



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 4, 2026 **The Benediction Project: Covenant Series**

Prelude

Come to the Table
Dr. Carol Hill, Clarinet

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Choral Introit

Come, All You People
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Call to Worship

Leader: We gather at Christ's table, where love is shared.

Movement: Hands open in front of the body as if offering a gift.

Leader: We come to receive God's welcome and grace.

Movement: Place hands over heart.

Leader: We come to learn how to love one another.

Movement: Extend hands outward toward others.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God whose love never ends.

Movement: Raise hands upward and outward.

Hymn No. 548

In Christ There Is No East or West

McKEE

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north;
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.
3. In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;
both male and female heirs are made, and all are kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

St. 3. © 1989 United Methodist Publishing House. 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: The Spirit has been poured out on all flesh.

People: We are here because it was poured out on us.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Teach us to do the ordinary things:
show up, carry something,
say thank you, say sorry,
sit down next to someone,
learn a name, listen without fixing,
ask for help and let it come. 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.**

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Children of God Moment

We welcome children to come down front for this time and afterwards they may return to their adults or stay up front in the Kid's Covenant Zone. The Parlor, just to the left out the back of the sanctuary is open if your child needs a place to be for a moment, there is also a bathroom in that space.

Prayer of Illumination

Loving God,

Peter said no, and Jesus washed his feet anyway.

Some of us know that feeling.

We'd rather be the helper than the one who needs help.

In our worship today, meet us where we push back.

Shape our understanding of leading with love and compassion. Amen.

Creative Word

Excerpt from *This Here Flesh*

by Cole Arthur Riley

I was an anxious and insecure child. I'd tiptoe around with my shoulders cupping my ears like a perpetual flinch. I believe my father saw this in me and did what he could to drown out whatever primordial voice had told me to fold up my personhood into something small and negligible. Every morning, he'd squeeze my sister and me in between his legs as he methodically parted our hair and laid grease on our scalps. He'd spend what felt like hours propped up in his chair, leaving us with braids stretching in all directions, barrettes and ballies gripping the thick black curls. When he finished, he would lick both thumbs and press them against our shaggy eyebrows and say, You look good, honey. Do you feel good? This was our ritual. And in time, it formed us."

-Cole Arthur Riley, [This Here Flesh](#) (Convergent Books)

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

Scripture Reading

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love, show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. **Refrain**
2. Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away. **Refrain**
3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. **Refrain**
4. Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you. **Refrain**
5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you. **Refrain**

Scripture Reading

[John 13:4-9, 12-17, 34-35](#)

Homily

A New Covenant in Jesus

Rev. Dr. Erin Reed Cooper

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

Ubi Caritas

Maurice Durufle

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 congregation may be seated.)

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 forever.

William Mathias

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

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.

Giving and Receiving of Communion

All are invited to come receive Holy Communion. Today we will serve by intinction. You will be given a piece of bread and are then invited to dip it into the cup. If you'd like to kneel at the altar for prayer after receiving, you are welcome to do so.

Communion Music

Prayers of the People

Hymn No. 2223

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

ST. BRENDAN'S

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. **Refrain**
3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. **Refrain**
4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. **Refrain**

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Benediction

Choral Response

Ubi Caritas

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Postlude

O How Glory Shall It Be

Bjarne Sløgedal

Assisting in worship this morning are:

Liturgist – Matthew Steele Centenary Kids Serving - Bruno, Elliott, Kaya
Communion Steward - Jan Nelson A/V tech – Bob Hundley
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

A WORD FROM CHURCH COUNCIL As we begin planning programs and the budget for 2027, the Church Council will be sharing some exciting plans for Centenary in the coming weeks. But first, we have three months of ministry and building upkeep still ahead in 2026, and right now our pledged giving is falling behind what we need to finish the year well. Please take a moment to look at your 2026 pledge. If you're behind, we ask that you prayerfully consider catching up before the end of the year. If you have questions about your giving or would like a statement, contact Laura in the church office or email admin@centumc.org. Thank you for all you give to make Centenary's ministry possible.

JOINING SUNDAY - On Sunday, October 11, we will welcome new members into the life of Centenary UMC during worship. If you'd like to join the church, please contact Pastor Emily at srpastor@centumc.org.

COFFEE AND COOKIES AND WELCOME RECEPTION - Sunday, October 11 following worship. Join us in the Fellowship Hall to reconnect with old friends, welcome our new members, and enjoy coffee and cookies.

RVA STREET SINGERS AND THE DAUGHTERS OF HARRIET Songs of Hope: A Chant Circle. We are excited to host this group on Saturday, October 10 ~ 10:00am-12:00pm. You are welcome to attend and join the circle!

CENTENARY KIDS MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC - Every 2nd Sunday 9:15am-10:00am in Room 206. Ministry through Music uses singing, instruments, and creative worship to disciple kids, teach biblical truth and help them participate in worship with the congregation. Join us next week as we build spiritual foundation, teamwork, and faith expression through engaging musical experiences. For more information contact Melissa - children@centumc.org.

SOLES 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 contains detailed information about the ballots, early voting, mail-in voting, and registration deadlines. After our service on **Sunday, October 18**, 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 at 4:00pm for honest conversation in good company. **October 18** at Ardent Brewing Company; **November 22** at The Veil.

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 September 25 we served 131 guests as volunteers from Beulah Church and Centenary prepared, served, and cleaned up. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

This Week at Centenary

October 5	5:00pm	Change the World/RVA
October 6	Noon	AA - Hodges/Rm. 106
October 7	10:00am	Bible Study - Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
October 9	10:30am	Walk In Lunch - Fellowship Hall
	Noon	AA- Hodges/Rm. 106
October 10	10:00am	RVA Street Singers - Fellowship Hall
October 11	9:15am	Adult Sunday School - Hodges/Rm. 106
		Children's Sunday School - Rm 206
	10:30am	Worship - Sanctuary and online
	11:30am	Coffee and Cookies and Welcome Reception for new Members - Fellowship Hall

Connections

Rev. Emily Bagwell srpastor@centumc.org	Senior Pastor
Carina Brackin dirmusic@centumc.org	Director of Music and Organist
Monica Hunasikatti engagement@centumc.org	Director of Engagement
Melissa Martinez children@centumc.org	Director of Children's Ministry
Lana van Essen operations@centumc.org	Director of Operations
Office/Laura Nealley admin@centumc.org	Administrative Assistant
Al Richardson	Facilities Manager
Shawntay White	Child Care Worker
Shannon Hocutt	Child Care Worker