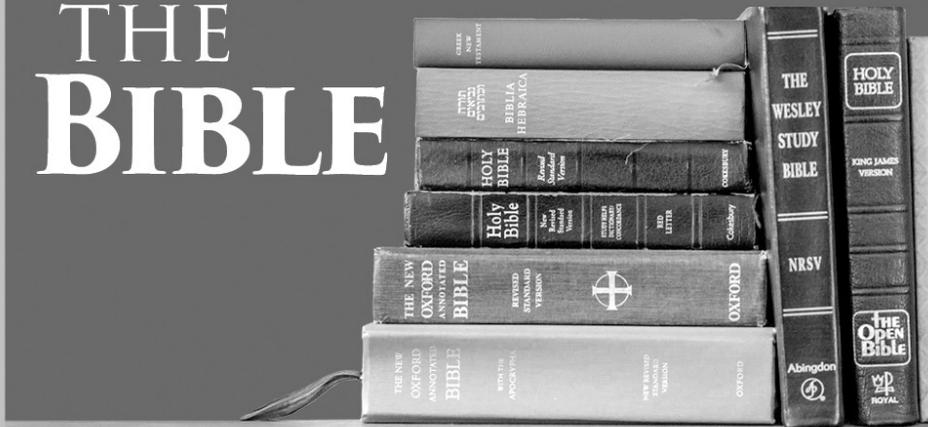


Order of Service for  
**CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

WELCOME

**JANUARY SERMON SERIES**

WHY READ  
THE  
**BIBLE**



**JANUARY 6: WHY READ THE BIBLE  
LIVING TEXT**

January 6, 2019  
10:00 a.m.



# Welcome to Worship

▲*All that are able, please stand.*

*Children of all ages are welcome in worship. Childcare is also available.*

*Ask an usher for assistance with hearing devices and large print hymnals.*

*Hymns no. 57-734 are in the red hymnal, 2000's in the black, and 3000's in the green.*

**Gathering Music** "Across the Lands" (Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend)

**Hymn**, no. 206 vs. 1-2 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Gathering**

L: We are a people of the book - telling of the Word made flesh.

**P: We receive stories handed down from one generation to another.**

L: Through this living text we meet our God enfleshed in Christ

**P: Who moves off the page into our lives.**

L: May our hearing be blessed this morning;

**P: May the Word take shape in us this day.**

**Opening Song of Praise**, no. 3051 vs. 1, 2, 4 "A Star Shone Bright"

**Unison Prayer** (*Walter Bruggemann*)

**Light from light, creation from chaos, life from death, joy from sorrow, peace from hate, all your gifts, all your love, all your power. All from your word, fresh from your word, all gifts of your speech. We give thanks for your world-forming speech. Thanks as well for our speech back to you, the speech of mothers and fathers who dared to speak in faith and unfaith, in trust and in distrust, in grateful memory and in high hurt. We cherish this speech as we trust yours. Listen this day for the groans and yearnings of your world, listen to our own songs of joy and our own drudges of death, and in the midst of our stammering, speak your clear word of life in the name of your word come flesh. Amen.**

**Moments With Children**

**Prayers of the People, Silent Prayer**



# Welcome to Worship

**Call to Prayer**, no. 3094 (sung twice)

“Come To Me”

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer**

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.

**Ministry in the Hands of the People**

**Special Music and Offering**

“Word of God Speak”

*(Bart Millard & Pete Kipley)*

**A Reading from John 1:1-14**

**Message**

**Why Read the Bible: Living Text**

**Michelle Hargrave**

**Song for Communion**, no. 601 vs. 1-2

“Thy Word is a Lamp”

**Communion**

*All are invited; we serve unfermented grape juice, and gluten free bread is available.  
Please come at the direction of the ushers.*

**Music During Communion**

“Shine On Us”

*(M.W. Smith & D.D. Smith)*

**Benediction**

**Closing & Dismissal**, no. 2173 vs. 1

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”



# Palimpsest\* (pa • limp • sest)

Week of **January 6, 2019**  
Epiphany Sunday

**Sermon: Why Read the Bible: Living Text**  
**Scripture: John 1:1-14**

## **Lectionary** **Readings**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

## **Your Notes**

## **Sermon Supplemental Reading**

The Holy Bible is rated very highly by all the people who supposedly live by it but who in actuality have not read it. Those who have read it know there are some good parts, but overall it is certainly not the finest thing that man has ever produced. It is repetitive, self-contradictory, sententious, foolish, and even at times ill-intentioned.

-GQ, *21 Books You Don't Have To Read*

For Christians, the “Word of God” as known, revealed, disclosed, and embodied in Jesus is the decisive “Word of God.” It outranks the Bible. Jesus is the norm of the Bible. When the Bible and what we see in Jesus conflict, as they sometimes do, Jesus trumps the Bible. This is what it means to say that Jesus is the Word become flesh. In him, Christians see more clearly than anywhere else the character and passion of God.

-Marcus Borg, *Speaking Christian*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,  
Ruler of the universe,  
for you spoke/and the world/was created;  
(In him was Life)  
your Word set the planets/and stars  
in their spiral dance/through space,  
and gave the universe;  
your Word joined the atoms  
in their spiral dance/through matter,  
and gave life;  
(And the life was the light of all people)

\* A Palimpsest is:

- 1: writing material (as a parchment or tablet) used one or more times,
- 2: something having unusually diverse layers or aspects apparent beneath the surface

And because we kept misunderstanding the words,  
you sent the Word.

