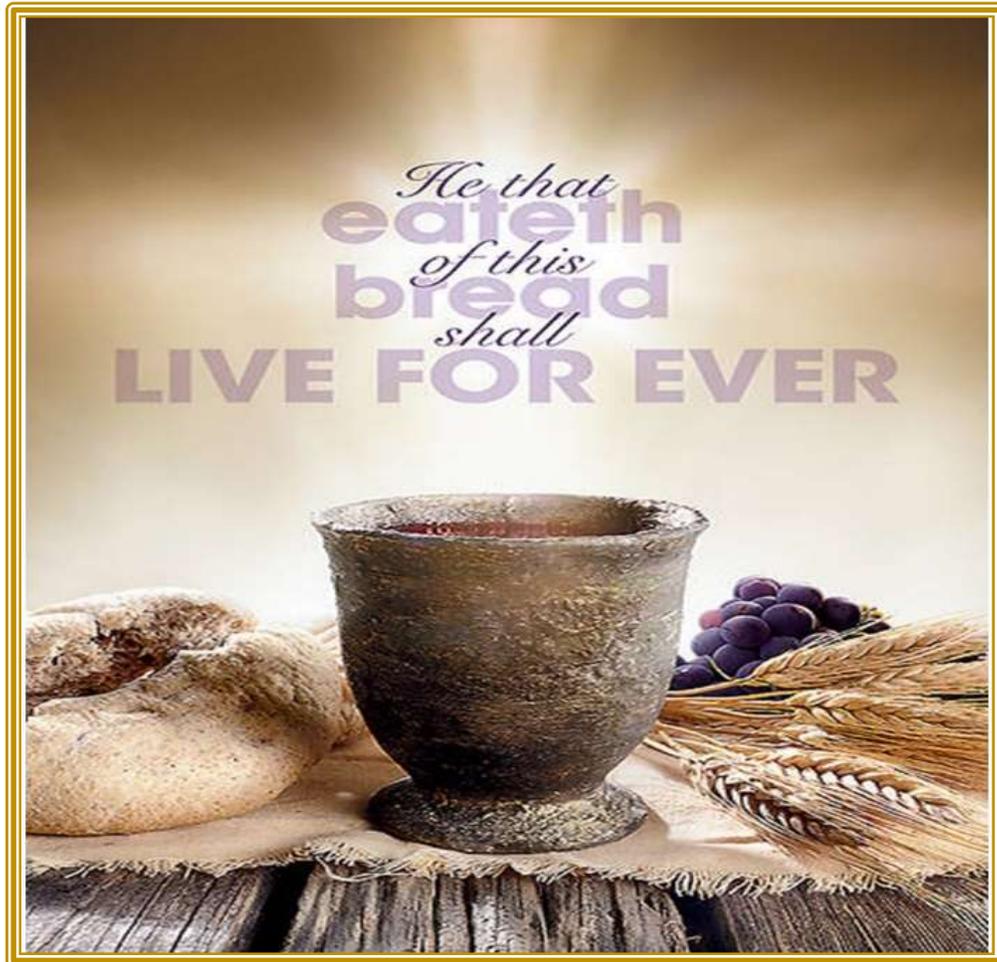


Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

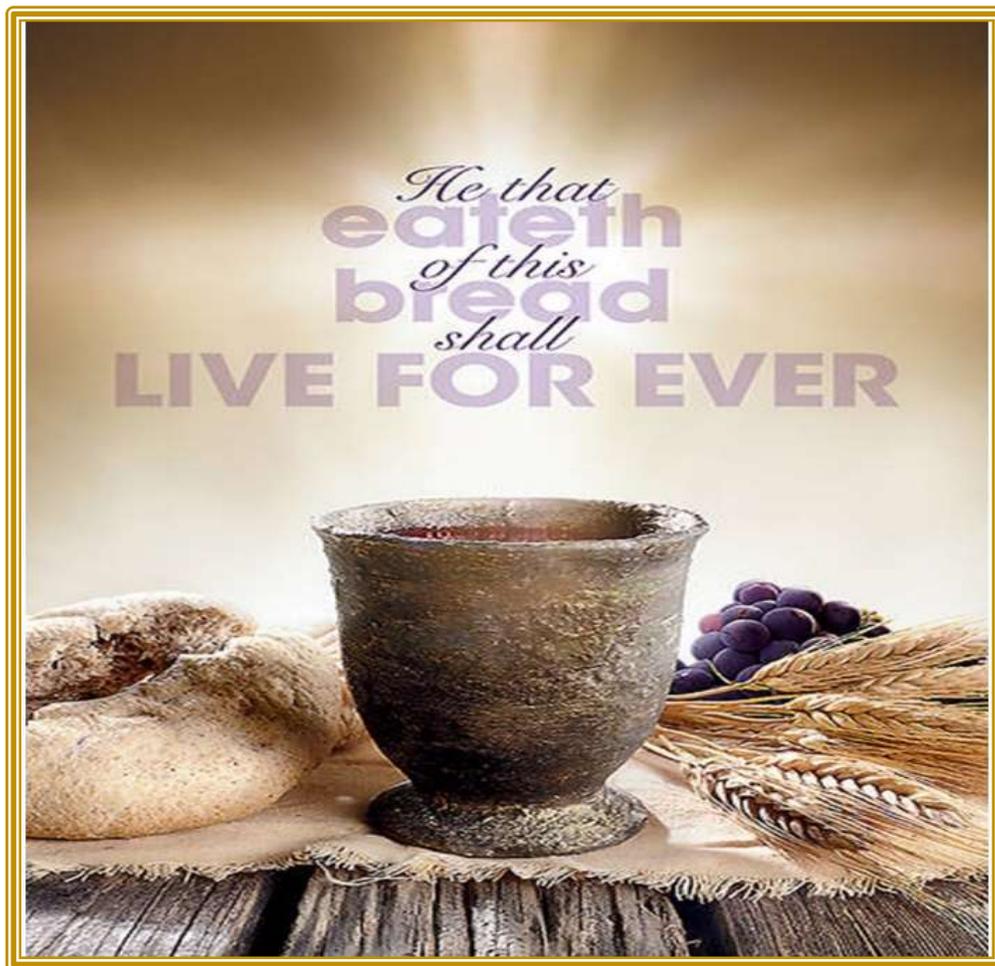
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

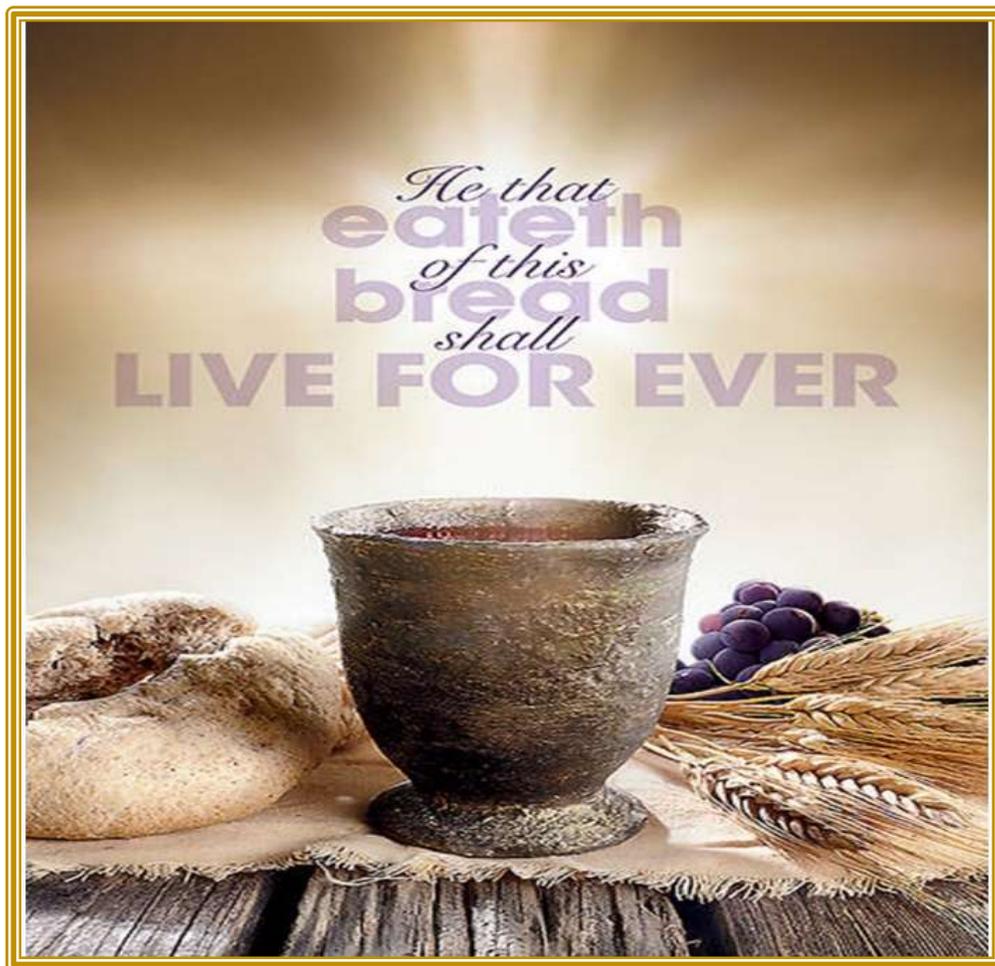
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

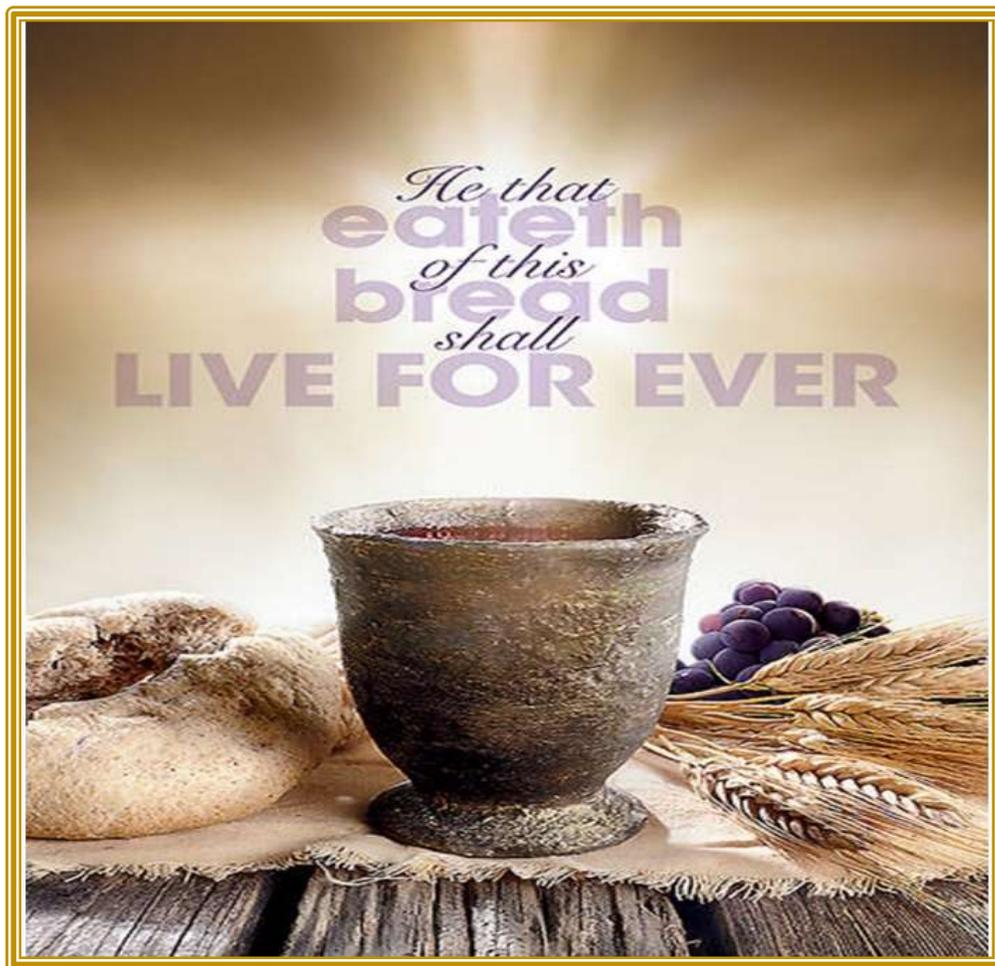
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

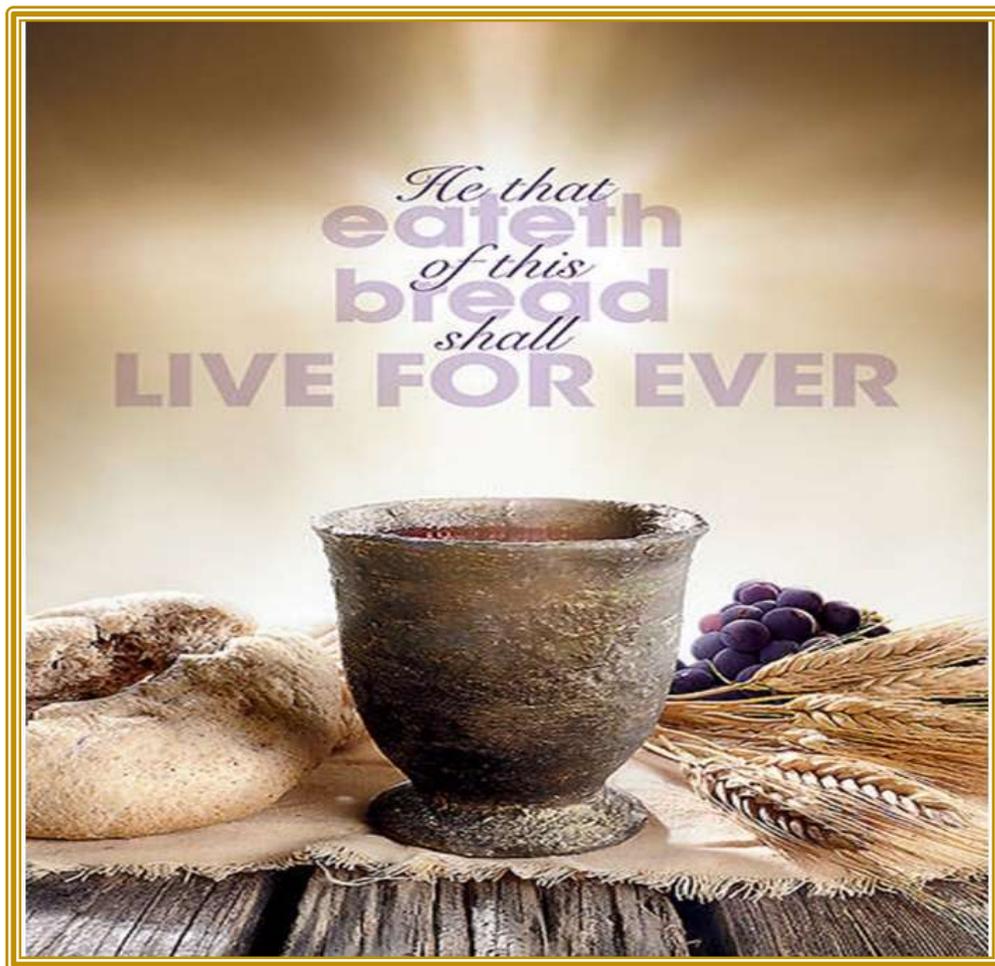
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

