



Welcome to Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403

Easter Sunday | April 12, 2020

Rev. Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Gathering Music

Trumpet Voluntary

Greene

Jay Lineberry, Trumpet

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Piano

Choral Call to Worship *Easter People, Raise Your Voices* UMH 304

Call to Worship

Leader: Morning has broken, but this morning is different.

People: The birds are singing tunes of joy in the trees surrounding the graves. The flower buds are bursting in colors vibrant around each stone.

Leader: We've come to visit the grave of a friend, but "he is not here."

People: The Sun is rising in the East; the shadowed grays turn bright! The Son is risen in our Hearts; darkness and death end in defeat.

Leader: Now we understand what Christ said, what God did.

ALL: Now we can proclaim, CHRIST IS RISEN! HALLELUJAH!

(The Rev. Nathan Decker is the pastor of the South Sussex Charge of the James River District of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.)

Opening Prayer

Hymn *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* UMH 302

Return of Light to the Lenten Wreath – Emily Lawing

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Prayer before Offering

God of great gifts. This morning we give you praise, we give you glory, we give you thanks! With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace! We joyfully present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! Amen.

Offertory *Bist du bei mir* Bach

Doxology

Scripture John 20:1-18

Sermon "Revelation Testimony" Rev. Kelley Groce
Anthem *Air* Handel
Jay Lineberry, Trumpet Anita Trumpler-Rich, Piano
He Lives UMH 310

Litany

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: We walked the valleys and saw the people crying in need. Jesus reached out to them. He did not criticize or diminish their needs. He touched their lives and they were never the same. The love that flowed through him to them was God's healing love.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: We sat at table in the Upper Room as Jesus told of his death and we wanted to discount his words. How could he die? We did not want to believe it. It was easier to proclaim with bravado our faith than to listen to his words.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: We waited in the Garden of Sorrows while he prayed and watched in horror as he was betrayed with a kiss. We followed at a distance and denied, with Peter, ever knowing who he was. We were in the crowd that clamored for Barabbas' release and turned our backs as Pilate washed his hands of the crime.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: We followed him to the hill and cringed as they nailed

him to the Cross. We heard his words of forgiveness and love from the cross and felt the ground tremble as the sky darkened and he gave up his life, into his father's hands.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: We ran from the empty tomb today, with the incredible news that He is Risen! He was not captured by death, but is risen from the dead, just as he said he would be. We come with the joy in our hearts to this day. As the flowers in our worship area burst with color, so we burst with the absolute joyous news CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA. AMEN.

Hymn *This Easter Celebration* Wesley/Gillette (verses 1, 3, & 5)

(to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation" – all five verses are printed in the *April Centenarian*)

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.

We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.

We're distant from our neighbors — from worship leaders, too.

No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.

Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see —
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.

In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

Benediction

Go forth in joy! Let your voices ring with victory; for Christ is Risen! Happy Easter!

Postlude *Trumpet Sonata 5*

Gabrieli

Jay Lineberry, Trumpet

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Piano