



**Centenary United Methodist Church  
2300 W. Friendly Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
July 2, 2023**

**Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor**

**Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director**

*Welcome friends, family, and visitors. May your hearts be touched by the Holy Spirit as we join in worship with devotion, songs, and prayer.  
Our Mission: To experience God's life-changing love and take God's love into the world.  
Our Vision: To be a church where everyone is involved in ministry.*

Prelude

*Villebon, Op. 7, No. 3, by Albéric Magnard*

James Esterline

Announcements for Mission and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Welcome to each and every one of you!

**P: Thank you.**

L: May the joy we have in our Lord Jesus Christ become your joy also.

**P: We have found a welcoming presence in this house of the Lord.**

L: Thanks be to God who has welcomed each one of us!

**P: Let us extend that same loving welcome to others. AMEN.**

Leader: Let us pray together:

**Lord, as we walked through the doors to this place of worship, we brought with us our cares and concerns, our joys and our sorrows. Touch our hearts and heal us, Lord. Make us ready to become your faithful disciples. AMEN.**

†Hymn

America the Beautiful

UMH 696

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION\*

**Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Anthem

You Shall Go Out With Joy

by Patti Drennan

Choir

Scripture:

Matthew 10: 40-42

Sermon:

“The Meaning of Welcome”

†Affirmation of Faith

Apostle’s Creed

UMH 881

†Gloria Patri

†Hymn

Amazing Grace

UMH 378 (v. 1,3,6)

CONCERNS AND JOYS OF CONGREGATION

Prayer of Intercession for Our Nation:

*Minister:* As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

Leader: For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,

**We thank you Lord.**

For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,

**We thank you Lord.**

For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,

**We thank you Lord.**

For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,

**We thank you Lord.**

For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,

**We thank you Lord.**

For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,

**We thank you Lord.**

For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,

**We thank you Lord.**

For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,

**We thank you Lord.**

For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,

**We thank you Lord.**

Lord, we pray for The United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

**We pray to you Lord.**

That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,

**We pray to you Lord.**

That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,

**We pray to you Lord.**

That those who are elected to govern and lead, would be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them,

**We pray to you Lord.**

That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your grace,

**We pray to you Lord.**

Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

#### CONFESSION AND PARDON.

Prayer of Confession:

**Patient Lord, we want to extend the hand of welcome and friendship to all whom we meet, but you know that sometimes we shy away from reaching out. We make judgments about others based on their appearance and other surface factors, and we neglect your mandate to be a welcoming presence. That lack of welcome extends further when we see needs that must be addressed and choose to turn our backs. We turn away from the pain and suffering, protecting our own lives. Yet you remind us that as we welcome others, so we are also welcoming you. Heal us and give us strength and courage to always be welcoming others in your name. AMEN.**

Words of Assurance: How wonderful it is to be welcomed by our Lord through God's church. Rejoice in God's welcoming love for you. AMEN.

Let us worship with God's Tithes and our Offerings.

Offertory

Welcome

Zelman/Miller

Choir

†Doxology

## THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING\*

*The Lord be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts.*

***We lift them up to the Lord.***

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*Almighty God, Creator of the universe,  
Ruler of all nations, Judge of all flesh,  
you have placed us, your people, in this land made rich  
with rivers, forests, mountains, and creatures great and small.  
Here, you set before the founders and pioneers of this nation  
an opportunity beyond measure  
to build a realm of justice, peace, and freedom.  
Here you continue to call your people,  
freed from the law and baptized into Christ Jesus,  
to be a sign of your reign in all the world.  
For such a place, such a vision  
and such a calling we give you thanks,  
praying we may ever join afresh the dreams you set before us.*

*And so, with your people in every land on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join in 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*Above all we give you thanks  
for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who sends us into the world  
to declare the good news of your kingdom  
to every creature:*

*Justice to all peoples,  
good news to the poor,  
release for prisoners,  
sight for the blind,  
and freedom for the oppressed.*

*On the night before he was arrested and sentenced to death  
by the authorities of his own nation,  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples,  
and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you."*

*When supper was over,  
he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples,  
and said, "Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the covenant  
poured out for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins."*

*And so we remember again as we proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.***

*We pour ourselves out before you in praise and thanksgiving,  
a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us.*

*Pour out your Spirit  
on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make Christ known to us in the breaking of this bread,  
and the sharing of this cup.  
Renew our fellowship in him,  
that we may be for the world his body  
poured out for the world  
at this time in this nation,  
and at that great banquet in the fullness of your new creation  
where justice flows like rivers,  
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,  
where none shall hunger or thirst,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.*

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

Now with the confidence as the children of God let us pray the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion.

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

†HYMN	God Be With You til We Meet Again	UMH 673 (v 1&4)
†DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING		
†Postlude	My Country, 'Tis of Thee	Arr. Philip Keveren

†Please stand as you are able and silence your cell phones.

“We thank James Esterline for playing our beautiful Gathering Music in today’s worship service.”

The altar flowers are given today for the Glory of God in celebration of the 86<sup>th</sup> birthday of Dr. Noel A. von Glahn on July 5<sup>th</sup> and Mary’s birthday on July 8<sup>th</sup> by Mrs. Mary E. von Glahn.



**As you engage your ‘Prayer Life’ this week, please remember these prayer concerns: If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage 336-285-5081. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.**

### **Prayer Concerns**

Lori Johnson. Gretchen Crabtree. Betty Pleasants. Dave Blackman. Susan Carrick. Sheridian Wacker. Scott Stanley. Al & Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane & Jim Stanley. Trudy Sillmon. Don & Clara Ellis. Aly Saunders. Bruce Gillespie (Debbie Robinson’s friend). Rowan James (daughter of David Groce’s co-worker). Rev. Carol Williams-Gilbert. R. L. Almond (Doris Pruitt’s brother). Terry Pickett (Tom & Dona Pickett’s son). Hazel Perritt. Pat Glover. Mark Page (friend of the Groce family). Linda Southard (Rachel Sheppard’s cousin).

## Announcements and Calendar of events



**July Birthdays** – Paul Jones, Addison Snider (1<sup>st</sup>). Trent Iddings, Bruce Harkins (3<sup>rd</sup>). Mark Snider (4<sup>th</sup>). Steve Hennings (5<sup>th</sup>). Hazel Perritt, David Blackman (9<sup>th</sup>). Sara Jones, Emily Wagoner (10<sup>th</sup>). Rives Deuterman (11<sup>th</sup>). Mona Sartin (13<sup>th</sup>). Jim John (14<sup>th</sup>). Joann Martin (15<sup>th</sup>). Leith Singletary (16<sup>th</sup>). Hermann Daiber (19<sup>th</sup>). Barbara Albright, George (Sonny) Robinson (23<sup>rd</sup>). Fran Williams (24). Bonnie Bradham (28<sup>th</sup>). Thomas Liles (31<sup>st</sup>).

**Sunday School at 9:45am** – in the Fellowship Hall, with a 12-week study on the Disciples of Jesus.

**July 3rd thru 8<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Hall Closed for cleaning.**

**July 15- Community Breakfast and Clothes Closet 8am to 10am.** Please come and help with this much needed ministry. There is a place for everyone to help! Whether it be cooking, serving, joining in conversation, or praying with our guests. Everyone needs to share in the blessing.

**July 18- 5:30pm Bible Study and meal.**

**July 19<sup>th</sup> – 3pm Kelley will be at Friend's Home.**

Attendance – June 25, 2023

Sunday School	12
Worship in-person	49
Worship - FaceBook Live	67
Worship - YouTube	14