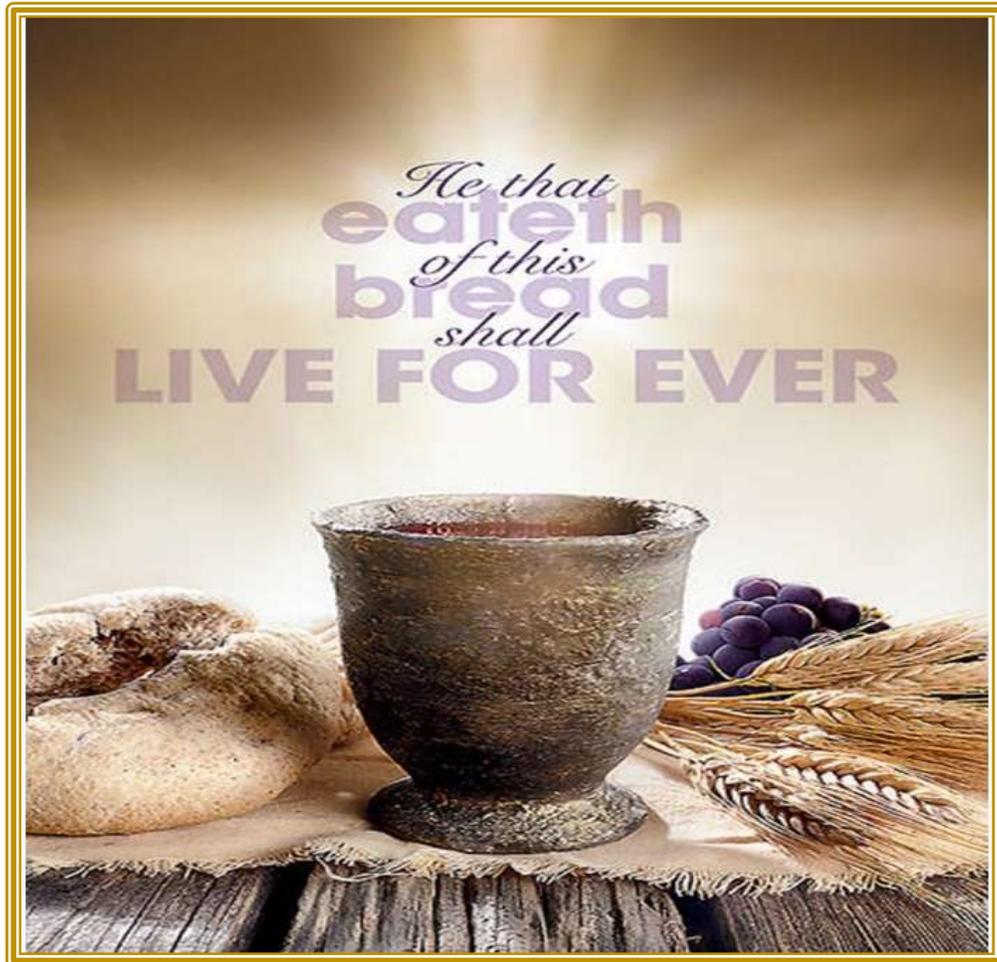
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

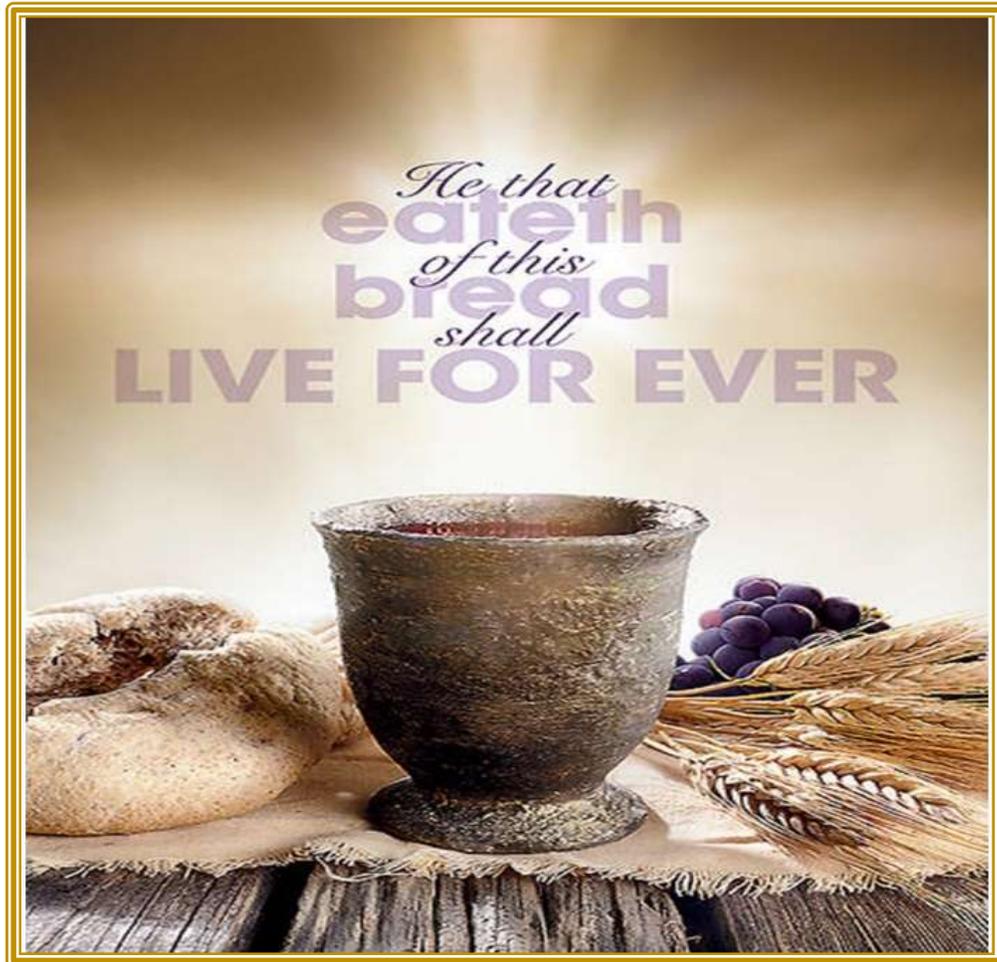
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

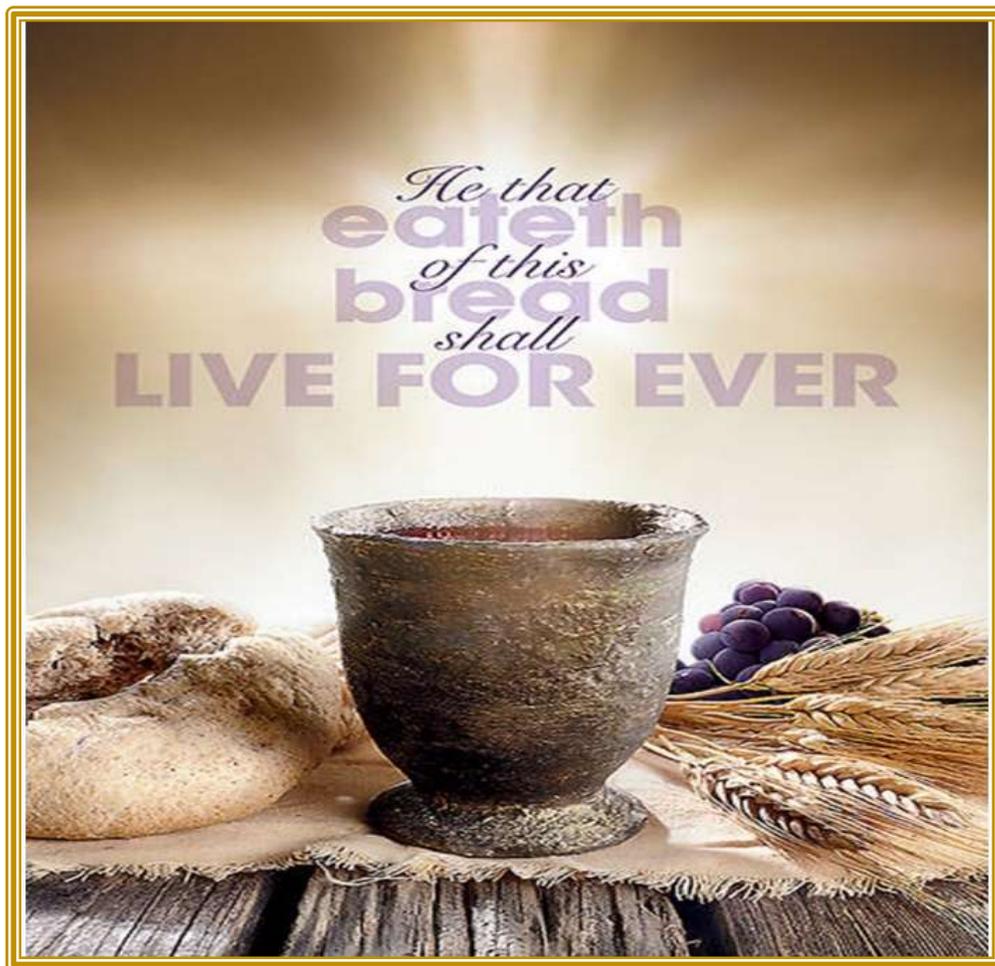
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

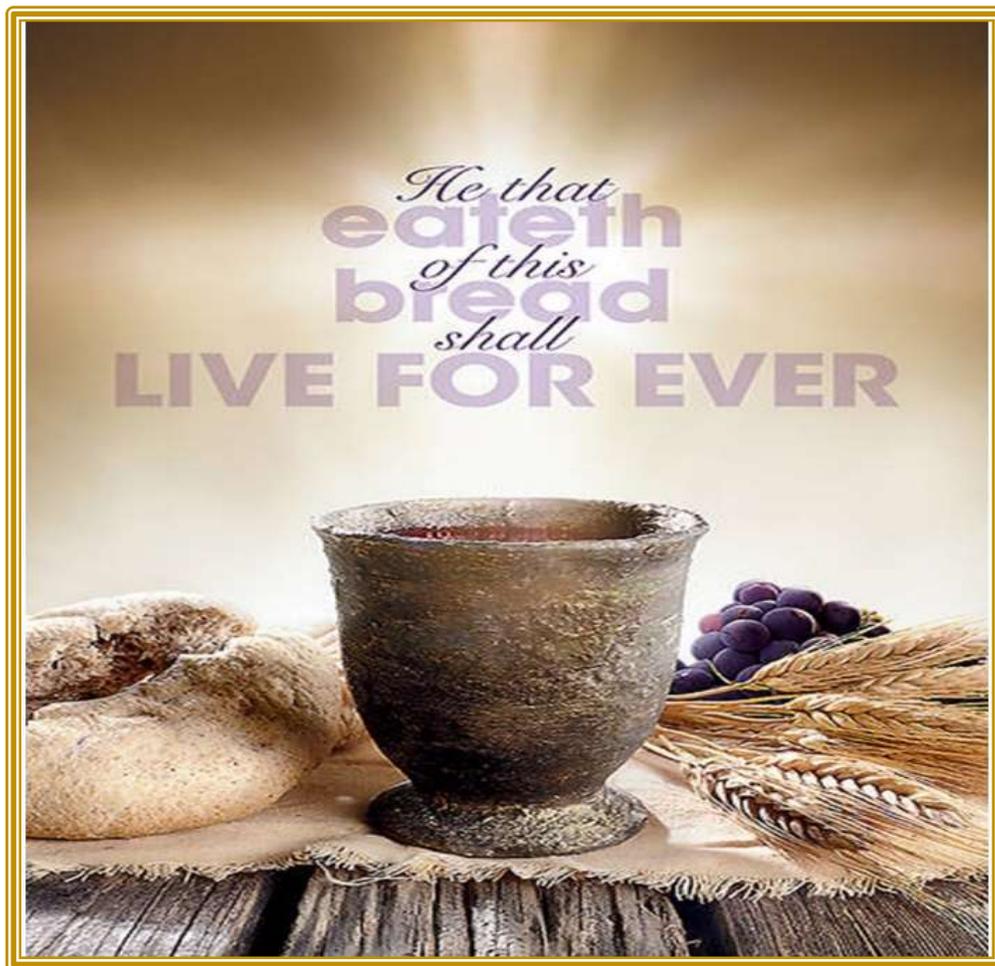
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

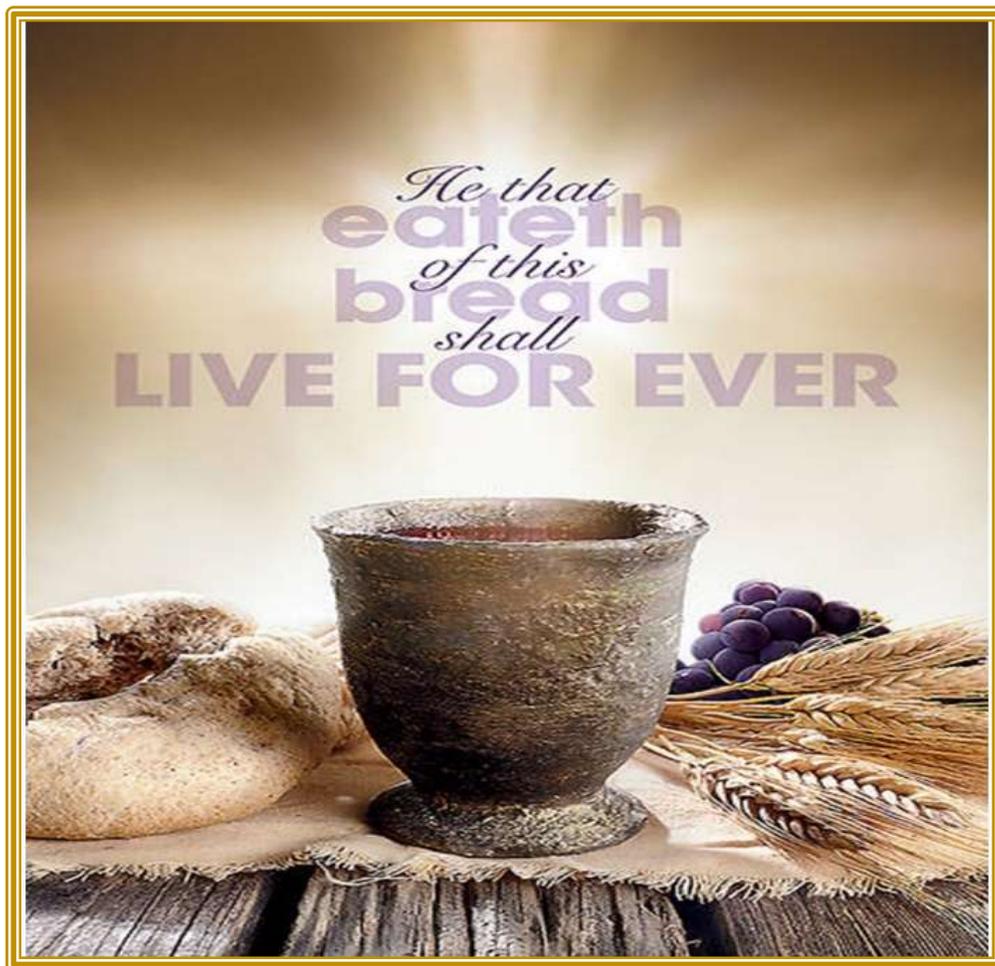
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

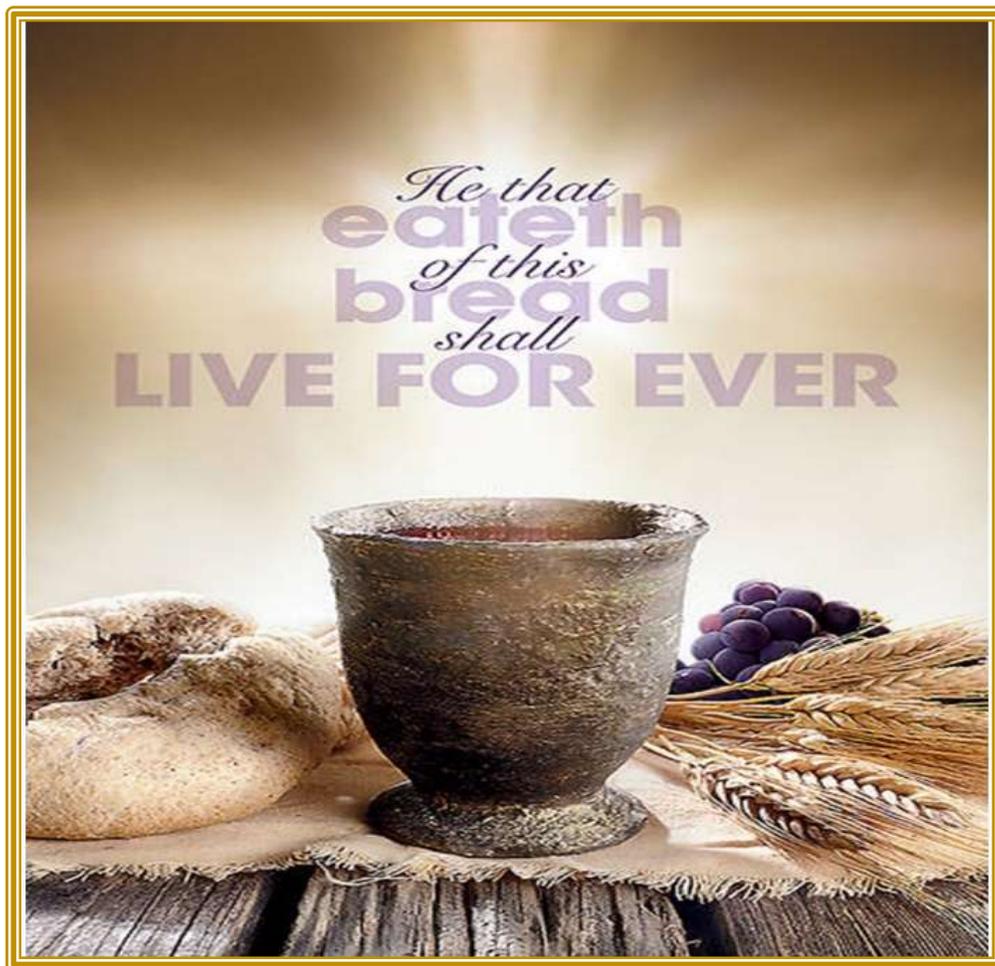
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

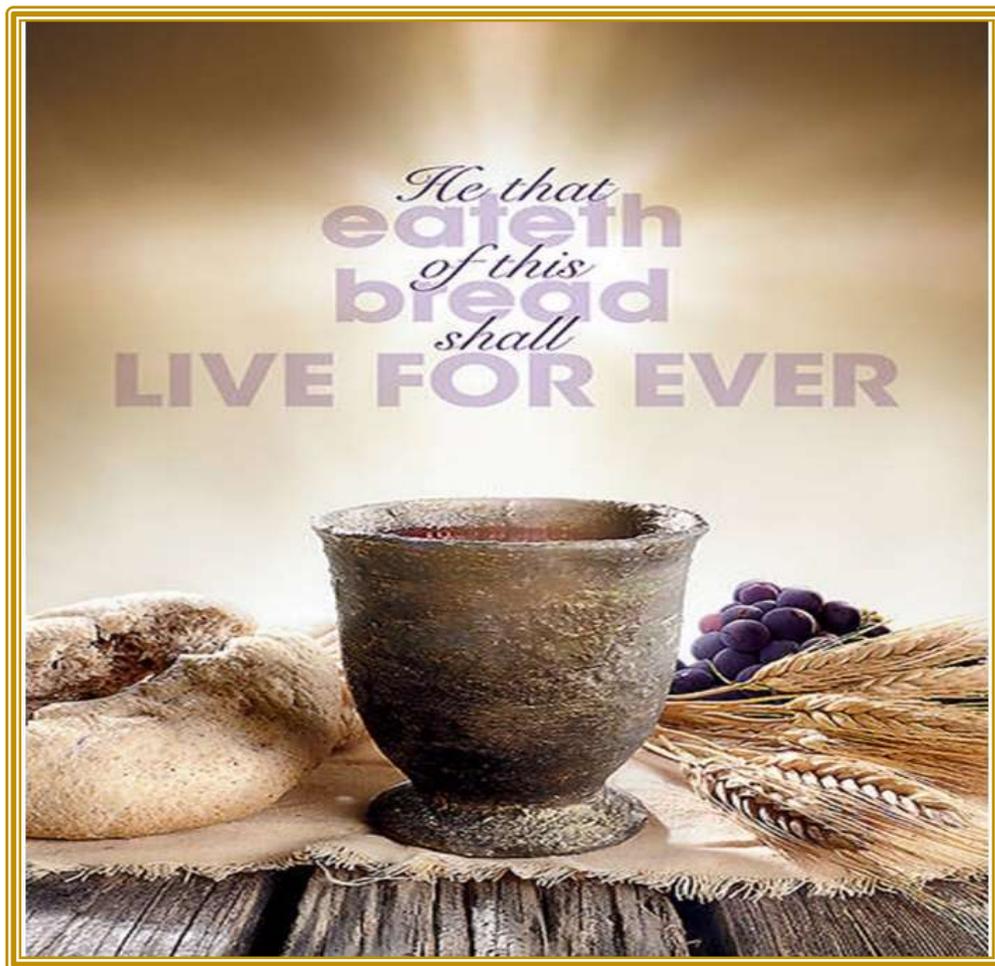
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

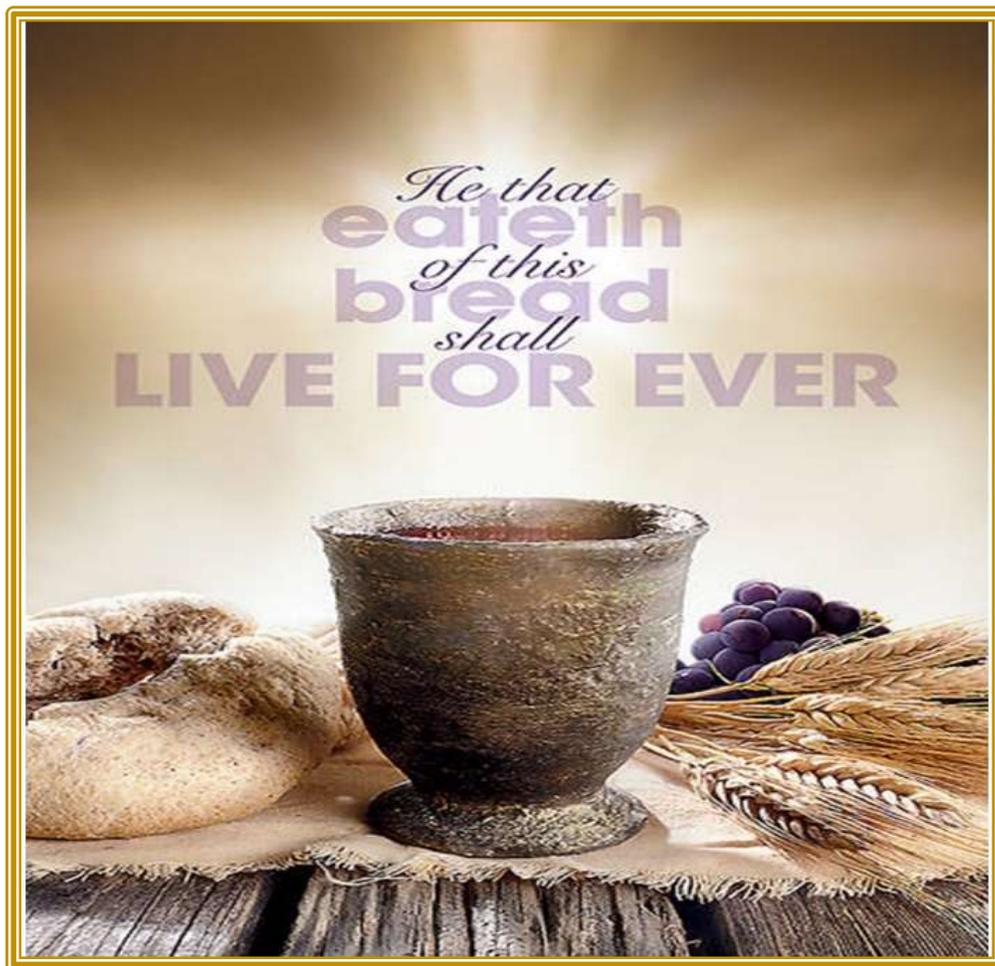
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

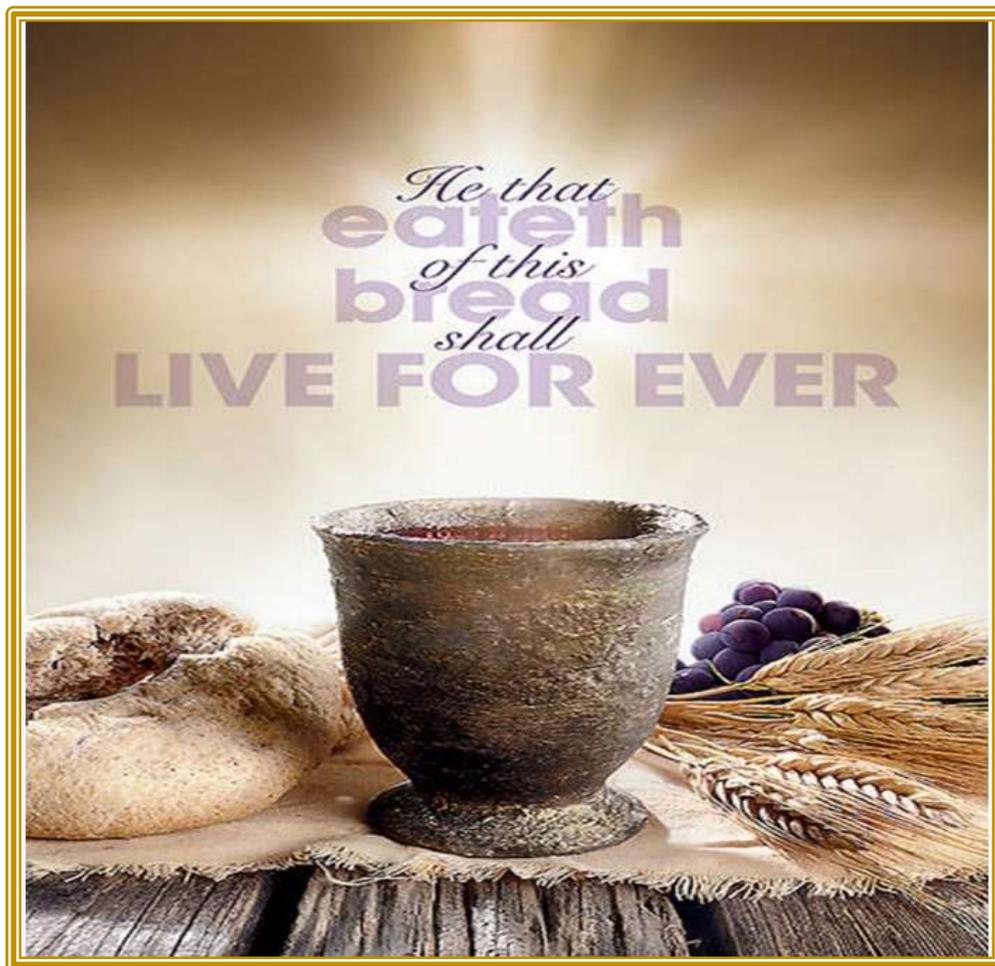
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

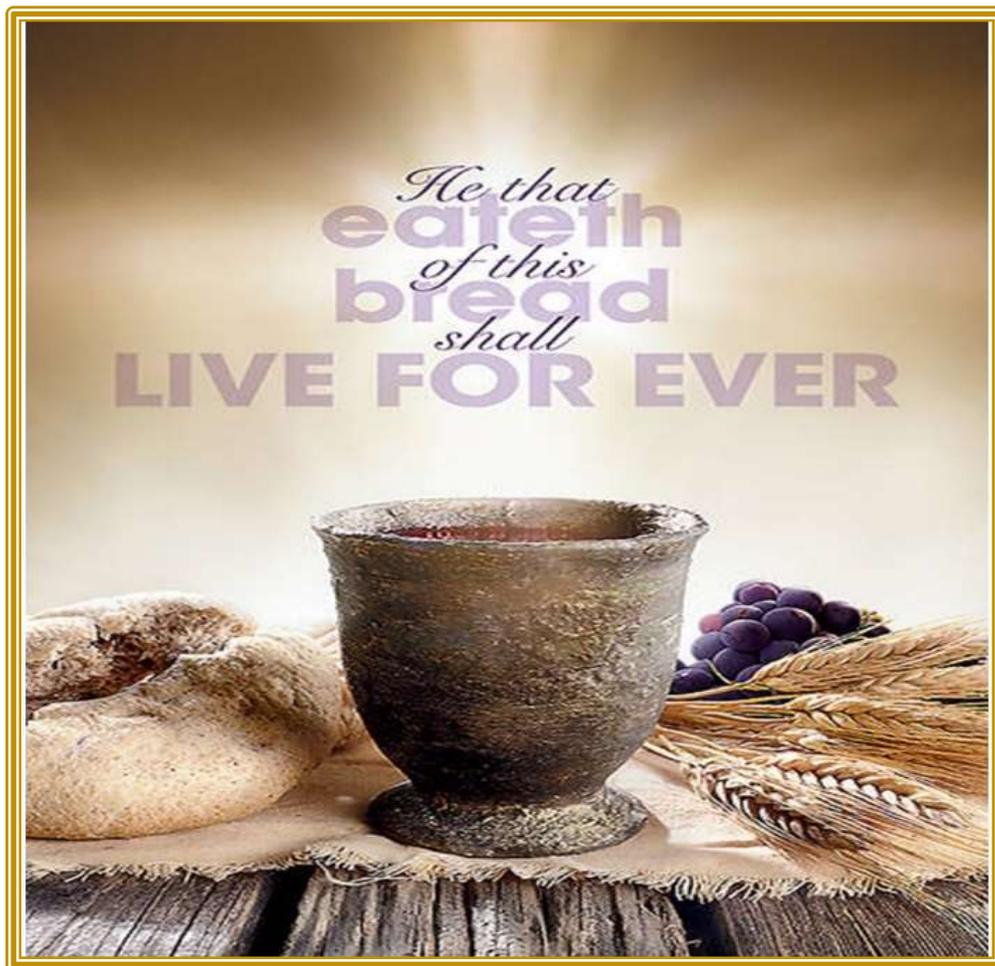
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

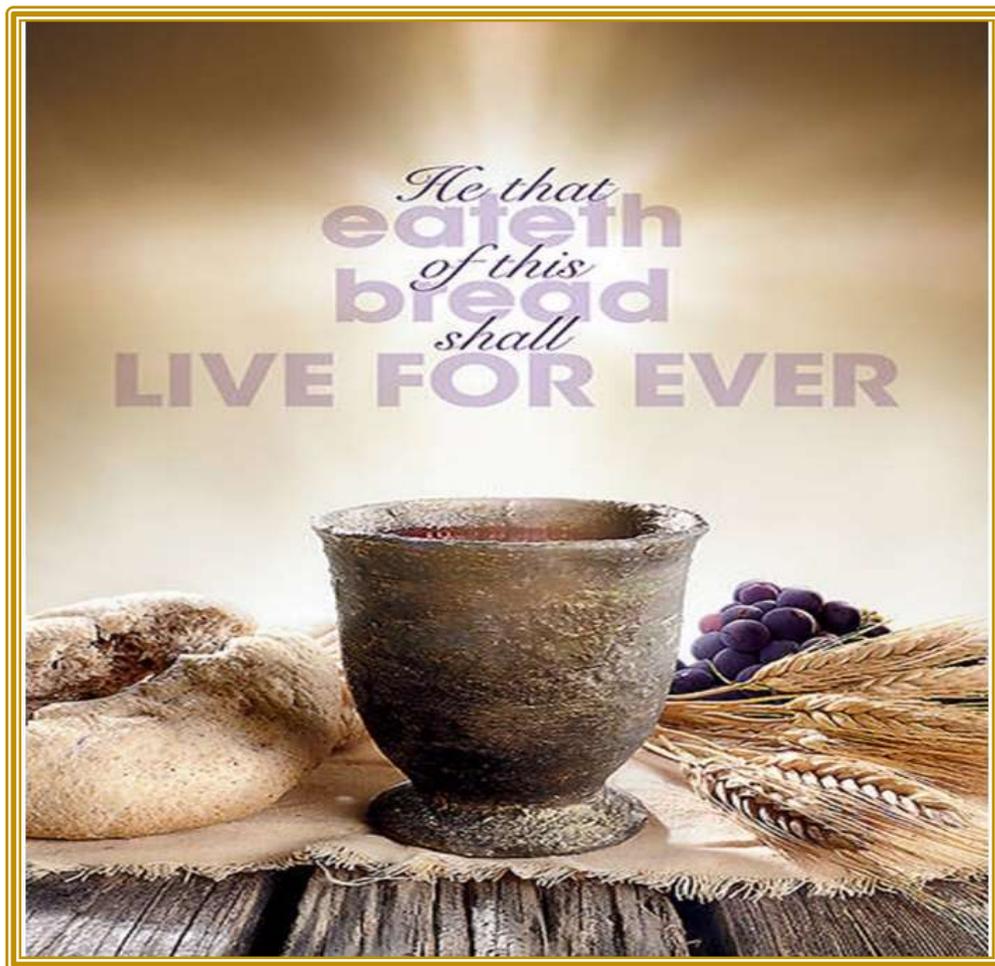
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

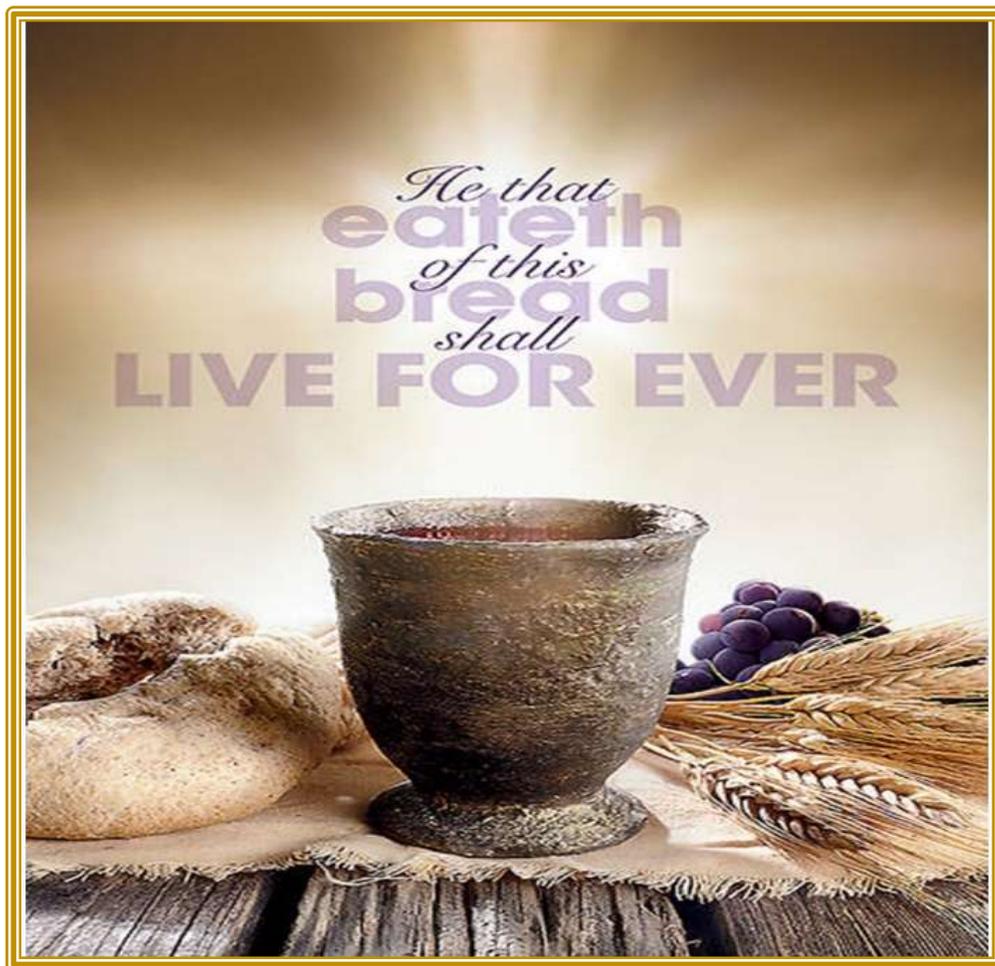
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

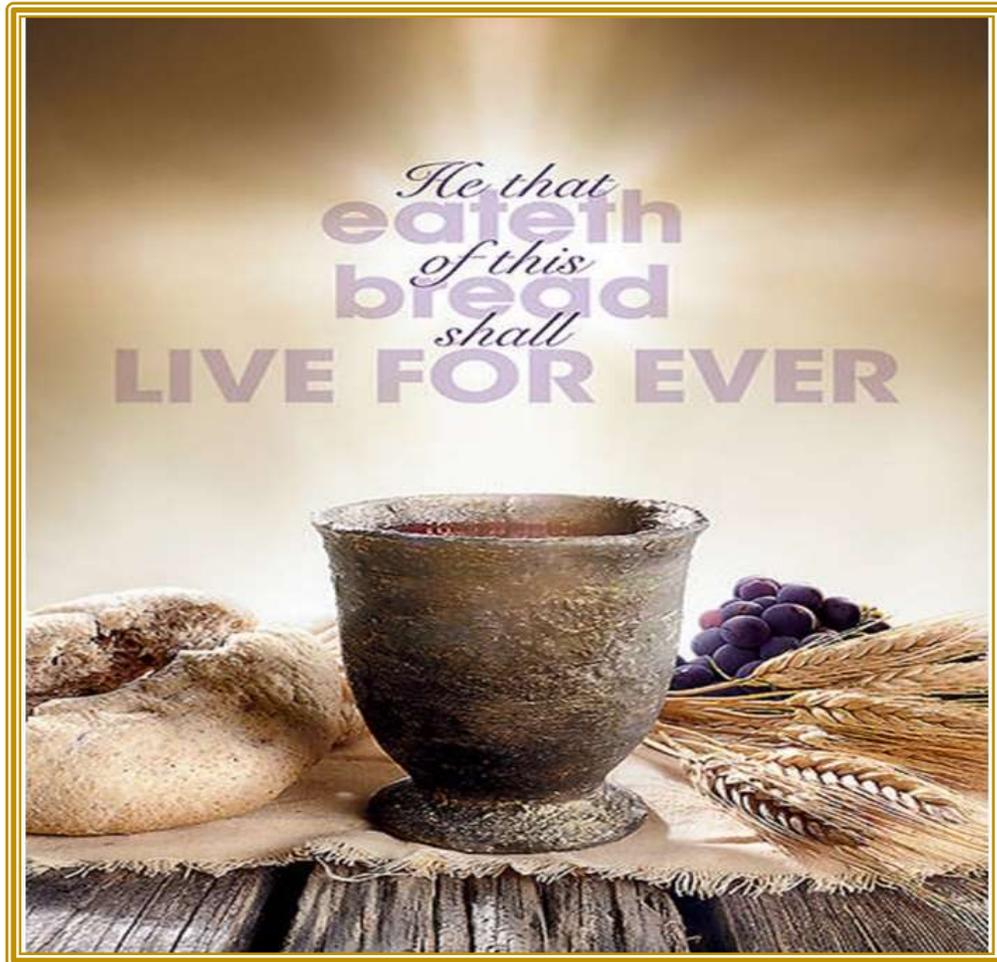
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

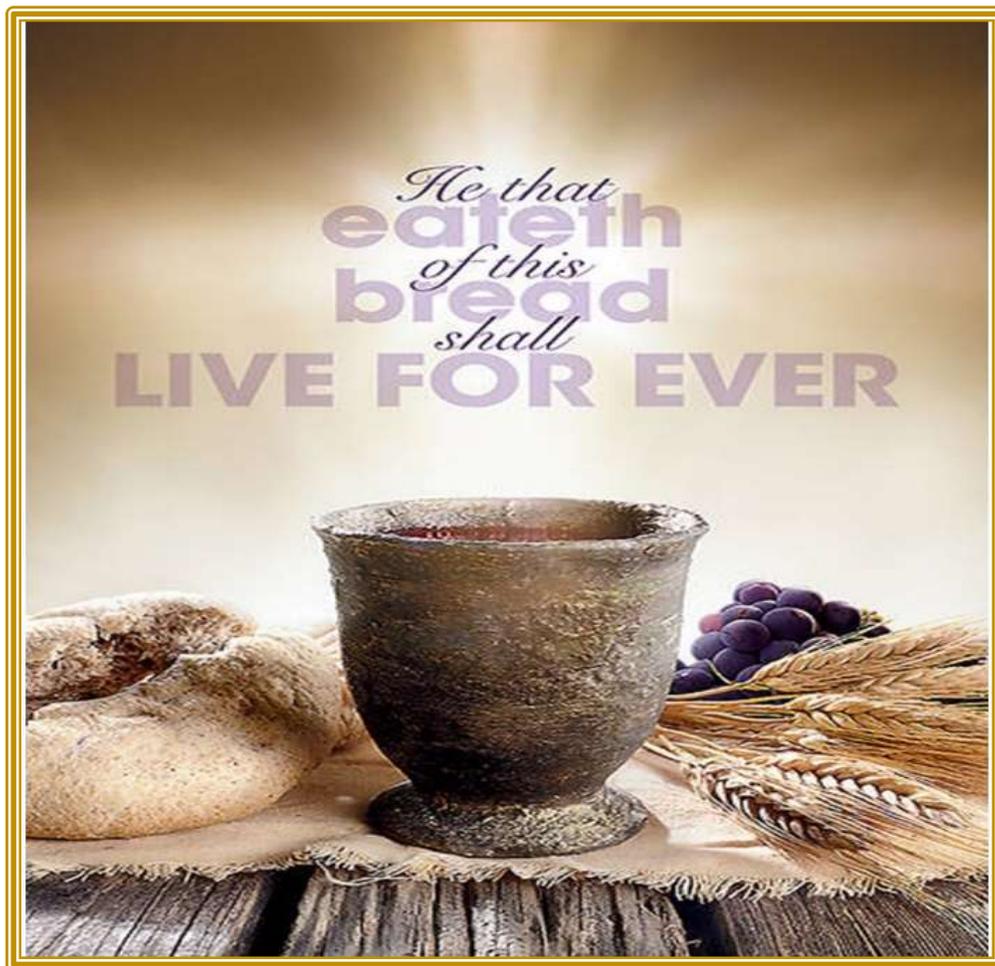
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord

recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

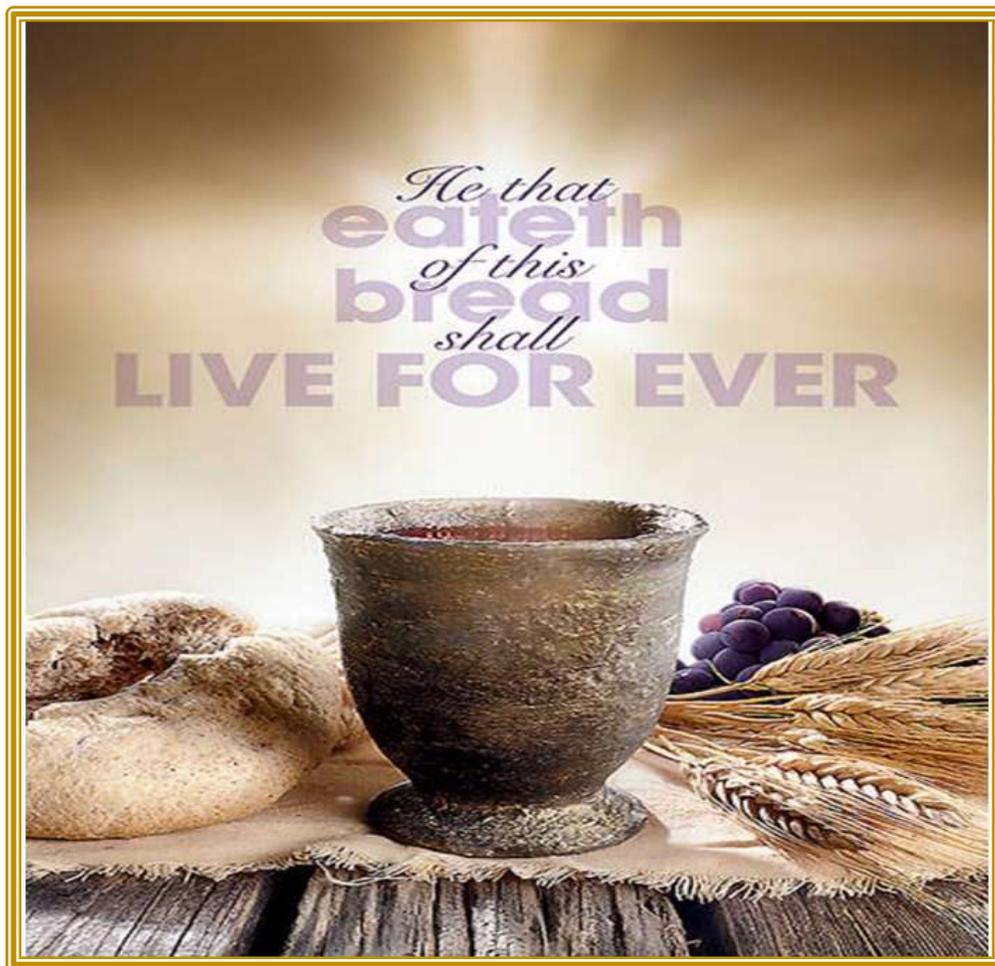
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

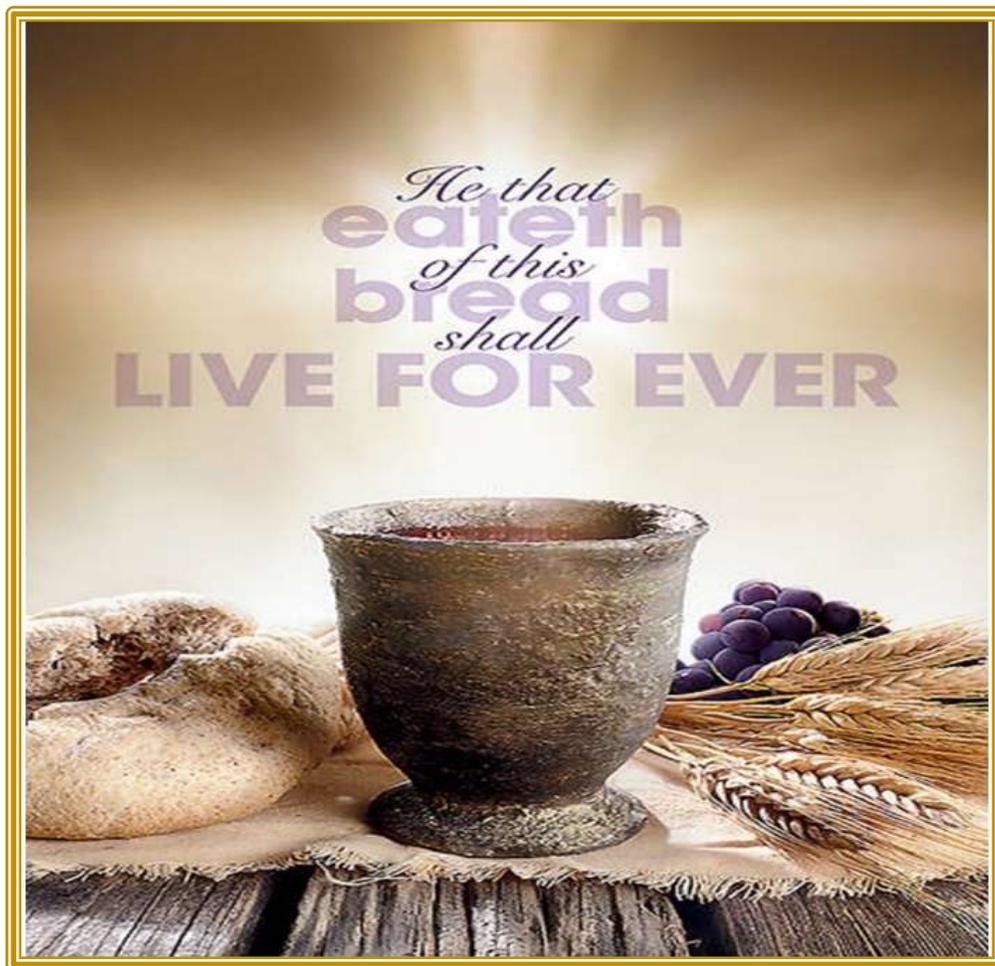
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

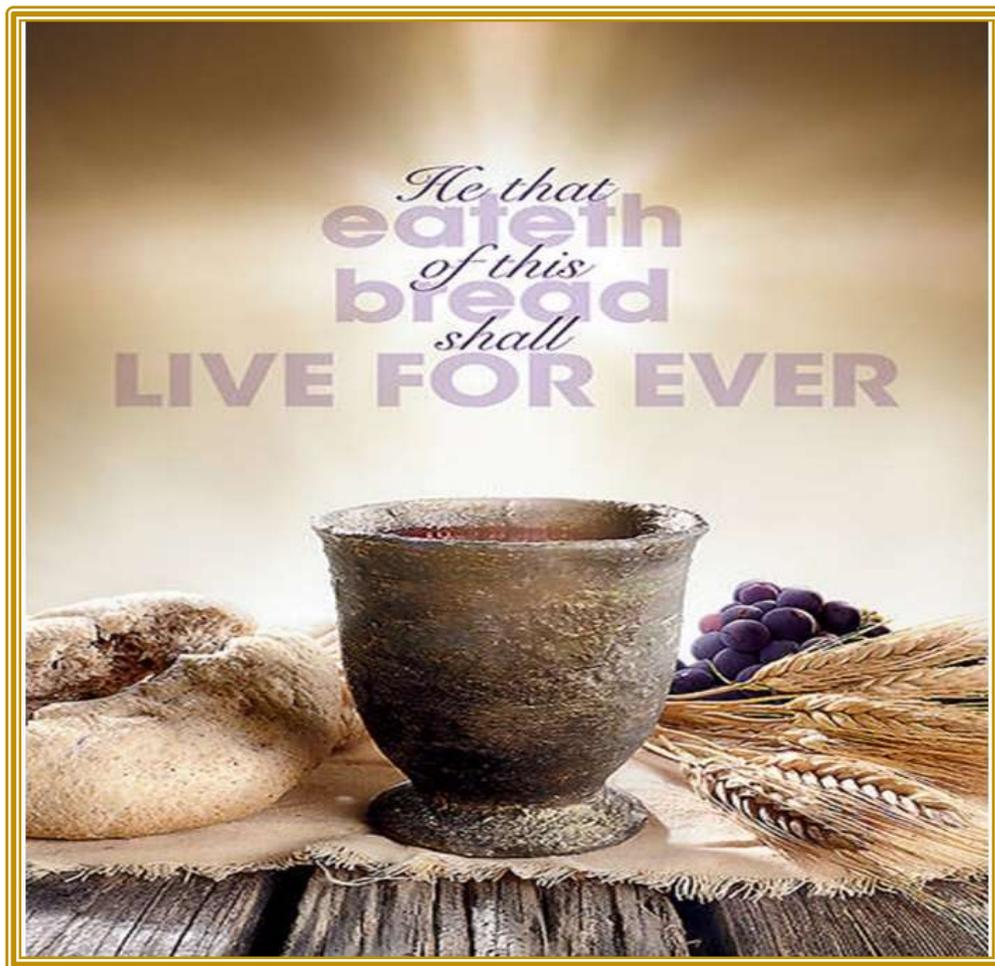
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

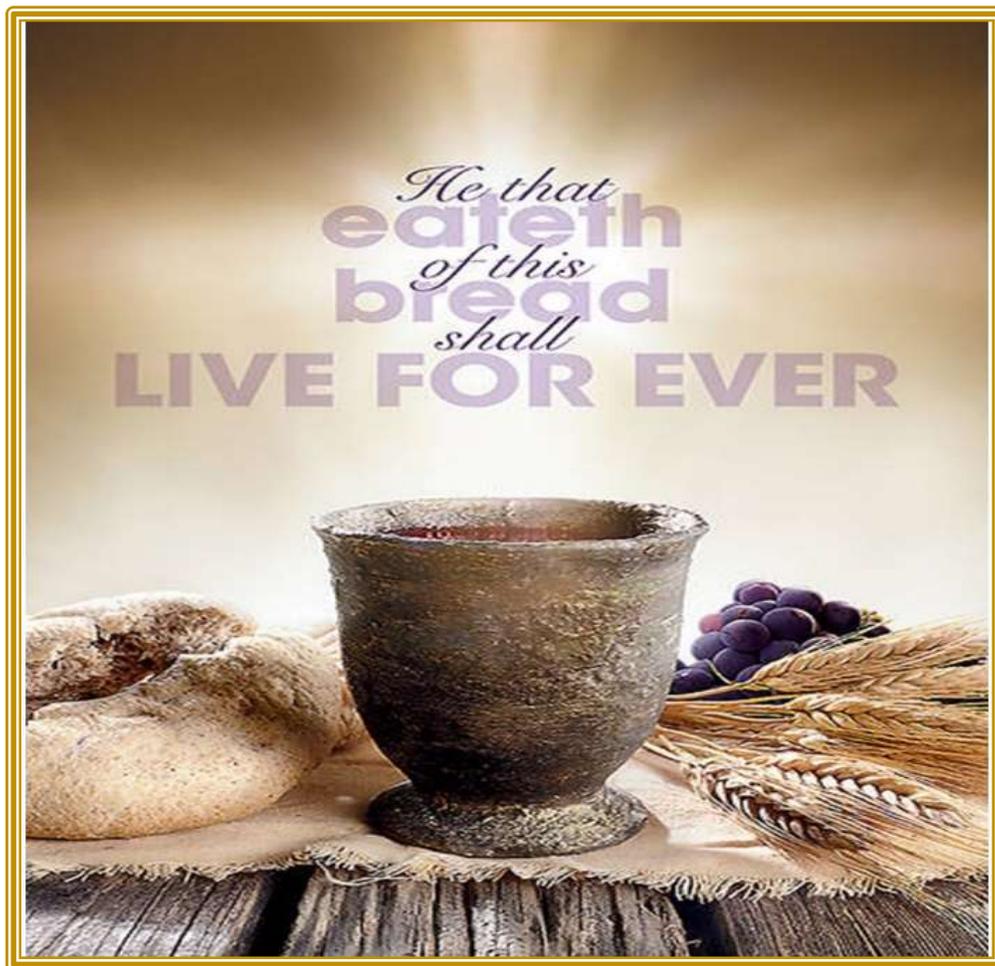
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

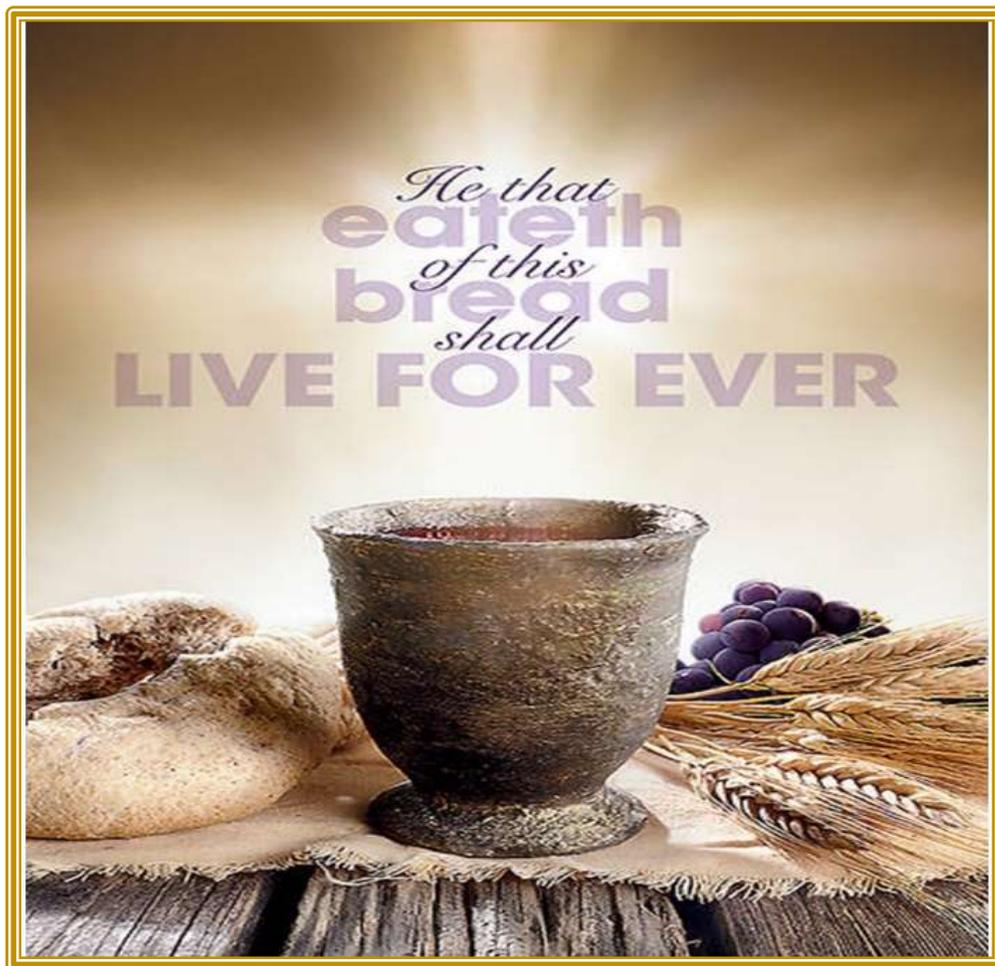
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

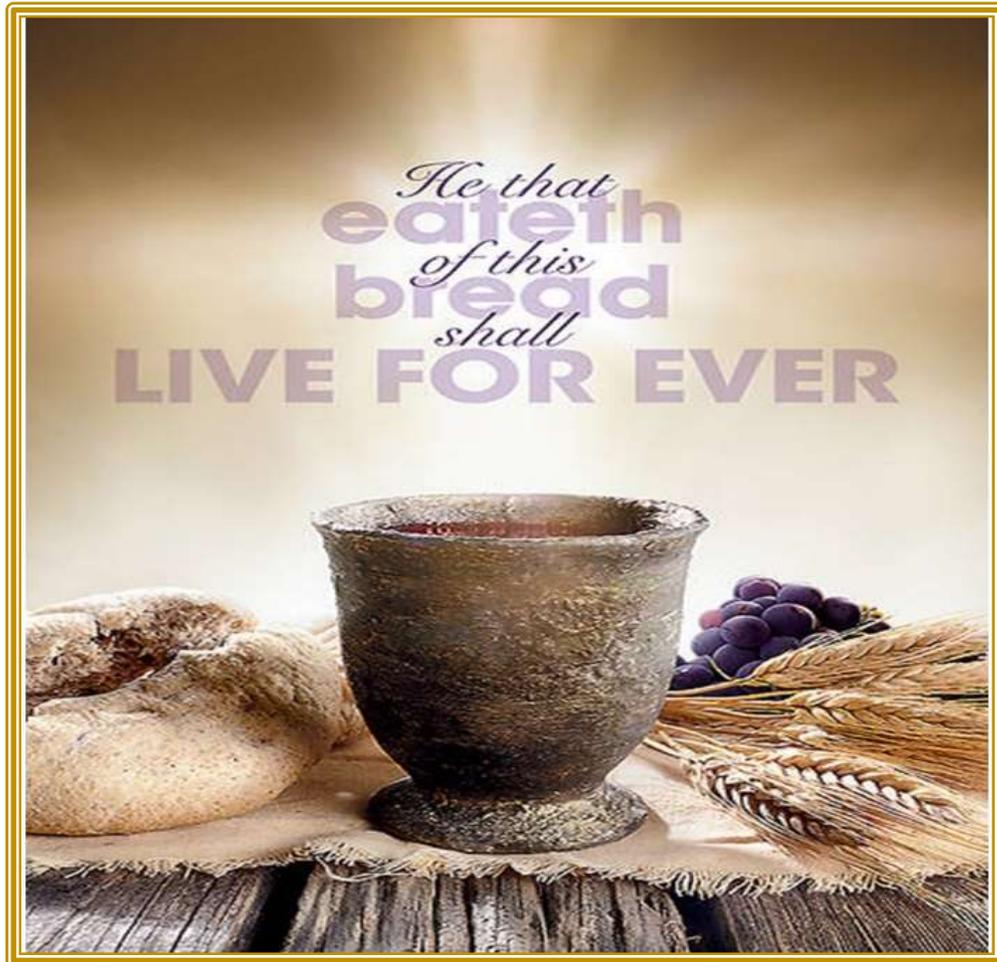
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

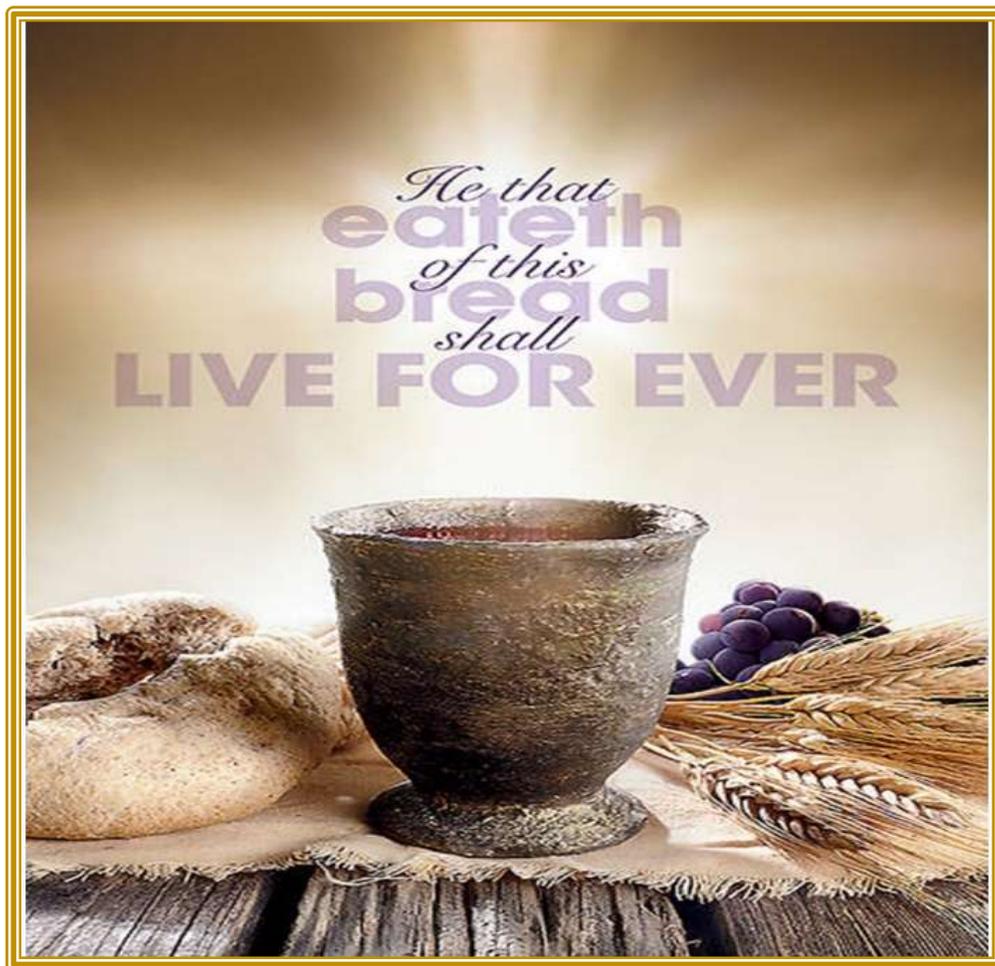
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

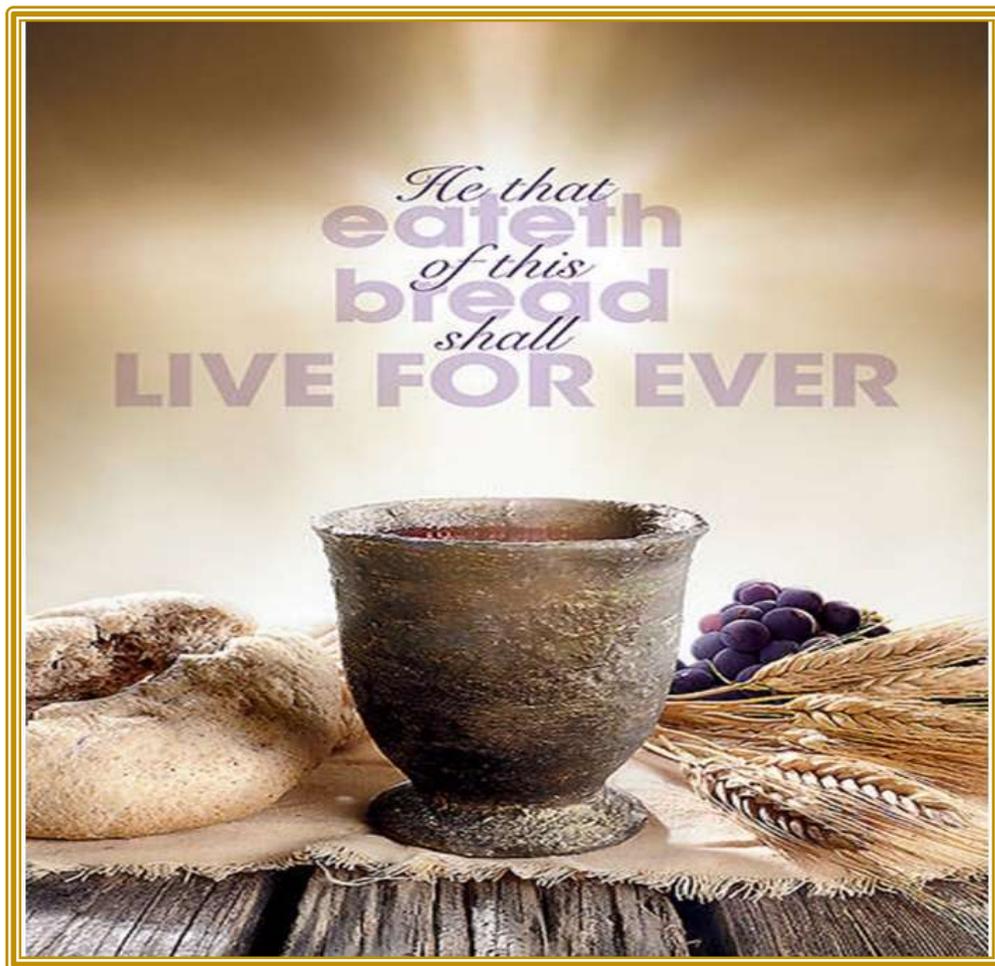
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

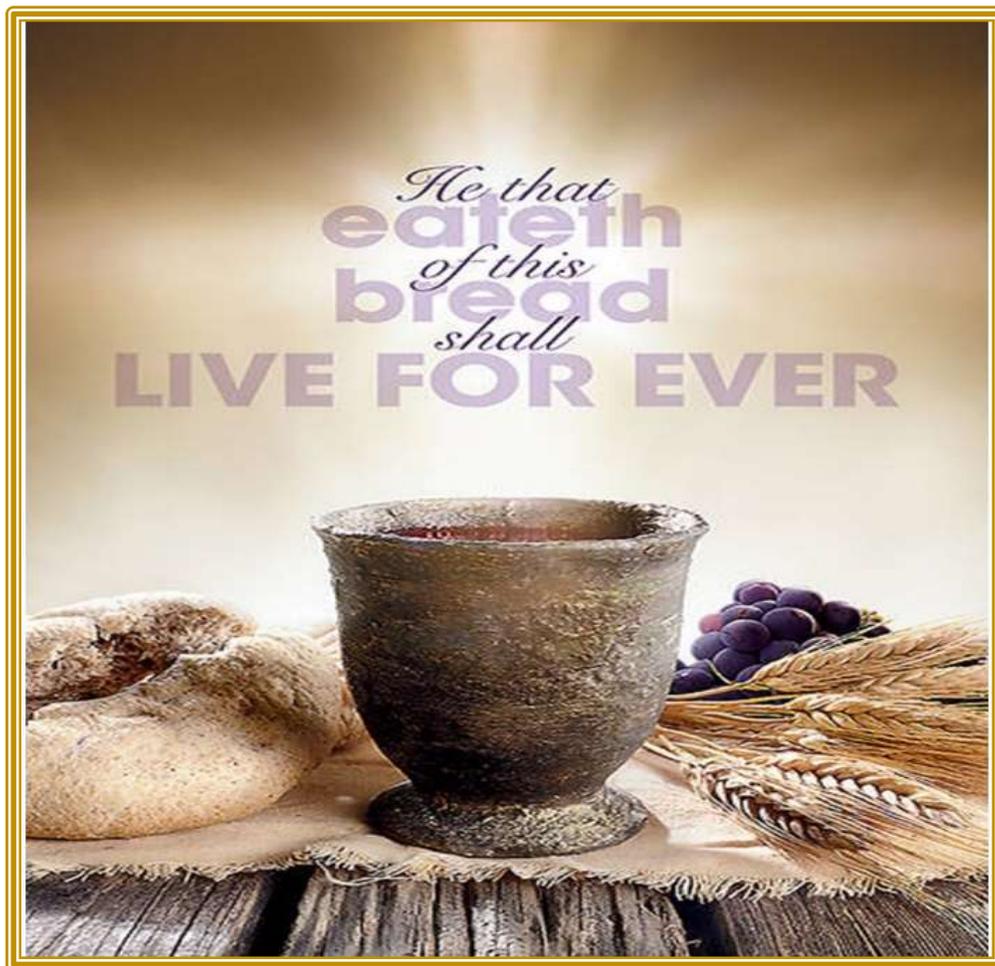
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

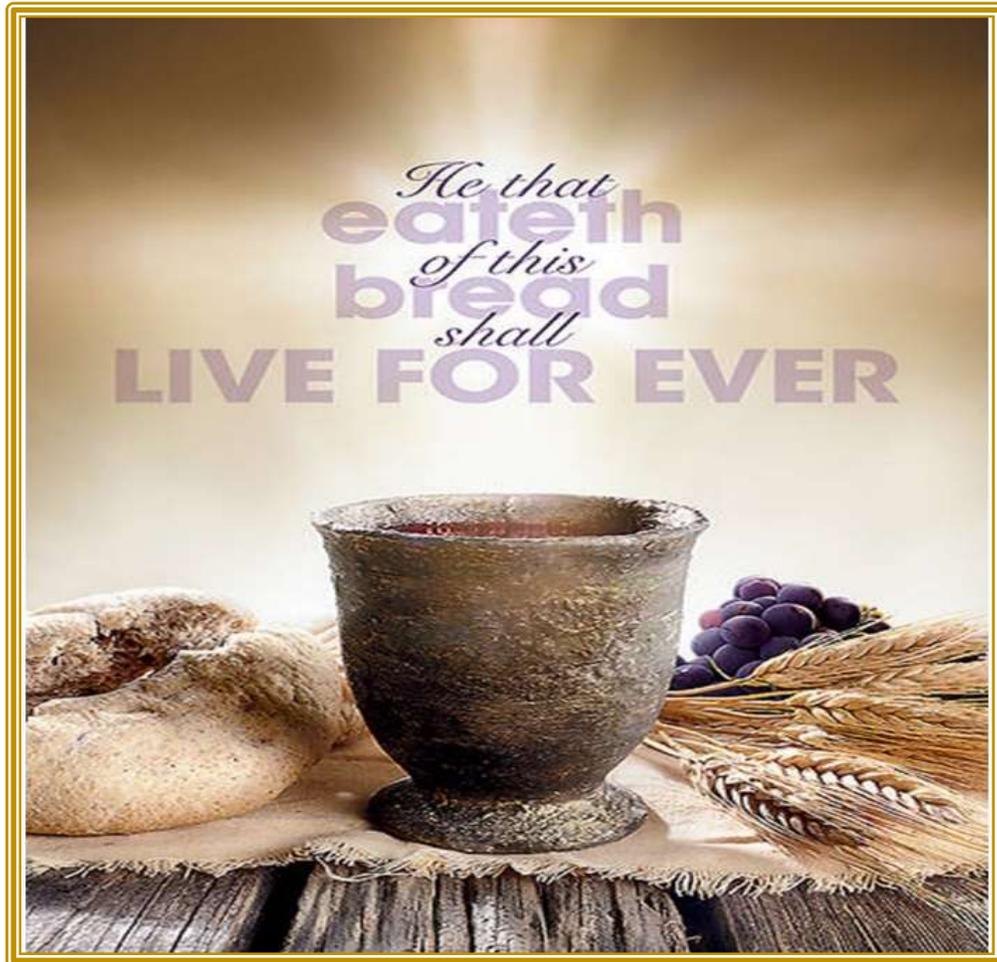
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

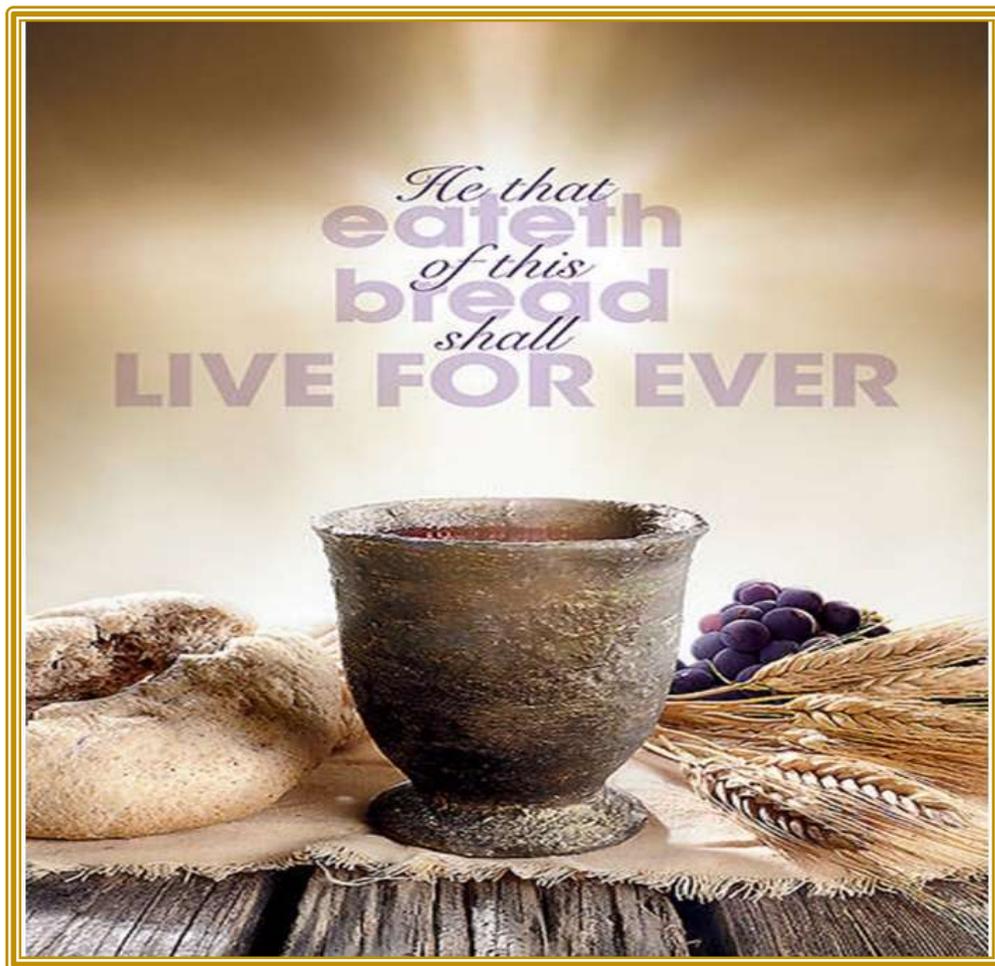
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

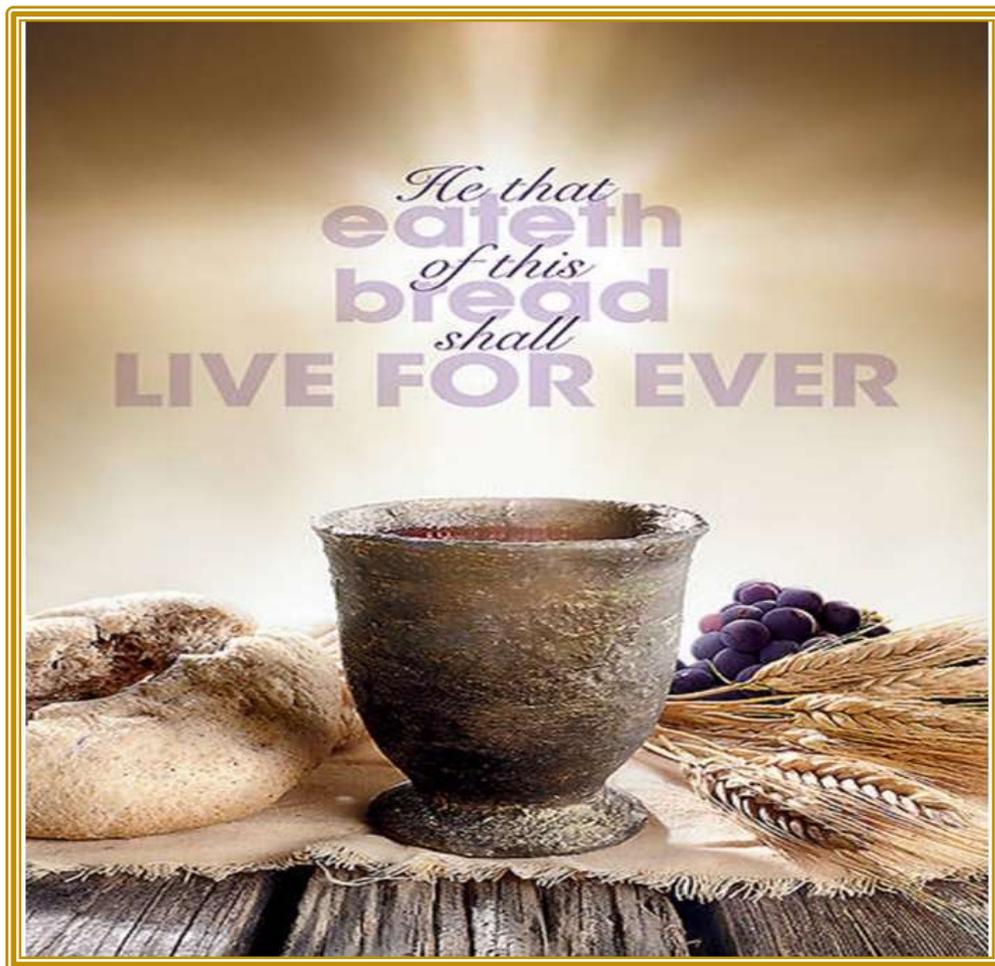
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

