



**Centenary United Methodist Church  
2300 W. Friendly Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
December 11, 2022**

**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 “Advent matins chant from the time of Jan Hus” from “Christmas Sonatina”  
Vitezslav Novak.... James Esterline, Piano

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship                                      The First Noel                                      Choir

Call to worship

Surely God is our salvation. *Isa. 12:2-6*

**We will trust in God and not be afraid.**

Surely God is our strength and our might.

**We will make known God’s deeds among the nations.**

We gather in this season of Advent to wait, watch, and wonder.

**We gather to share the joy we find in the Christ-child,  
and the joy that God finds in us!**

Come, let us worship God!

**Unison Prayer:**

**Lord, thank you for surprising us with your joy! In the middle of our day-to-day chaos your care and grace find us just when we need it. Continue to transform us with your love, so that we can work on building your kingdom more fully here with all we have and all we are. Amen.**

†Hymn                                      It Came upon the Midnight                                      UMH 218

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles                                      Kristy Stout

†Hymn                                      Light the Advent candle                                      TFWS 2090 (v.3)

Joys and Concerns of Congregation and Community

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Anthem                                      Is It Far to Bethlehem?                                      Loonis McGlohon                                      Choir

Scripture:                                      Isaiah 35:1-10

Sermon:                                      Joy Made Possible                                      Rev. Kelley Groce

†Advent Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that God has come to us;**

**that God brought us into being,**

**that this God gave us breath and purpose,**

**that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,**

**that we have fallen short of this commandment**

**but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.**

**We believe that God is coming to us;**

**that God is not happy to leave us alone,**

**that this God will come to us as a particular human being,**

**that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,**

**that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,**

**that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.**

**We believe that God will come to us;**

**that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,**

**that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,**

**that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,**

**that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,**

**and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"**

*"Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing [www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com)"*

†Gloria Patri

†Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign

UMH 157 (v.1,4,5)

We Worship God with God's Tithes and our Offering

Offertory

What Child is This?

Jackie Thompson, Clarinet  
with James Esterline, Piano

†Doxology

†Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

Benediction

†Postlude

Rejoice and Be Merry

Todd Kendall

†Please stand as you are able.

"Many thanks to Jackie Thompson and James Esterline for their beautiful music in today's worship!"



**As you engage your 'Prayer Life' this week, please remember these 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 336-285-081. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.**

**Prayer Requests:**

Faye Elliott, will have surgery on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Susan Carrick. Sheridian Wacker. Dave Blackman. Lori Johnson. Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane, Jim & Scott Stanley. Anne Murr. Trudy Sillmon. Don & Clara Ellis. Aly Saunders. Sharry Hastings (Caryn Hull's sister). Quinton Verchick (Harold & Linda Billing's grandson). Rowan James (David Groce's co-worker's child). Zara Beth Woods, fall (Kelley Groce's friend). Mike, heart (Nancy and Coak May's brother-in-law). Nancy Gordan's brother, eye surgery. Scott Stanley's great aunt Peggy.

We extend of sympathy to the family of Paul Long who passed away December 3, 2022.



December Birthdays –David Sillmom (12) Scott Stanley (13). Bobby Burklin (15) Haley Saunders (17). Clara Ellis, March Schlueter, Geoff Horn (18) Nancy Carrick (19). Harrison Stout (22). Trudy Sillmon (24). Mary Jo Baugh (30). Travis John (31).

**Announcements and Calendar of events**

**December 11-2pm** – Blessing of the Animals on the from lawn at the manger. Please bring items for the Greensboro Animal Shelter.

**December 11-3pm** – Centenary Community Concerts presents a program of piano music, from far and near, with Christmas themes performed by Anita Trumpler-Rich and James Esterline.

**December 14-3pm** – Kelley will be at Friends Home, Guilford for Worship and Communion.

**December 17- 8am to 10am** – Community Breakfast. All help is needed and appreciated. Come join us as we serve the community as the hands and feet of Jesus.

**December 21- 8am to 9:30am, noon to 1pm. 5pm to 6pm** – "Blue Christmas, Prayers on the Go" in front of the church. All welcome!

**December 24- Christmas Eve 4pm** – Candlelight Worship Service with Communion.

**December 25- 11am Christmas Day Worship Service.** No Sunday School.