



**Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403
December 18, 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 Ding, Dong, Merrily on High; and I Wonder as I Wander Centenary Ringers

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship Star-Child Choir

Call to worship

Leader: Come, worship our God who communicates in many ways!

All: Creator, we are ready to listen.

Leader: God guides us through Scriptures, dreams, and conscience.

All: Jesus we are ready to listen.

Leader: As God spoke in ages past, God speaks still.

All: Spirit, we are ready to listen. God, as we attend to you, fill us with love.

Prayer: **Caring one, in our doubts and fears you claim us as beloved. When life feels heavy you meet us where we are. Lord, help us to be bearers of your love in the world by affirming the worth of others. Inspire us to trust in what is possible, dwelling in each of us. May love be our guide. Amen.**

†Hymn Once in Royal David's City UMH 250

Advent Candle Lighting Reading Emily Wagoner

Hymn: Light the Advent candle TFWS 2090 (v 4)

Joys and Concerns of Congregation and Community

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Anthem Treasures of the Heart Powtan/Choplin Choir

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25

Sermon: Love Made Possible

†Advent Litany

Creator God, we have celebrated the hope, peace, and joy that come from You. And now we celebrate Love, which is from You, and is Your very nature.

God is Love.

You formed the universe out of the void, and breathed life into your creatures, all because of your great love.

In You, we live and move and have our being. We exist because of Your love.

Humanity rejected You. But because of your love you made a way to restore us to relationship with Yourself.

Love made a way. That love is Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God-With-Us. Born of a virgin girl in a stable, laid in a manger, Jesus entered the world in humility and compassion.

Jesus lived, was crucified, died, and was resurrected from death, all for love. Love has conquered death.

It is his example we live by: self-sacrificing love. And we know that “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs...”

“... Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

May our hearts be illumined with the light of Love....

And may we share Your love wherever we go.

Amen

†Gloria Patri

†Hymn

The First Noel

UMH 245 (v. 1-3)

We Worship God with God’s Tithes and our Offering

Offertory

Silent Night

Centenary Ringers

†Doxology

†Hymn

The First Noel

UMH 245 (v. 4-5)

†Benediction

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Centenary Ringers

†Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

† Please stand as you are able and take time during the gathering music to silence all cell phones.

‘A big “Thank you” to the Centenary Ringers for sharing their beautiful handbell music with us 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:

Betty Pleasants, Faye Elliott, will have surgery on December 20th. 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). Zeda Beth Woods fell (Kelley Groce's friend). Mike, heart issues (Nancy and Coak May's brother-in-law). Nancy Gordan's brother, eye surgery. Scott Stanley's great aunt Peggy.



December Birthdays –Clara Ellis, Mark 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 19 – Deadline return form in honor or memory for Luminary and Food Bags.

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.

We will light special personalized luminaries after the service.

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

On Christmas Eve We will light special personalized luminaries

Wednesdays at 6:45pm choir practice and bell practice at 7:30pm. All are welcome to join.

See Anita if you have any questions.

Sunday School at 9:45am –in the Fellowship Hall.

Undie Sunday- The First Sunday of each month. Please, we need new, packaged undies for men and women all sizes. Also needed black and white socks for men and women all sizes

Light Up the Sanctuary Campaign. The sanctuary lights have been fixed but the campaign is continuing! If you would like to contribute to the cause-please gift to **Light Up the Sanctuary Campaign and designate as such.**

The UMW still has pecans (whole and pieces) available for \$15.00 each. If interested, please see Debra Schlueter or call the church office!

Reminder: In the event of inclement weather, watch WXII 12 or Fox 8 for church closings.

There will also be a phone tree to go out and it will be on our FaceBook page.