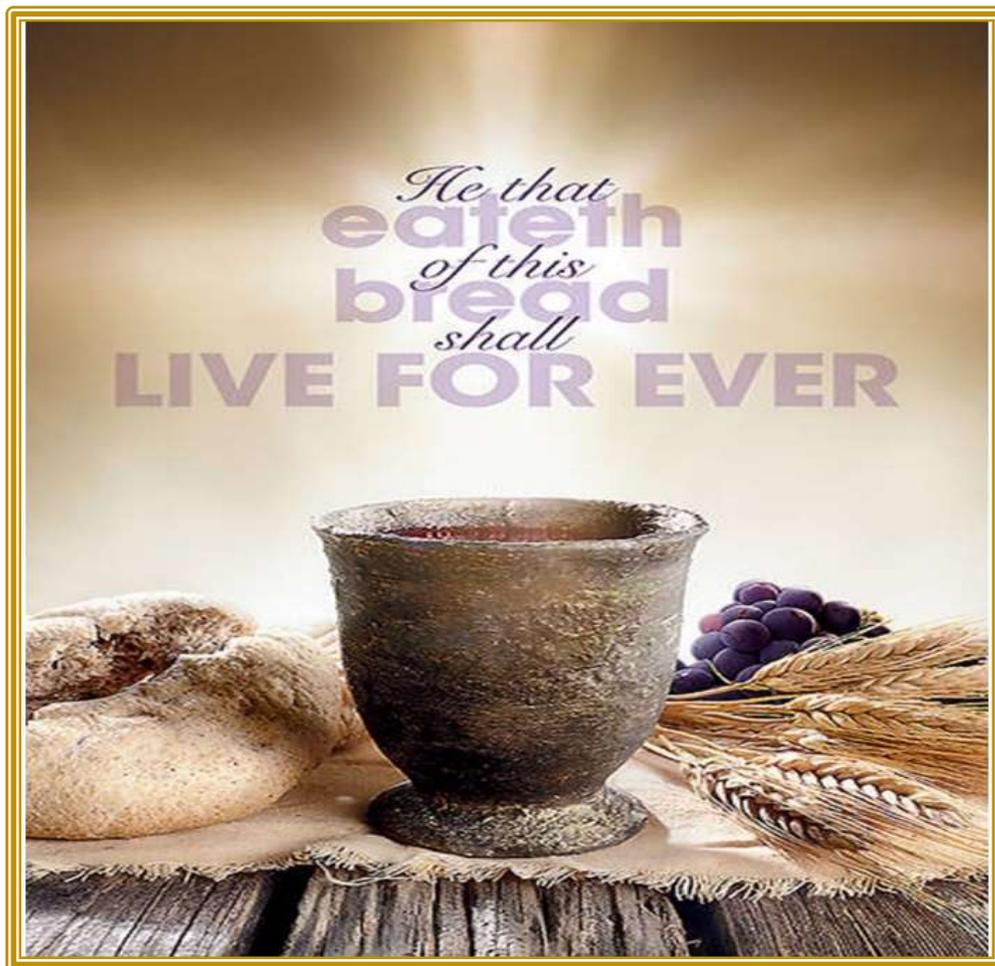
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

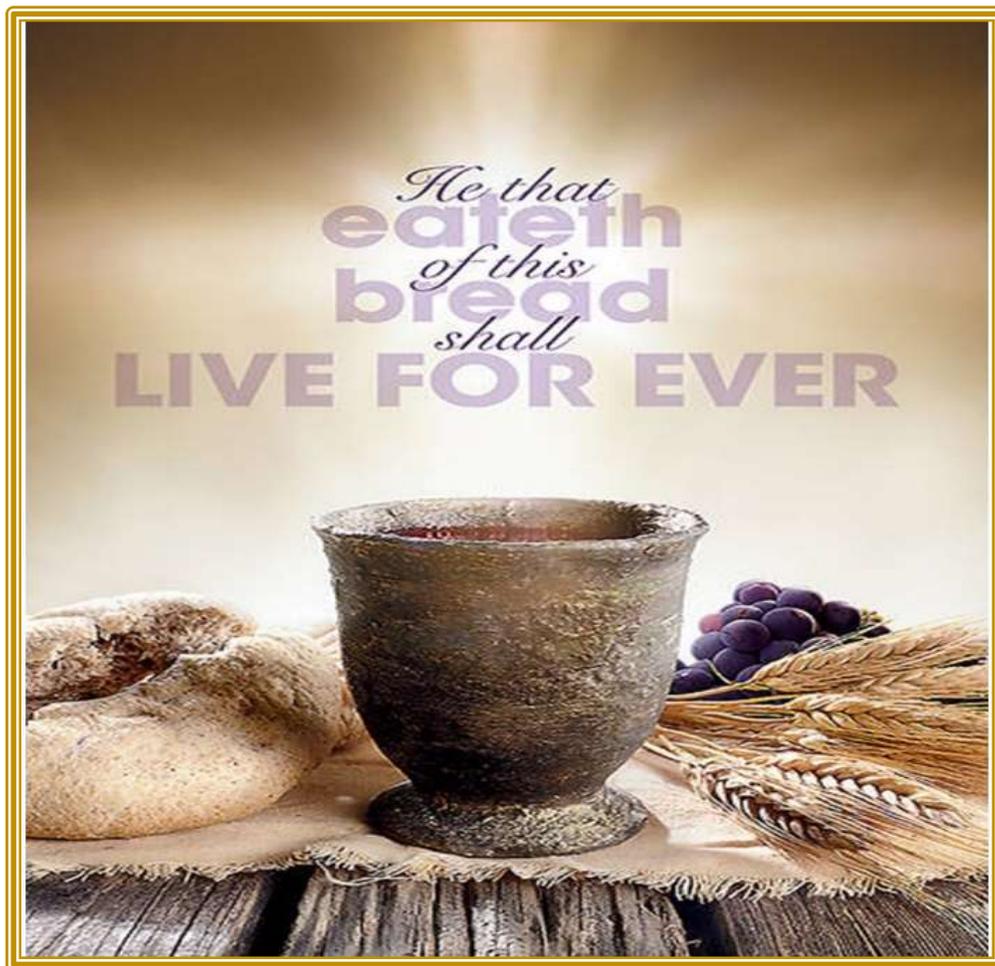
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

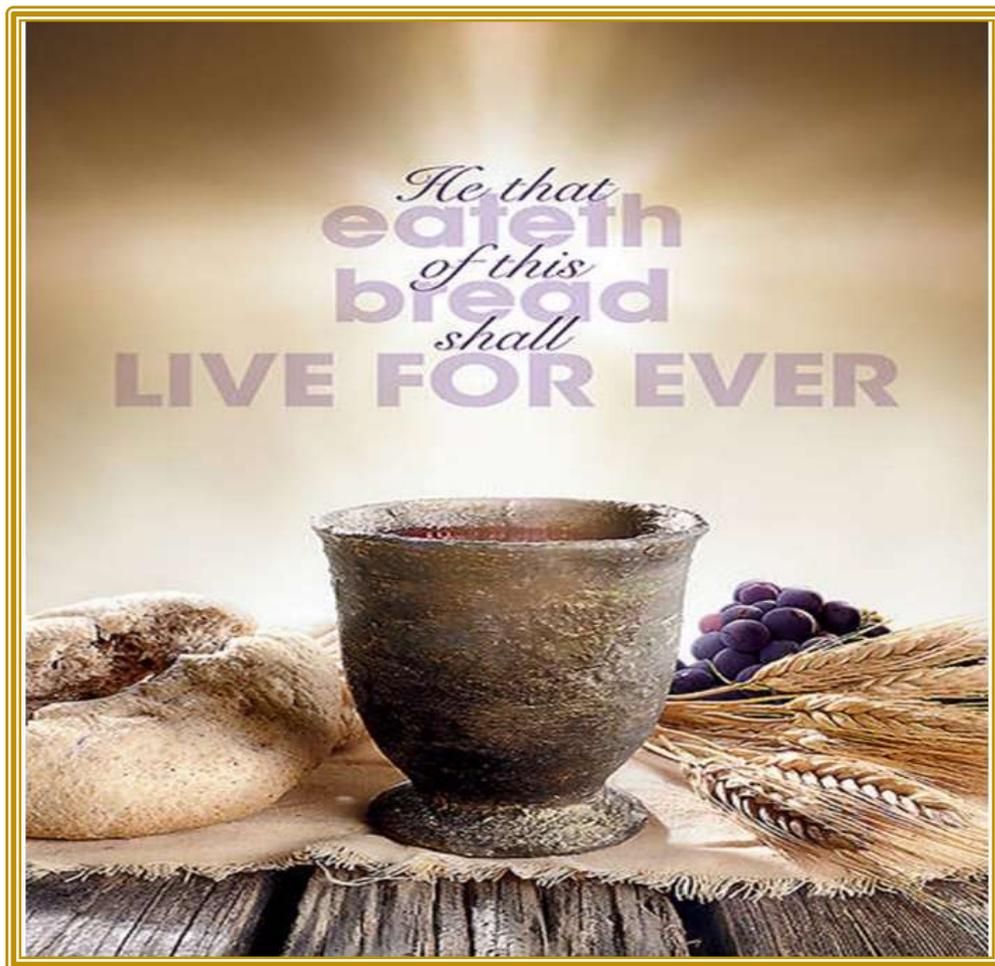
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

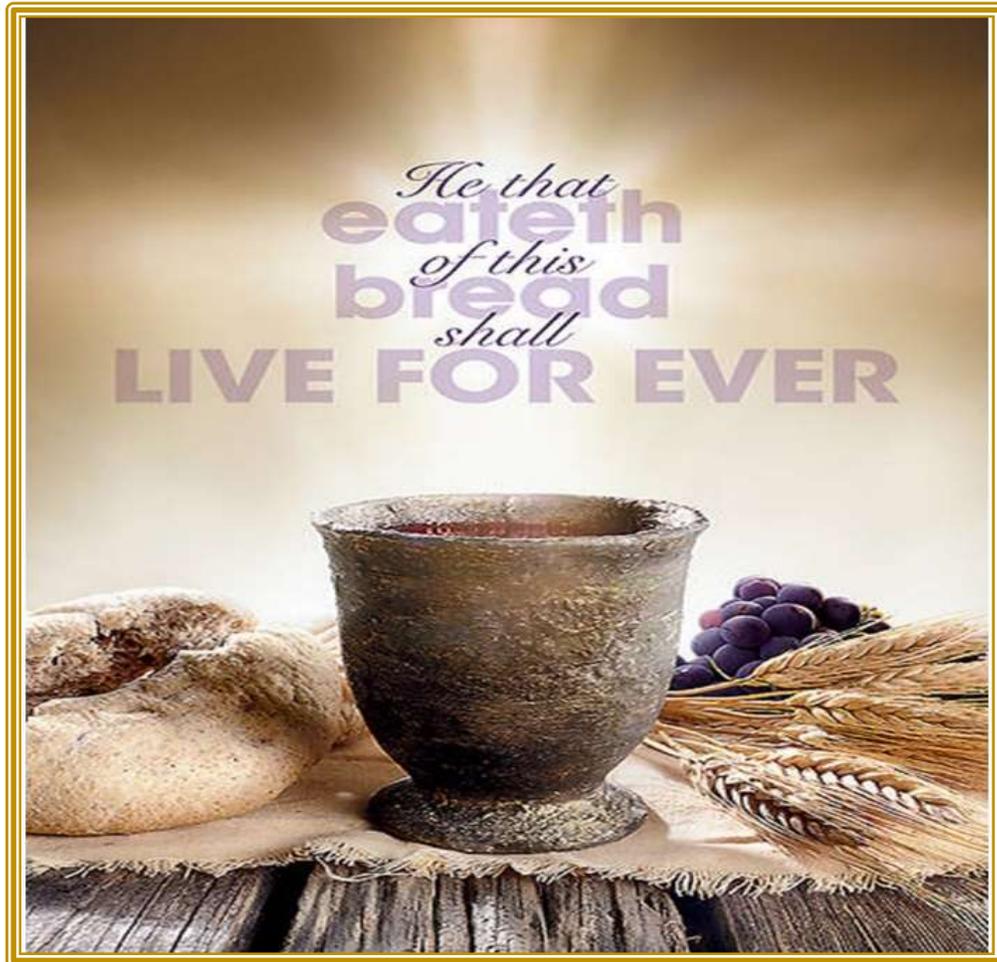
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

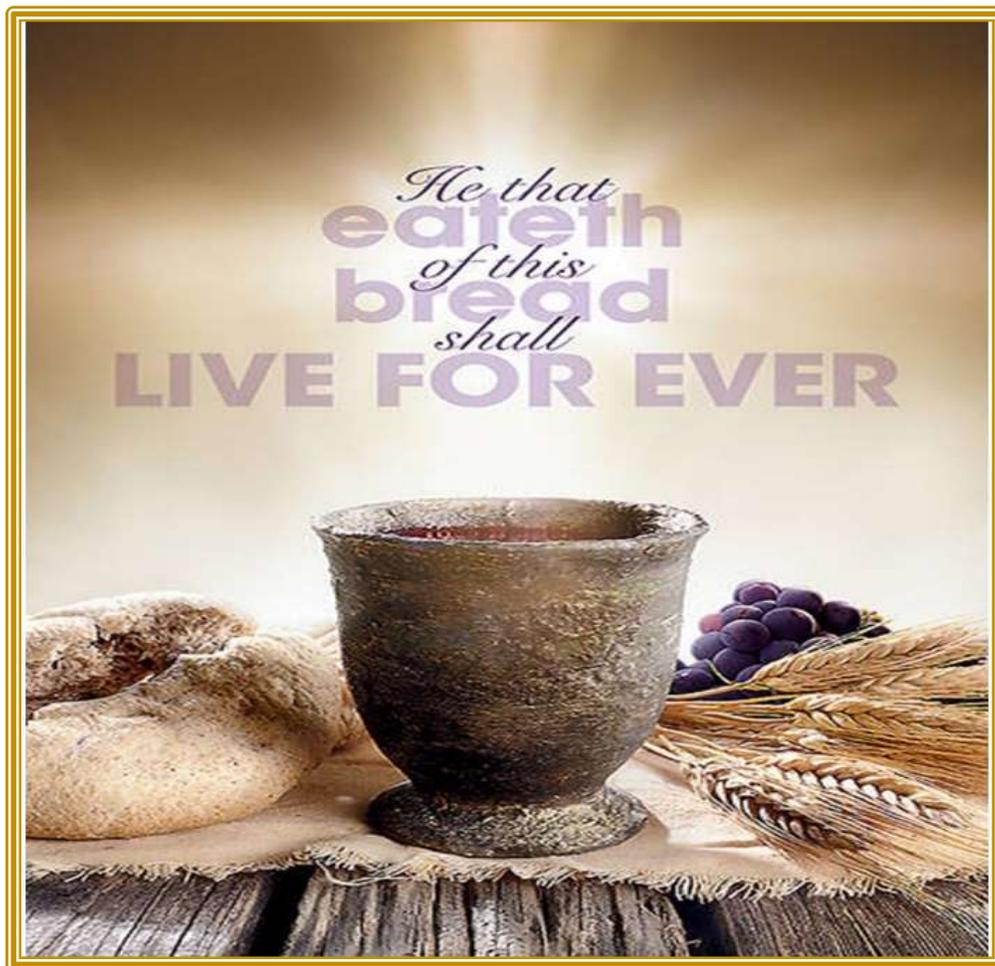
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

