us breath.

People: We will use it to sing.

Leader: God gave us voices.

People: We will use them for those who are not heard.

Leader: God gave us hands.

People: We will open them to share.

Leader: God gave us each other.

People: We will not do this alone.

All: The God who made us in love invites us to love the world back. Let us worship.

Hymn 🎵

For the Fruits of This Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

1. For the fruits of this creation, thanks be to God;
for good gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;
for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Words © 1970 Hope Publishing Co. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.

Welcome and Greeting 🗨️

Prayer of Gathering 🙏

Leader: God is with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God who made us in your image,
we come carrying so much.
We carry bills and ballots,
worry about enough and hope for more.
We carry the names of people we love
and the names of people we've never met
who are hungry for justice.
Some of us feel generous today.
Some of us feel stretched thin.
Meet us exactly as we are.
Remind us whose we are,
and that we do not carry your image alone. Amen.**

Passing the Peace 🎵

Into My Heart

INTO MY HEART

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.

**Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
come in today, come in to stay; come into my heart Lord Jesus.**

© 1924, ren. 1952 Hope Publishing Co. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.

Children of God Moment 🗨️

During this time in the service, we focus our language and attention on the work of the children. Children are welcome to gather in the space in the front of the sanctuary and/or choose some work to take back to their adults.

Prayer of Illumination 🙏

**God of Justice,
everything stamped with your love is yours, and so are we.
Let us not be comforted to the extent
that we don't ask critical questions
about how the scripture invites us to think about money,
about power, about who is left outside the circle.
Call us to answer with our resources,
our time, and our voices.
Speak, and let us respond. Amen.**

Creative Word 📖

[won't you celebrate with me](#)

by Lucille Clifton

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

Hymn No. 441 🎵

What Does the Lord Require

SHARPTHORNE

1. What does the Lord require for praise and offering?
What sacrifice, desire, or tribute bid you bring?
Do justly, love mercy; walk humbly with your God.

2. Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know?
Will God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow?
Do justly, love mercy; walk humbly with your God.
3. All who gain wealth by trade, for whom the worker toils,
think not to win God's aid, if greed your commerce soils.
Do justly, love mercy; walk humbly with your God.
4. How shall our life fulfill God's law so hard and high?
Let Christ endue our will with grace to fortify.
Then justly, in mercy; walk humbly walk with God.

© 1988 Oxford University Press. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.

Scripture Reading

[Matthew 22:15-22](#)

Sermon

Faithful in an Imperfect System

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 here](#).

Offertory

Praise We Sing to Thee

Joseph Haydn

Text © 1945, Neil A Kjos Music Company. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.

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!**

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 No. 2220

We Are God's People

SYMPHONY

1. We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
born of His Spirit, established by His Word.
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Christ we stand:
O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured.
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.
3. We are the body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Christ, now risen from the dead.

God wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.

4. We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace.
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire:
yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

Text © 1976 Fred Bock Music Co. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.

Benediction

Choral Response

What Does the Lord Require

© 1988 Oxford University Press. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.

Postlude

Fantasia in G minor, BWV 542

J. S. Bach

Assisting in worship this morning are:

Liturgist – Nancy Grand A/V tech – Dan Corcoran
Centenary Kids Serving - Bruno, Elliott, Kaya
Ushers – Ryland Bailey, Kim Golden, Troy & Jan Nelson, Jane Newell,
Doug Wilson, Chris Wimbush

Large print bulletins and hearing assistive devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please let an usher know if either of those would better suit your needs.

Announcements

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – A TIME OF SACRED REMEMBRANCE - On All Saints Sunday, November 1, 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 28.

CENTENARY KIDS MINISTRY THROUGH THE ARTS - Every 4th Sunday 9:15am-10:00am in Room 206. All children are to express and explore their creativity through different mediums, such as painting and drawing, in a faith-based environment, for fellowship and fun, striving to bless others through our card ministry program. It teaches them that their creativity is a gift from the Creator. For more information contact Melissa - children@centumc.org.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the Hodges Classroom /Room 106. This class is a relaxed space for conversation, fellowship, and growing together in faith. All are welcome!

SOULS TO THE POLLS 2026 - Centenary has once again joined the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) in committing that 100% of Centenary members who are eligible will vote this year. The 2026 ballot is full of important Congressional races, three amendments to the Virginia constitution, and some local races and referenda. Our bulletin board on the first floor has detailed information. **Today after our service**, our Richmond voters can walk together to City Hall to vote. This Soles to the Polls walk is about a half mile each way. If a ride is needed let Jane Newell know.

PUB THEOLOGY - PT is an informal, come-as-you-are gathering where we explore meaningful questions of faith, life, and spirituality. Whether you're a church regular or just spiritually curious, this is a space to bring your thoughts, doubts, and hopes to the table. **Join us today at 4:00pm at Ardent Brewing Company**; for honest conversation in good company.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Via Zoom at 10am! Join Pastor Emily for a lively, open conversation around scripture — digging into the passages we'll hear in worship in the weeks ahead. Come wrestle, question, and discover together as we explore what God is doing in the world (and in us!). Want the link? Email Laura at admin@centumc.org to be added to the list.

WE ARE ON INSTAGRAM! Centenary has its very own Instagram now! Be sure to give it a follow. We'll have community resources, educational opportunities, and a calendar of events coming soon to the church posted there weekly. [@centenarydowntown](https://www.instagram.com/centenarydowntown)

CARE PACKAGES - Centenary welcomes all our community members to join us in worship. If you're in need of an extra snack or resources, we have care packages located on our welcome table. Please ask an usher for assistance.

FRIDAY WALK IN LUNCH PROGRAM - Our Friday lunch program has been feeding the hungry for *over 45 years*. On October 9 we served many guests as volunteers from Bon Air UMC and Centenary prepared, served, and cleaned up. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

This Week at Centenary

Today	4:00pm	Pub Theology at Ardent Craft Ales
October 19	5:00pm	Change the World/RVA
October 20	Noon	AA - Hodges/Rm. 106
October 21	10:00am	Bible Study - Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
October 23	10:30am	Walk In Lunch - Fellowship Hall
	Noon	AA- Hodges/Rm. 106
October 25	9:15am	Adult Sunday School - Hodges/Rm. 106
		Children's Sunday School - Rm 206
	10:30am	Worship - Sanctuary and online
	11:30am	Expanded Church Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall