



Centenary

United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Avenue,
Greensboro, NC

July 5, 2020

Reverend Kelley Groce,
Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich,
Director of Music

Before you view today's worship service video, please have a piece of bread or cracker near you, and a small glass of juice, so that you may partake in communion with us.

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship *God Bless America* Irving Berlin

Greeting

Leader: Freedom is coming!

People: We can hear it in the voices of the oppressed.

Leader: Hope is coming!

People: We can see it in the eyes of all those who despair.

Leader: God is here!

People: We count on God's presence with us, to guide, heal and uplift our spirits.

Leader: Let us pray

God of freedom and miracles, we wait for your voice and direction this morning. We are so busy with the holiday celebrations and gatherings, yet the words of anguish arise around us. News of tragedy and war blare at us from all directions. Hear our cries, O Lord. Come and comfort and heal our wounds. Open our hearts this day that we might become people who bring peace and hope to those in despair. For we ask these things in the name of the master healer, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

— written by Nancy C. Townley, and posted on the **Ministry Matters** website.

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

Hymn *America the Beautiful* 696 UMH verses 1 & 3

*O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain
For purple mountains majesties, above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.*

*O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty and law.*

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.

Gospel Reading Matthew 8:1-15

Anthem *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Paul Baloche

Sermon “Third Time’s the Charm” Rev. Kelley Groce

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

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

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader to people: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

Leader and people: **Glory to God. Amen.**

Offering

Offertory *Let Us Break Bread Together* Afro-American spiritual

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 *I Am Thine, O Lord* 419 UMH verses 1 & 2

*I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.*

*(refrain) Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where thou hast died.*

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.

*Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine.*

(refrain)

Dismissal with Blessing

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Choral Benediction *Blest be the Tie that Binds..... Fawcett/Nageli, arr. L. Mason*

The Prayer Chain has received requests to pray for the following people: Linda and Harold Billings daughter, Laura Gardner, and grandson, Jack Gardner, who have tested positive for COVID-19 *without* symptoms, and for their granddaughter, Abby Gardner, who tested positive *with* symptoms of cough and headache. Abbie Samuel, Jean Brincefield, Charles Gordon, Dot Frye, Robert Hemphill, Frank York,

Trudy Sillmon, Sally Goin, and Bianca York's mother, Rachel Flores. Pray for Barbara Grey, Teresa John's mom. Margaret Turnage's friend, Pat Gunn, who had a stint put in June 25. Pat Stevenson will have surgery August 5. Prayers for Sherri Nebe, Juli Hurin's cousin, who had surgery on July 2 for possible cancer. Also, pray for Kelley's friend's nephew, Dillion, who is a young person with COVID-19 and is in respiratory distress. Prayers for Mandy Durham, Betty Durham's daughter, and for the family & friends of Dave Frazier. Fay Elliott asks for prayer for her friend, Michael.

If you have a prayer concern, 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 or only with the pastoral staff.

Bible Study – Our next bible study will be *Romans: Interpretation Bible Studies* beginning August 4. We will let you know if we need to continue with Zoom meetings, or if we can be socially distant and meet at the church. That decision will be made in July. You may order your book from [Amazon](#), [Christianbook.com](#) or [Cokesbury](#). Please have the first chapter read by our first meeting day. If you would like to join us, send an email to kgroce@wnccumc.net to receive an email invitation to Zoom. You may also listen in by phone. Contact the church if you would like to participate 336-299-9643.



July Mission Focus - We are focusing on food scarcity through the month of July. The Ad Council has agreed to support Out of the Garden Project with money that would have been used for our Community Breakfast (currently not being held because of the coronavirus). Please consider sending a donation, above and beyond your usual monthly pledge, to support Out of the Garden

Project. You may make your check payable to Centenary UMC and put "OTGP" on the memo line. You may do this in honor or in memory of a loved one and it will be recognized in the August *Centenarian* newsletter. Mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403.

