Centennial United Methodist Church
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July 12, 2020

THE SEED
GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (in unison):
God of abundant love, we come to you this day in the midst of a season of great growth and coming harvest. All around us are signs of growth, in our earth, in our families, in our nation, in our world. We come this day, seeking your healing love and abounding mercy. Open our hearts to receive all that you offer that we may become fruitful workers for you. AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP:
Leader: God has abundantly cast God's seeds of love and hope upon us.
People: May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing of hope and peace.
Leader: Come, let us praise God who is so generous with us.
People: Let us sing songs of joy to God.
Leader: Hallelujah!
People: Hallelujah!

HYMN: Hymn of Promise UMH 707

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison):
Lord, forgive us when we doubt your mercy and your love. We are so caught up in getting everything that we want; and we want it all right now. We have trouble waiting and remembering that it is in the waiting that we might hear your voice. It is difficult for us to believe that we can be fruitful, good soil for your words and work. We find excuses not to be attentive to you, but to focus instead on our own desires. Slow us down, Lord. Remind us again of your mercy and your love; for we offer this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:
God hears your cries and heals your wounded hearts. God is preparing you for good things to come. Place your trust in God who has always loved you and will always love you. AMEN.

HYMN: Be Thou My Vision UMH 451

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison):
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 who 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.
INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison):
God of the universe, we come to worship this morning, longing to set our minds on the Holy Spirit, to live with Christ within us. We have not always made room for Christ in the clutter of our lives. We have indulged our wants so often that too often the voice of the Spirit is downed out. As we dedicate these gifts this morning, may it help us to live more in tune with the Spirit and to use our resources in a way that reflects that Christ is Lord of all our lives. In his holy name, we pray. Amen. (Romans 8:1-11)

SPECIAL MUSIC:
Amazing Grace
Erica Kessler

THE EPISTLE LESSON:

A reading from the Epistle to the Romans…

ROMANOS 8:1-11

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Leader: The Word of God
People: Thanks be to God

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ

SERMON:

“The Seed”
Pastor Uziel Hernandez Martinez
CLOSING HYMN:  
Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)   UMH 583

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING:
God has placed the seed of love and forgiveness in your heart. Go into God’s world with joy, telling of the good news of God’s abundant, lavish love for all creation. Go to be a witness to all the miraculous possibilities for hope and peace. **AMEN.**

GOING FORTH

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**A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH**

**DEATH AND ETERNAL LIFE**

**Hymn of Promise**

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
2. There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;

in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.

In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,

unveiled until its season, something God alone can see.
Be Thou My Vision

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

WORDS: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.
MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963

SLANE 10 10.9 10
Sois la Semilla
(You Are the Seed)

You are the seed that will grow
a new sprout; you’re a
trellis that will shine in the night;
you are the yeast and a
small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the dark.

Estribillo (Refrain)

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming
my friends, a loyal witness, from the
1. Ciani-do el amor, men-sa-je-ros de la vi-da,
res-u-rrec-ción. Id lle-van-do mi pre-sen-cia;
love to all, mes-sen-gers of my for-giv-ing peace,
dead I a-rise; "Lo, I'll be with you for-ev-er,
de la paz y el per-dón. con vo-so-tros es-toy.
Etern-al love. till the end of the world."

2. Sois una llama que ha de encender
resplandores de fe y caridad.
Sois los pastores que han de llevar
al mundo por sendas de paz.
Sois los amigos que quise escoger,
sois palabra que inten-to es-parcir.
Sois reino nuevo que em- pieza a en-gendrar
justicia, amor y verdad.

3. Sois fuego y sabia que vi-ne a traer,
sois la ola que agita la mar.
La levadura pequeña de ayer
fermenta la masa del pan.
Una ciudad no se puede es-conder,
ni los montes se han de ocultar,
en vuestras obras que buscan el bien
el mundo al Padre verá.

2. You are the flame that will lighten the dark,
sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world
through valleys and pastures of peace.
you are the friends that I chose for myself,
the word that I want to proclaim.
you are the new kingdom built on a rock
where justice and truth always reign.

3. You are the life that will nurture the plant;
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
nor a mountain can cover its might;
may your good deeds show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God.

Refrain
We hope you will worship with us again.

Due to COVID-19, our physical building and office is closed but our mobile office is open Tuesday – Thursday - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. You can call 779-444-0369, or email: Centennialumc.rockford@gmail.com if you need any assistance.

When you need to reach Pastor Uziel in the case of emergency, please contact him at 224-723-7003 or - centennialumc.pastor@gmail.com

**PRAYER LIST**

At W. Willows: Mae Foster, Henrietta Day, Art Huenkemeier.


**BIRTHDAYS**

7/13 Bettye Mixon
7/15 Yuna Stone
7/16 Alexander Mankarious
7/17 Reynaldo Barrera
7/17 Art Huenkemeier
7/18 David Holland