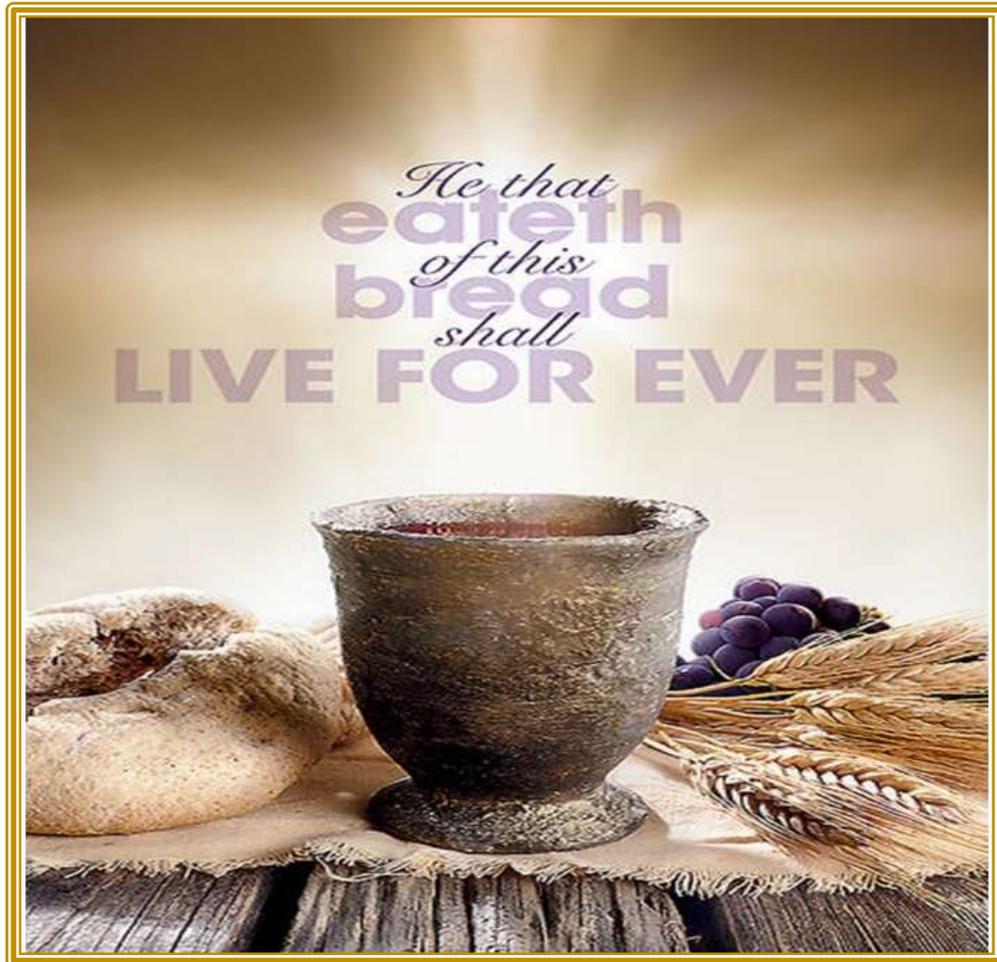
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

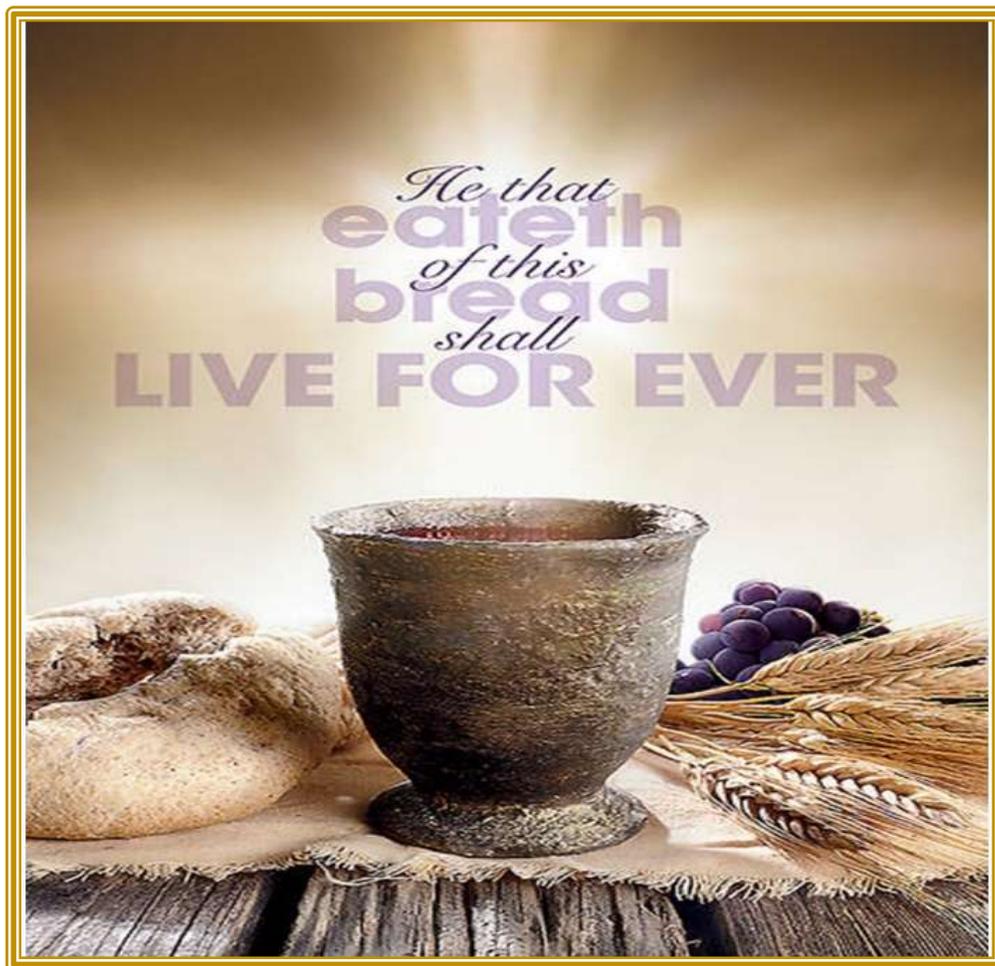
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God
that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,
we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

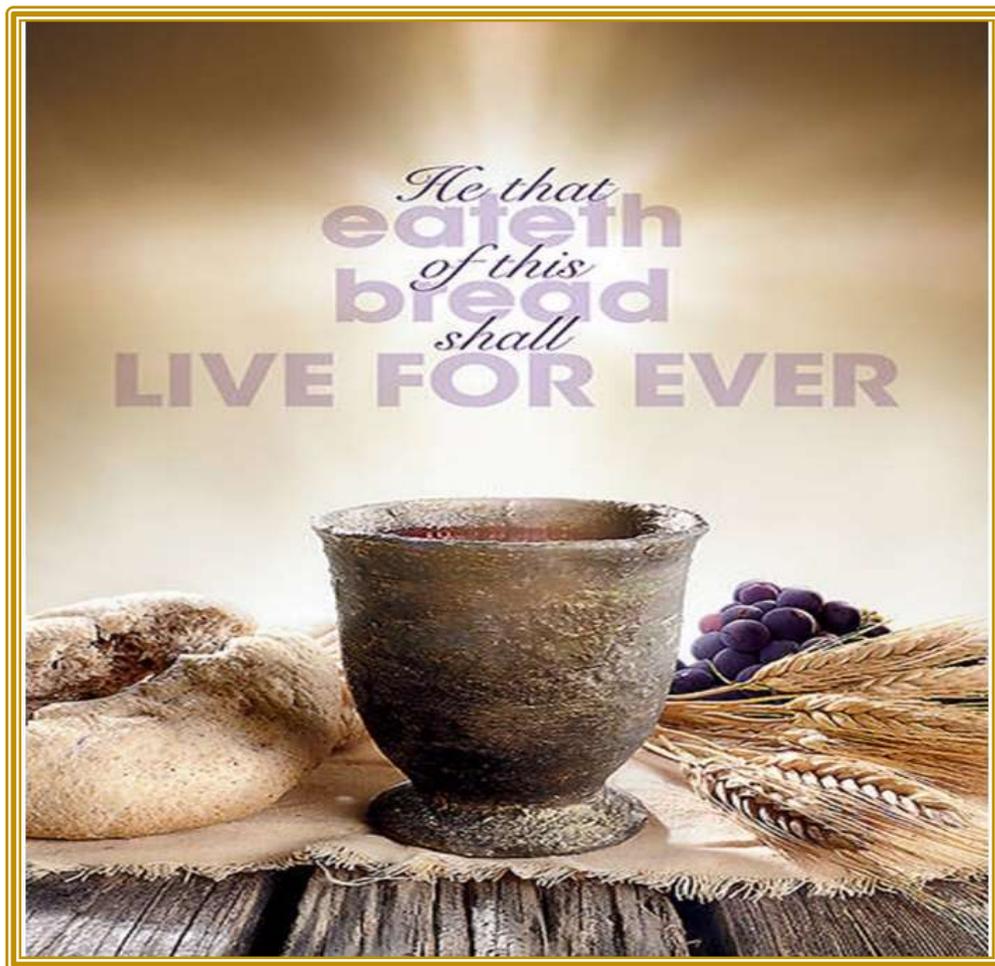
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

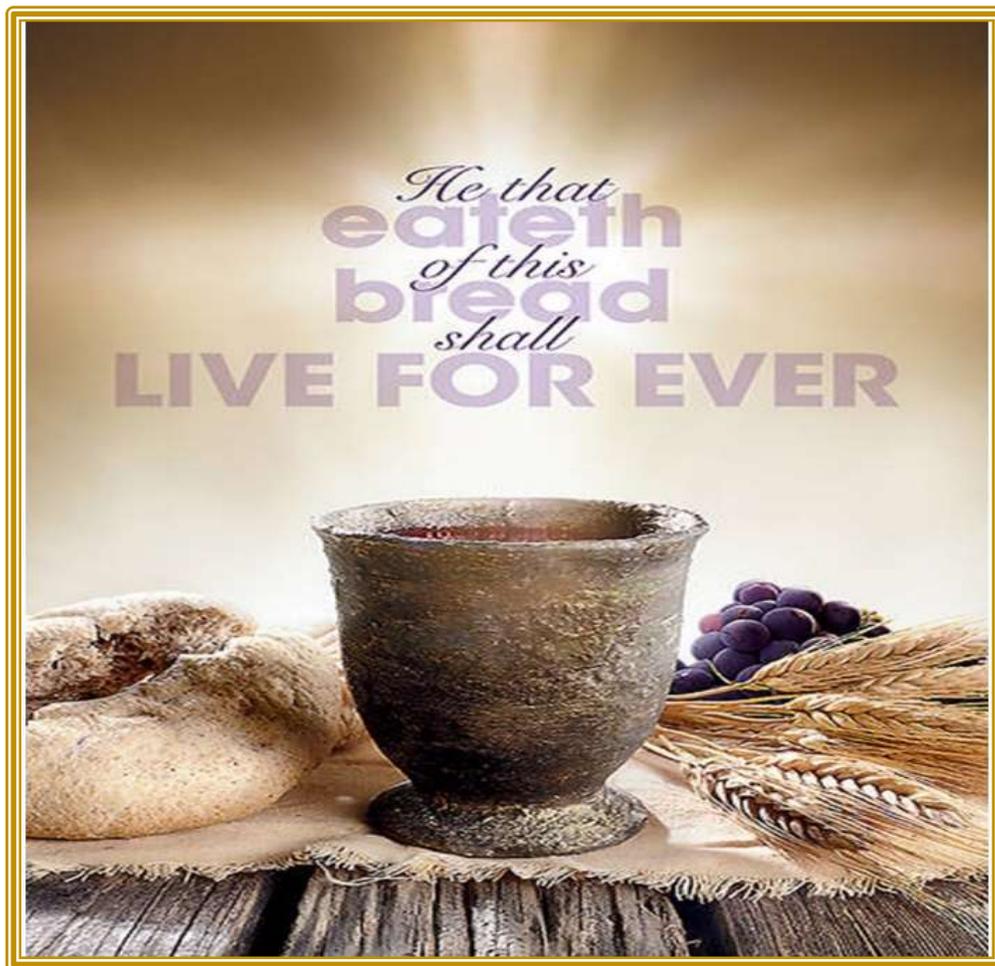
In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Prelude

Prayer for Peace... Paul Taylor

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Seek the Lord

UMH 124, v, 1

Call to Worship

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

People: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

Leader: We need not fear.

People: In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

People: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. AMEN.

Opening prayer

Hymn

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH 384, 1&2

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.

In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Offertory *Life-giving Bread* 2261 (2 times thru)

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: Intertwined in God's love Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH 700, vs. 1&3

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells,
to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him,
healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate,

He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God

that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer,

we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,

and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving,

accept our lives as holy offerings to you,

that in losing our life we might find true Life

and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way,

that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
we invite your life to fill us;
we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world.
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**
As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Holy, gracious, God,
Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.
We have rested in the depth of your love;
We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;
We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.
Together, at this table, you have offered us life.
Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.
And we give you thanks**

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557, vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love, the fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Beneath the Cross

Arr. Lani Smith

Altar Flowers are given today in honor of Emily Lawing's nephew Jones Wagoner's 1st birthday on May 8th.

The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. \$45.00/Sunday. 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 dates are available: May 16, 23, 30; June 13, 27; July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5, 12, 19, 26.

Important Notes for Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in May we will introduce Sunday School. At first we will offer one large class in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer it via Zoom should anyone want to join that way. Mr. Dave Blackman will be our teacher. We will then look regarding Covid Guidelines as to how to proceed with Sunday School for the month of June.



Birthdays for May – Jameson Stout (3), Coak May (5), Robb Stowe (8), Betty C. Chambers (10), Fred Wampler (12), Dot Frye (19), Bianca York (24), Dylan Sillmon (25), Spencer Deuterman & Kathy Swing (27), Susan Roach (30)

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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Doris Pruitt, who has had some health issues at home. **Linda Rozelle**, who has fainting spells, in hospital for observation. **Nina Stowe, co-worker's son, Malachi**, 9 months old with leukemia. . **Trudy Sillmon**, at home recovering from a fall and broken bones. **Keith Eller**, moved to Guilford Health Care Center for Rehab. **Eric Young**, Susan and Chuck Carrick's grandson doing better from Covid. **Kristy Carpenter, Betty and John Durham's cousin**, cancer. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Edna Johnson. Don & Clara Ellis. Rachel Sheppard. Aly Saunders. Judy Milligan.**

Our sympathies to the family of Sally Goin's who passed away on April 26, 2021.

PRAISE! Jacob & Sheridian Wacker, daughter and son-in-law of Susan & Chuck Carrick, have moved back from Japan to the USA. They will be living outside of Fayetteville, NC.



Centenary United Methodist Church would like to recognize and celebrate our High School and College Graduates TBA. We will be recognizing all our Graduates in the 11:00 AM Service.

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize, please fill out the information below regarding their graduation and future plans. Please turn this form and photo into the church office by Thursday May 6, 2021. (Photo is optional)

Graduate Name: _____

School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

Future Plans: _____

Proud parents, grandparents, guardians: _____

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



Centenary UMC 2021 Community Meals/Food Bag Order Form

Community meals/Food Bag money will go to the Mission/Worship/Nurture Ministry to buy food for families in need and make Blessing Bags. You can make a donation in Honor /Memory of your mother on Mother's Day. I would like to order: (indicate quantity)

_____ Food Bags @ \$25.00 each

(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

**Please attach payment to this order form (cash or check payable to CUMC)
and place in the Secure Correspondence Box by the church office door
or mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403**

