

Centenary United Methodist Church 2300 W. Friendly Ave. Greensboro, NC 27403 March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director

Welcome friends, family, and visitors. May your hearts be touched by the
Holy Spirit as we join in worship with devotion, songs, and prayer.
Our Mission: To experience God's life-changing love and take God's love into the world.
Our Vision: To be a church where everyone is involved in ministry.

Gathering Music Storiella d'Amore Giacomo Puccin David McPhail, Trumpet

Announcements for Ministry and Missions

Choral Introit Fanfare for Easter Morning Gordon Young Choir

†Call to worship:

L: The darkness is gone!

P: Bright light floods into this new day of hope.

L: Those who went to the tomb received good news.

P: Christ was not there!

L: Christ is risen in our hearts and our spirits!

P: Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia! Amen!

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Lighting of the Christ Candle David Sillmon and Family

†Prayer

†Hymn of Praise: Christ the Lord is Risen Today UMH 302

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer and the 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.

Anthem Arise, Sing, 'Tis Easter Morning Marian Chaplin Choir

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: The Good News Rev. Kelley Groce

†Easter Affirmation of Faith

I Believe in the Resurrection

One: We believe in the resurrection.

All: We believe that Jesus died on the cross, his hands and feet held to the wood by metal spikes. We believe that his body was pierced by the soldier's spear, and even the sun was darkened as all creation grieved the death of God's eternal Son.

One: We believe in the resurrection.

All: We believe that Jesus' body was placed in a borrowed tomb, where it lay for three days. We believe that the power of God, his heavenly Father, brought life to his dead body and rolled the stone away from the entrance so all might see that Jesus was no longer there.

One: We believe in the resurrection.

All: We believe that the unbelievable story of the women was true, just as the angel had announced: "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

One: We believe in the resurrection.

All: We believe that there is no force in the universe that could stop, hinder, contain, or successfully oppose the risen Savior, my Lord, Jesus Christ. No nails are long enough to hold him to any cross unless he wills it to be so. No tomb can be sealed so tightly—by Pilate or Herod, or Caesar himself. Were there an army of a thousand men guarding the tomb, it would make no difference. Jesus said he would lay down his life and take it up again. And he did.

One: We believe in the resurrection.

All: We believe that Jesus appeared to eleven discouraged, defeated, demoralized disciples in a room where the doors were locked and all hope was lost. We believe that when he showed them his nail-pierced hands and his spear-pierced side, they fell at his feet and cried out, "My Lord and my God!" We believe that in the days that followed, hundreds saw him alive. All their doubt was removed; their fear was gone. What could the world do to them? Jesus was alive.

One: We believe in the resurrection.

All: We believe that Jesus lives today—
as powerfully and perfectly alive as he was two thousand years ago, and for all time past
and yet to come. We believe he empowers his followers to follow in his footsteps, fight the
forces of evil, and find their peace and joy and eternal hope in him.

One: We believe in the resurrection.

All: We believe that Jesus calls women, men, and children to join him in changing the world, one heart and life at a time, starting with their own. One day soon, he will come again on the clouds of heaven with an army of celestial warriors whose numbers are beyond counting and whose power is beyond imagining. Then Jesus will establish his eternal kingdom, where there will be no more soldiers or spears or sepulchers or battles or bleeding wounds or crosses. We believe all this because we believe in the Resurrection! Amen

— written by Ed Baker, and posted on Reformed Worship.

Gloria Patri

Special Music Joyful Song* Bruce Broughton David McPhail, Trumpet

(*aka Oliver's Birthday)

We Worship with God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory The Power of the Cross Getty/Townend Choir

†Doxology

†Hymn: Up from the Grave He Arose! UMH 322

†Blessing and Benediction

†Postlude Jesus Christ is Risen Today Calvin Hampton

†Please rise in body or in spirit as you are able and please silence your cell phones†

A big welcome and thank you to David McPhail, our trumpeter this Easter morning!