Your Word/entered our journey  
through time/and gave love.

Your Word formed/filled/freed/fulfilled/  
transformed.

(In him was life.)

-Susan Palo Cherwien, *Crossings:  
Meditations for Worship*

The Word became flesh and blood,  
and moved into the neighborhood.

We saw the glory with our own eyes,  
the one-of-a-kind glory,

like Father, like Son,

Generous inside and out, true from start to finish

-John 1:14, *The Message*

At the start was the gathering up, and the gleaning  
was toward God, and God was the gathering up.

This gleaning at the start was toward God. Through  
this, everything was born, and apart from this,  
nothing was born at all. In this gathering up was life,  
and the life was the light that belongs to humanity,  
and the light appeared in the darkness, and the  
darkness did not put it out. And the gathering up  
turned into human flesh and encamped among us.

We saw the splendor of it, splendor like someone  
pure-born, full of blessing and truth.

-Tom F. Driver, *Patterns of Grace*

## Kids' Corner

What is your favorite book?

What is your favorite  
Bible story?

## Questions

- Do you read the Bible? Why or why not?
- What helps you to understand the Bible?
- What is your favorite book?
- What do you plan to read this year?

# Calendar of Events

## Sunday, January 6

9:00 a.m.

Sundays at Centenary (see below)

## Monday, January 7

8:30 a.m.

Holy Grounds

## Tuesday, January 8

8:30 a.m.

Holy Grounds

1:30 p.m.

Women Living Beyond

5:30 p.m.

Trustees

## Wednesday, January 9

8:30 a.m.

Holy Grounds

5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Open Circle (see below)

## Thursday, January 10

8:30 a.m.

Holy Grounds

9:00 a.m.

Women's Book Study

12:00 p.m.

Communications Team

5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

## Friday, January 11

7:30 a.m.

UM Men

8:30 a.m.

Holy Grounds

## Saturday, January 12

8:30 a.m.

Holy Grounds

### Sundays at Centenary

9:00 a.m. Education  
 10:00 a.m. Worship  
 11:00 a.m. Fellowship

### Wednesday Open Circle

5:00 p.m. Supper  
 5:30 p.m. Carol Choir  
 6:00 p.m. Worship  
 6:30 p.m. Classes, Youth Group,  
 & Rehearsals



## Announcements

**Flowers This Week** are given by Kristy Gilberts in memory of her parents.

**Wednesday Open Circle** We invite you to join us for supper 5:00 p.m. at a cost of \$4 per person or \$12 for a family (recommended) followed by Carol Choir practice at 5:30 p.m., worship at 6:00 p.m., then classes, youth group, & rehearsals at 6:30 p.m. On the menu this week is soup and bread with dessert.

**Adult Forum** Join Pastor Michelle Sundays in January at 9:00 a.m. to explore the United Methodist "A Way Forward." Over the four Sundays we will look at the 3 main plans that are proposed, the process of decision ahead of the United Methodist Church, and how Centenary's ministry connects to this decision.

**Connections Shelter Volunteers Needed** We will be hosting the Connections Shelter beginning January 21st through January 27th. We are in need of volunteers for the evening hospitality shift from 6:45 - 9:30 p.m., volunteers to bring supper each evening, and morning wake up volunteers from 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. Please see Pastor Erica or Mike Laven after worship or contact the office to sign up for a shift. Thanks for your help!

**All Church Conference and Potluck** Join us after worship Sunday, January 27 for our Annual All Church Conference. We will begin with a potluck at 11:15 a.m. then gather for the meeting around noon. The Annual Church Conference is an opportunity to celebrate the ministry of 2018 and prepare for 2019. Everyone is welcome to participate; members are able to vote.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Holy Grounds: Tuesday - Saturday mornings 8:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
- Connections Shelter: January 21st - 27th
- Coffee Host: January 27th

# Welcome To Centenary

We are glad that you are here and invite you to fill out the Connect Card that is in your bulletin. If you are a first time guest and you fill out the card we will be glad to make a donation in your honor - you can select your choice on the card. Please note the prayer requests and connections opportunities on the back of the card. Completed Connect Cards may be placed in the offering plate later in the service. Please join us for coffee and donuts following worship.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor ..... Rev. Michelle Hargrave  
 Pastor of Discipleship & Justice Ministries ..... Rev. Erica Koser  
 Director of Children & Family Ministry ..... Maddie Mardesen  
 Friends and Family Band ..... Doug Faust, Lori Faust, Craig Timmerman,  
 ..... Mark Braun, Nate Beran, Kelly Coyle, Pam Soper  
 Host ..... Phyllis Senska  
 Server ..... Jevne Clobes  
 Fair Trade ..... Hilda Parks  
 Greeters ..... Cheryl Rueda - Parking Lot  
 ..... Terry Lutz - Cherry St.  
 ..... Carla Frederick - Connector  
 Ushers ..... Brian Frederick, Dwayne Dugan, Jim Rueda  
 Tech Booth ..... Eric Koser, Gale Bigbee

*Cover image by Kylie Beran*



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### 501 Prayer

To be prayed daily at 5:01

**O God of our ancestors, you planted Centenary  
 In the heart of Mankato for a purpose.  
 You led each of us to this time and place.  
 Now, God, guide our hearts to live your plan for us.  
 Break through the barriers in us and in our church  
 So your Spirit may flow through us like the river.  
 As we do your work to change lives  
 May your will thunder forth in our church.  
 In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.**



Network: united  
Password: testament