



Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue

Greensboro, NC 27403

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor- Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Announcements for Ministry and Missions

Choral Call to Worship.....*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Call to Worship:

Leader: In the midst of growing darkness, God comes to us with peace

People: Thanks be to God who has heard our cries and has come to release us.

Leader: Worship the Lord with gladness, for our bondage is ended.

People: Worship the Lord with shouts of joy, for we have been freed in God's Name. Amen.

Lighting of The First Advent Candle.....Debra Schuleter and Teresa John

Musical ResponseO Come, O Come Emmanuel #211 v.1

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

First Hymn.....*Great is Thy Faithfulness #140 v. 1&2*

*Great is thy faithfulness, O god my Father; there is no
shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions,
they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.*

(Refrain)

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning

new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

Concerns of Congregation and Community

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

We worship with our Tithes and God's Offering

Offertory.....I Want to Walk as a Child of the light

Sermon: Hope: Miracle on 34th street

Affirmation of Faith for Advent

We believe in God,
creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—

God coming to us
in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope,
God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell,
he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way
to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth
as the body of Christ,
and empowers us
to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by the Baptist,
it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated
in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,
when all who have passed through
the world's deep sorrow
will be raised from the waters,
robed in righteousness,
and gathered into the joyous fulfilment
of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day,
we work and pray:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

— written by Nathan Nettleton, and posted on his [Laughingbird](#) website.

Hymn.....*Be Thou My Vision #451 v.1&2*

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,*

great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Benediction

Choral Benediction.....*Alleluia, Alleluia*

The Altar Flowers are given today by Jeanne Batten.

If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, to be given in honor, in memory, or in celebration, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643. The following date is still available in 2020: December 27.

Prayer Concerns

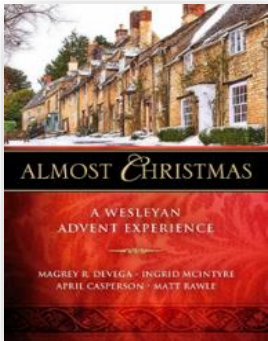
If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

The Prayer Chain has received requests to pray for the following people:

Dean Saunders, collapsed lung. **Friend of Kelley Groce, Meissa Garner's Mother-Julie Brewer** had a severe stroke. **Mary Louise Woods**, tested positive for the Covid-19 virus. **Dwight Adams, Coak and Nancy May's niece's husband** who is hospitalized and on a ventilator with Covid-19. **Bonnie Travis' sister, Peggy Mayo** having chemo. **Bonnie Travis' granddaughter** needs prayer. **Paul Long's younger brother and sister-in-law, Dan and Sharon Long**, both have the Covid-19 virus. **Ann Hennings** fell and broke her shoulder on November 2. **Joann Martin** fell and broke her left hip. **Peggy Bowles. Mike Crabtree. Amy Coffee's grandmother-Ruby Foland . Sally Goin's friend Janice Osborne. Jackie Thompson's mom-Lucille Crawford. Friend of Betty Durham-Julia Willis. Judy Milligan, Noah Demmitt, Amy Coffee, Don & Clara Ellis, Chuck Farabee, Trudy Sillmon, Rachel Sheppard, and Pat Stevenson.** Please, keep all in your prayers as so many who are dealing with many anxieties over the coronavirus.

Our sympathies to Bill, Keith, Teresa, and Lisa in the death of Celia Eller on November 18, 2020.

If you have a prayer concern, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643 or call Kelley at the parsonage. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation or only with the pastoral staff.



New Advent Study-Almost Christmas

When: Sunday mornings @10:00am

Dates: Advent Study will begin November 29 –
December 20 (4 weeks)

Where: via zoom

Make your Wesleyan heritage
a part of your Christmas

In John Wesley's famous sermon, "The Almost Christian," he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. In *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, author and pastor Magrey deVega leads a group of authors in exploring how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent, and connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. Additional components for a four-week study include a DVD and a comprehensive Leader Guide, as well as Nativity hymns by Charles Wesley, litanies for lighting the Advent wreath, and prayers that can be incorporated into both worship and small group Setting. You may order the book, which would be helpful, thru Cokesbury, Amazon, or Christianbooks.com

Church Office Closed – The Centenary UMC office will be closed for Thanksgiving November 25, 26, and as always on Friday, November 27.