

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104

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February 4, 2024

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 4, 2024 – 10:00am

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY - YEAR B

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING MUSIC:

Erica Kessler

In The Sweet By and By
by Joseph P. Webster
arr. by Mark Hayes

INTROIT:

He is Exalted

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS

Those who trust God will rise up with wings like eagles.

OPENING PRAYER (in Unison):

Everlasting God, you stretch the sky over our heads like a canopy filled with twinkling lights. Scarcely do the stems of our lives take root before the wind carries us away like stubble. Yet you care for us—healing the brokenhearted, gathering the outcast, lifting the downtrodden, while casting the wicked to the ground. Renew our strength this day, O God, that we may mount up with wings like eagles. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told to you from the beginning?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of heaven and earth.

God sits above the circle of the earth and stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

Those who wait for the Lord shall mount up with wings like eagles.

They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.

How good it is to sing praises to our God.

*OPENING HYMN:

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

UMH 452 (vss 1,2,3)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in Unison):

Holy God, even in our pursuit of safety and security, we yearn to seek justice for the poor and to defend the downtrodden from the privilege of the powerful. Give us the heart of Jesus, that we may care for the sick and rescue the perishing. Give us the spirit of Christ, that we may spend time in prayer and keep your path before our feet. Give us the love of your Son, that we may be instruments of your peace. Amen.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God showers the earth with rain, gives animals their food, and offers blessings to those who walk in the paths of righteousness. Sing praises to the Lord and rest secure in God's blessings.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

Erica Kessler

I Hear His Welcome Voice
by Lewis Hartsough
arr. by Johnie Dean

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in Unison):

Creator of heaven and earth, you shower the earth with rain, nourish the land with sunshine, and bless your people with goodness. Receive the gifts we bring before you this day, that they may touch the world with gladness and bring succor to those in need. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Dave Holland

(As the children come to the altar, please sing stanza 1 of Hymn 191, "Jesus Loves Me")

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 40:26-31

A reading from Isaiah...

26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

27 Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON:

"With Wings Like Eagles"
Pastor Audrey Rochet

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, UMH 13-15

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING IN UNISON

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN:

Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

*BENEDICTION:

Though our lives often seem overwhelming,
in God, we shall mount up with wings like eagles.

Though our responsibilities weigh us down,
in Christ, we shall run and not be weary.

Though injustice and discord sap our strength,
in the Spirit, we shall walk and not faint.

GOING FORTH:

His Land
by Ralph Carmichael

Erica Kessler

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Pastor: Rev. Auderine Rochet

Liturgists: CMUMC ministers

Pianist: Erica Kessler

Bulletin: Lora Doll

Social Media: Dulce Maciel

Power Point: Janie Kellermann

Announcements

February 4, 2024

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

Wednesdays Bible Study:

- with Pastor Judith in English, 12pm. On ZOOM.

For information about the **Spanish Bible Study** day and time call Pastor Audrey at (630) 670-3580

Good Samaritan Fund. Our Good Samaritan Fund is low. Money in this fund is used to help church members with financial assistance for housing, food and medical bills. If you would like to donate to boost this fund, please put your check in the collection plate. Make sure you put Good Samaritan Fund on the memo line. Your consideration to contribute to this fund is very much appreciated. If you are able, please consider donating to our Good Samaritan Fund this Christmas.

Saturday Kids Club. Every Saturday from 10:30am to 12:45 pm.

The Centennial United Methodist Church Hispanic Ministry will be meeting in homes instead of having the Sunday services. If you know of anyone that is interested in having a Pastor visit, a service or bible study in their home in the Spanish language please let Pastor Audrey know.

Please join us after our Sunday worship service for **Coffee time**. If you would like to volunteer to help setup for coffee time or donate cookies you can sign up at the office reception desk.

Order your free Covid test kits at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

Lent and Holy Week schedule:

- **Ash Wednesday** February 14, 2024. Service begins at 12:15pm. In person only.
- **Palm Sunday** March 24, 2024. Service begins at 10:00am. In person and on Facebook.
- **Good Friday** March 29, 2024. Service begins at 12:15pm. In person and on Facebook.
- **Easter Sunday** March 31, 2024. Service begins at 10:00am. In person and on Facebook.
- **Lenten Soup lunch**, *Sunday Feb 18th and Sunday Mar 10th*. Lunch will begin right after service.

UWF luncheon, Wednesday February 7, 2024, at 12 noon in the Dining Room at Court Street United Methodist Church. The cost of the valentine-themed meal is \$10. Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, bread/butter and a desert will be served. We are to bring dessert for 25. They will have apple pie and cheesecake for 20. The speaker will be Chaplain Laura DeVries and she will be speaking on Rockford's Reachout Jail Ministry. Please let Cindy know if you plan to attend. REMINDER: you can give Mimi your pledge.

