



Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403

July 4, 2021 11:00am

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.

Gathering Music

Patriotic Medley...arr. Keveren

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

†**Hymn**

America

UMH 697 v. 1,2 &4

†**Call to Worship**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past...Croft/Watts

Leader: We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ.

People: Members of God's family, and brothers and sisters to one another. There are no outsiders here among us.

Leader: No one has any special standing or bragging rights.

People: We have all been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus. Let us all join together in worship!

†**Opening Prayer**

**Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth.
Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed
the responsibility of government and leadership
in the nations of the world.
Give to them the vision of truth and justice,
that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together.
Give to the people of our country
zeal for justice and strength of forbearance,
that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will.
Forgive our shortcomings as a nation;
purify our hearts to see and love the truth.
We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.**
(ANDY LANGFORD, U.S.A., 20TH CENT.)

Anthem *God Bless America...Kate Smith*

Scripture John 8:31-41

Sermon How is Freedom Defined? Rev. Kelley Groce

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

We Worship with our Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory *The Summons...John Bell*

† **Hymn** *America the Beautiful* UMH 696 v. 1&3

Thanksgiving and Communion

Taking the Bread and Cup

The Great Thanksgiving

A Great Thanksgiving for Independence Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Almighty God, Creator of the universe,
Ruler of all nations, Judge of all flesh,
you have placed us, your people, in this land made rich
with rivers, forests, mountains, and creatures great and small.
Here, you set before the founders and pioneers of this nation

an opportunity beyond measure
to build a realm of justice, peace, and freedom.
Here you continue to call your people,
freed from the law and baptized into Christ Jesus,
to be a sign of your reign in all the world.
For such a place, such a vision
and such a calling we give you thanks,
praying we may ever join afresh the dreams you set before us
as we join with your people in every land on earth
and with all the company of heaven
in your unceasing praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Above all we give you thanks
for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ,
who sends us into the world
to declare the good news of your kingdom
to every creature:
Justice to all peoples,
good news to the poor,
release for prisoners,
sight for the blind,
and freedom for the oppressed.
On the night before he was arrested and sentenced to death
by the authorities of his own nation,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples,
and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you."
When supper was over,
he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples,
and said, "Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the covenant
poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins."
And so we remember and proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

We pour ourselves out before you in praise and thanksgiving,
a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us.
So pour out your Spirit
on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make Christ known to us in the breaking of this bread,

and the sharing of this cup.
Renew our fellowship in him,
that we may be for the world his body
poured out for the world
at this time in this nation,
and at that great banquet in the fullness of your new creation
where justice flows like rivers,
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,
where none shall hunger or thirst,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

**By him, with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty God,
now and ever. Amen.**

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. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**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.**

†Hymn

God of the Ages

UMH 698 v. 1,2&4

Blessing and Benediction

Leader: God of fireworks and good works, bless us this day as we go from this place. May our celebrations be
joyous and memorable, and may our service to others reflect your love and peace.

People: Amen.

Postlude

Battle Hymn of the Republic...Steffen/Howe, arr. Keveren

†Please stand as you are able.

*** Please silence all cell phones during the service. Thank you.*