



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.

September 27, 2026 The Benediction Project: Covenant Series

Prelude 🎵

Priere a Notre Dame

Léon Boëllmann

Choral Introit 🎵

Lord, Listen to Your Children

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Call to Worship 📖

Leader: We come to worship the God who listens with love.

Motion: Bring one hand to your ear, then open both hands outward in welcome.

People: We bring our whole selves—

our joy, our questions, our quiet prayers.

Motion: Place both hands over your heart, then open them slowly toward the sky.

Leader: God meets us with steady presence and gentle care.

Motion: Hold both hands out, palms up, as if receiving something.

People: Come, let us worship the One who hears us and holds us.

Motion: Sweep both hands in a wide circle that gathers the room,
then bring hands together at the center.

Hymn 🎵

For All the Faithful Women

AURELIA

See song at end of bulletin.

Welcome and Greeting 🗣️

Prayer of Gathering 🙏

Leader: God is with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God who listens with love,
we come with our whole selves,
the joy we can hardly name
and the questions we can't quite ask out loud.
Some of us come like Hannah,
lips moving with prayers no one else can hear.**

Some of us come like Mary,
our whole spirit ready to break into song.
Either way, you meet us. You always have.
So gather every version of us
walking through these doors this morning;
tired, hopeful, uncertain, glad,
and hold us the way you have always held those
who dared to bring you their real selves. 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

**Before your word is read,
open our ears the way you opened Hannah's mouth and Mary's spirit.
Let us hear this not as an old story about two women long ago, but as a mirror:
the lowly lifted, the hungry filled, the silent prayer finally heard.
Help us listen for where we are in it.
Speak to what is lowly and unseen in us today. Amen.**

Creative Word

[Annunciation](#)

by Denise Levertov

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

Scripture Reading

[Psalm 116:1-2, 5-7](#)

Hymn No. 198

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG CM

1. My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.
2. My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is this name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.
3. From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.
4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

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Scripture Reading

[Luke 1:46-55](#)
[1 Samuel 1:9-18](#)

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

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord
Dr. Danielle Watson, Soprano; James Matens, Bass

W. L. Blumenschein

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. 200 *Tell Out My Soul*

WOODLANDS

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of God's word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name!
Make known God's might, who wondrous deeds has done;
God's mercy sure, from age to age the same;
God's holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's word!
Firm is the promise and God's mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!

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Benediction **Choral Response** *Lord, Listen to Your Children*

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Assisting in worship this morning are:

Liturgist – Jan Nelson A/V tech – Glenn Thomsen Centenary Kids Serving - Karisia
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

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. **September 2** at Triple Crossing; **October 18** at Ardent Brewing Company; **November 22** at The Veil.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY IS BACK! Wednesdays on 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.

CENTENARY KIDS FAITH FORMATION - Every 1st Sunday 9:15am-10:00am in Room 206. Join us next week for our Faith Faith Formation Group which utilizes it's time together for fellowship amongst the churches youth, as we build each child's faith in an age appropriate manner, in which they are more receptive too. It will allow children the chance to dream, wonder, and be heard! The Faith Formation group will give kids an opportunity to voice how they would like to serve, and participate in our church community. 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. Our "We're Voting" sign is proudly displayed 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.

PRAYER VIGIL AT ST. PAUL'S - Monday, September 28 at 6:00pm. Meet on St. Paul's front steps. During this time of turmoil and trial, we hold a vigil of prayer for the most vulnerable and powerless among us, lifting up our lament, fear, and hope to God's redemptive and healing power. United as One Body, we make known the love and justice of Jesus of Nazareth for the poor, the oppressed, the sick, and the stranger. This service is offered every last Monday of the month and is hosted by St. Paul's in collaboration with the Downtown Community Ministry. Free parking available in St. Paul's garage at 111 N. 8th Street.

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 18 we served 120 guests as volunteers from Providence UMC and Centenary prepared, served, and cleaned up. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

This Week at Centenary

Today	11:30am	Full Council Meeting with Ministry Team Leaders - Fellowship Hall
	4:00pm	Pub Theology at Triple Crossing
September 28	5:00pm	Change the World/RVA
	6:00pm	Prayer Vigil at St. Paul's
September 29	Noon	AA
September 30	10:00am	Bible Study - Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
October 2	10:30am	Walk In Lunch
	Noon	AA
October 4	9:15am	Adult Sunday School - Hodges/Rm. 106
		Children's Sunday School - Rm 206
	10:30am	Worship - In person and online

For All the Faithful Women



1. For all the faith - ful wom - en Who served in days of
2. We praise your name for Mir - iam Who sang tri - um - phant -
3. All praise for that brave war - rior Who fought at your com -
4. To Han - nah, pray - ing child - less Be - fore the throne of
5. We sing of Mar - y, moth - er, Fair maid - en, full of
6. We praise the oth - er Mar - y Who came at East - er



old, To you shall thanks be giv - en; To
 ly While Phar - oah's vaunt - ed ar - my Lay
 mand; You made her Is - rael's sav - ior When
 grace, You gave a son whose serv - ice Would
 grace. She bore the Christ, our broth - er, Who
 dawn And near the tomb did tar - ry, But



all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and
 drowned be - neath the sea. As Is - rael marched to
 foes op - pressed the land. As Deb - orah stood with
 be be - fore your face. Grant us her per - se -
 came to save our race. May we, with her, sur -
 found her Lord was gone. And then with joy she



glad - ness In tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their
 free - dom, Her chains of bond - age gone, So may we
 val - or Up - on the bat - tle - field, May we, in
 ver - ance; Lord, teach us how to pray, To trust in
 ren - der Our - selves to your com - mand And lay up -
 saw him In res - ur - rec - tion light. May we, by



lives bore wit - ness, Pro - claimed your pow'r to save.
 reach the king - dom Your might - y arm has won.
 e - vil's ho - ur, Truth's sword with bold - ness wield.
 your de - liv - 'rance When dark - ness hides our way.
 on your al - tar Our gifts of heart and hand.
 faith be - hold him, The day who ends all night.