



*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

## Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue.  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
December 22, 2024

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

Announcements for Ministries and Missions

Choral Call to worship

Call to worship:

Leader: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

**People: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.**

Leader: Now is the season of hope unfolding.

**People: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.**

Leader: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

**People: May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

**All: Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope. Amen.**

*(Ruth Duck, **Bread for the Journey**, Pilgrim Press, 1981, p.18-19.)*

Let us Pray:

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel! God with us, You came to us long ago as a helpless babe, as one in need of human love and care. You taught us how to love and care for one another. Help us to hold on to childlike wonder, amazement, and love, and help us to love one another all year long. Guide our feet into the way of peace, as only the Prince of Peace can lead us, by laying down our lives for one another and serving one another. In the name of Christ, Emmanuel, God with Us, we pray. Amen.

*Liturgy created/adapted by Rev. Mindi Welton*

†Hymn

The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

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

Scripture: Luke 1: 39-45

Sermon: The Intrusion of a Baby Rev. Kelley Groce

Affirmation of Faith Apostle's Creed UMH 881

†Gloria Patri

†Hymn

We worship with God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

†Doxology

†Benediction

†Postlude

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

### **Announcements for Mission and Ministry**

**December Birthdays:** 1<sup>st</sup> Dona Pickett. 5<sup>th</sup> Nina Stowe. 6<sup>th</sup> Charles Gordan. 7<sup>th</sup> Grant Sillmon. 10<sup>th</sup> Carol Burklin, Betty Durham & Alvin Eaton. 12<sup>th</sup> David Sillmon. 15<sup>th</sup> Bobby Burklin. 17<sup>th</sup> Haley Saunders. 18<sup>th</sup> Clara Ellis, Mark Schlueter & Geoff Horn. 19<sup>th</sup> Nancy Carrick. 22<sup>nd</sup> Harrison Stout. 30<sup>th</sup> May Jo Baugh. 31<sup>st</sup> Travis John.

**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 336-285-5081. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Lenora Reese. Ann Atchison, Friends Home Guilford. Bob Lyon (Mike Crabtree's son-in-law). Kristy Stout. Win and Lin Johnson. Doris Pruitt. Andy McFarland-health issues (Milton McFarland's brother). Andrew Gibbons. Michael Santowaso-cancer (Becky's husband, David Sillmon's son-in-law). Pray for our church during this time of transition. Joann Martin. Carol & Bobby Burklin. Margaret & Patrick Miller. Martha Nell Rives. Gretchen Crabtree. Dave & Barbara Blackman. Susan Carrick. Sheridan. Lee & Jane Norman. Al & Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane & Jim Stanley. Aly Saunders. Hazel Perritt. Debra Kirkman (Jean Greene, Kelley's Mom, friend). Carolyn Crabtree (Mike Crabtree's aunt). Joe (Susan Shuping's brother). Continue to be in prayer for the victims of Hurricane Helene and all the First Responders. Cheyenne Thomas (Betty Durham's granddaughter).

**December Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – 6pm** - Advent Bible Study in Conference Room.