Bishop's Day on the District Event: PLEASE JOIN BISHOP DAN SCHWERIN FOR A DAY OF REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION ON YOUR DISTRICT.

CLERGY WILL GATHER WITH THEIR DISTRICT FOR FELLOWSHIP AT 9:30 A.M. WITH THE PROGRAM BEGINNING AT 10 A.M. CONCLUDING WITH LUNCH.

LAITY WILL GATHER WITH THEIR DISTRICT FOR AN EVENING CONVERSATION FROM 6:30 TO 8:00 P.M. Registration is not needed for the laity gathering.

PRAIRIE NORTH - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- Clergy event at Freeport: Faith UMC (1440 S. Walnut Ave., Freeport, IL.)*
- Laity event at Freeport: Faith UMC (1440 S. Walnut Ave., Freeport, IL.)*

*Note location change

COME GATHER TO SHARE THE GREAT THINGS HAPPENING AND LEARN ABOUT THE BISHOP'S VISION FOR OUR CONFERENCE. You are encouraged to join in the gathering for your district, but should the one planned for you district not work for you, any gathering can be attended. Bishop Schwerin looks forward to meeting as many brothers and sisters as possible as he travels through the different districts.

Every Wednesday at noon: Weekly Methodist Liaison Office update and virtual prayer meeting. Participants will hear from a Palestinian speaker and meet in small groups for prayer. Methodists and others from around the world participate. Send an email message to the MLO for instructions on how to join the online meeting.

Laity Convocation, Feb. 10, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at First UMC, Belvidere. Theme: "Growing Together in Love: Learning to Have Courageous/Respectful Conversations." Be sure to tell your lay people about this enriching event of learning and making new friends.

Annual Conference 2024 Details: Theme: "I freely and heartily Yield", Sunday, June 16 - Tuesday, June 18, Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 N Thoreau Dr, Schaumburg, Ill.

Special observances and sessions:

- Clergy session: June 5 (location to be announced)
- Laity session: Sunday early afternoon, June 16
- Ordination and commissioning service: Sunday evening, June 16
- Retirement service: Monday morning, June 17
- Memorial service: Tuesday morning, June 18

Registration Begins on April 3

- April 3 - April 29: Early bird registration \$115/person
- April 30 - May 20: \$130/person
- Note: There will be NO on-site registration

Please note that due to so many cases rising of RSV and other illnesses we ask that you use a mask at your discretion while we are gathered in the church building. If you don't have a mask we have one for you at the church entrance.

****PRAYER LIST****

At W. Willows: *Art Huenkemeier.*

At Home: *Carol Risenhoover, Carol Waxler, Pat Nelson, Aida DeJesus.*

Undergoing Treatment/Rehab: *Ken Dahlgren, John Paul, Tara & Ismael Arencibia, Chuck & Kim Whitmore, Pat Nelson, David Russ, Reuben & Rosa Mendoza, Jennifer Martin, Forrest Nelson, Jeff Palmer, Pastor Judith, Milka Rivera.*

BIRTHDAYS

		2/9	Laquisha Dixon
2/2	Brian Gomez	2/9	Veronica Gomez
2/5	Jill Vails		
2/7	Jonathan Garcia		
2/8	Jesus 'Beto' Garza		
2/8	Julio Garza		

Joys and Concerns

Marje Doll requests prayers for her brother Gary and his wife Fran. Their three children are here to empty out their house and to make arrangements to move them to a nursing home. Gary and Fran are not ready for this life change. Let us keep them all in our prayers.

Grace Palmer requests prayers for the children in Sudan. There is an outbreak of chicken pox and many children are dying. There is great need for treatment and vaccines. Let us pray for the families and children in Sudan. Let us also pray for Jeff Palmer who has been having some health issues too.

Chuck Whitmore requests prayers for Kim and for himself. Kim went to check to see if she can be scheduled for her heart procedure but the blood work is not right so it will take a little longer. Let us also pray for Chuck who five months into completing fifty years of employment just got unemployed.

Cindy Whitmer requests prayers for the McGowan family. Carter McGowan, age 22, has been missing for a week. He was at a doctor's office to be seen for a mental health crisis and he ran out of the office. His jacket has been found by the river but Carter has not been found. His grandfather, Jim McGowan, is a good friend of Dougal's.

Pastor Judith Kelsey-Powell requests prayers for her daughter Anna works with a youth group and one of the youth lost a friend and classmate as the 17 year old girl was struck and killed by a Metra train when she was on her way to school on Thursday morning. The kids are really affected by this tragedy.

Rev. Keith Kelsey-Powell was present for worship this Sunday and he shared the joy of being present to worship together.

Dave Holland shared the joy of his son-in-law, Ian, getting hired at Dave's place of employment at Aqua-Aerobic Systems. Dave is very thankful for that.

We hope you will worship with us again.

You can call Pastor Audrey if you need any assistance, please contact her at 630.670.3580.

Pastor.audrey@ymail.com



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