



*Third Sunday of Advent*

## Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue.  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
December 15, 2024

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor   Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director

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

Gathering Music                                      Away in a Manger                                      James Murray

Announcements for Ministries and Missions

Choral Call to worship                                      Love Has Come                                      Ken Bible                                      Choir

Call to worship:

*L: God, you are our salvation and trust.*

***P: Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.***

*L: You redeem your people; you restore our fortunes.*

***P: Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.***

*L: You have become for us our strength and salvation.*

***P: Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.***

*L: Let us sing to the Lord,  
who has done glorious things.*

***P: Let us offer joy, thanks, and praise this day.  
Hallelujah!***

### **Prayer of the Day**

*God of good news, God of joy,  
your Spirit is always at work in our midst.  
Your nearness brings life and salvation.  
Help us join in the songs of our ancestors  
who have declared your mighty works  
through the generations.  
Let our praise arise with theirs  
as we rest in the joy of your arriving presence. **Amen.***

†Hymn                                      Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates                                      UMH 213

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle                                      The Sillmon Family

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer and 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Anthem	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus arr. Taylor Linden	Choir
Scripture:	Luke 3:7-18	
Sermon:	Same Story, Second verse – John the Baptist	Rev. Kelley Groce
†Affirmation of Faith	Apostle’s Creed	UMH 881
Gloria Patri		
†Hymn	O Little Town of Bethlehem	UMH 230
We worship with God’s Tithes and Our Offerings		
Offertory	Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming	
Choir †Doxology		
†Hymn	Angels From the Realms of Glory	UMH 220
†Benediction		
†Postlude	Noel, Noel.... James Southbridge	

†Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit and silence your cell phones†

### **Announcements for Mission and Ministry**

**December Birthdays:** 1<sup>st</sup> Dona Pickett. 5<sup>th</sup> Nina Stowe. 6<sup>th</sup> Charles Gordan. 7<sup>th</sup> Grant Sillmon. 10<sup>th</sup> Carol Burklin, Betty Durham & Alvin Eaton. 12<sup>th</sup> David Sillmon. 15<sup>th</sup> Bobby Burklin. 17<sup>th</sup> Haley Saunders. 18<sup>th</sup> Clara Ellis, Mark Schlueter & Geoff Horn. 19<sup>th</sup> Nancy Carrick. 22<sup>nd</sup> Harrison Stout. 30<sup>th</sup> May Jo Baugh. 31<sup>st</sup> Travis John.

**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.

Lenora Reese. Ann Atchison, Friends Home Guilford. Bob Lyon (Mike Crabtree’s son-in-law). Kristy Stout. Win and Lin Johnson. Doris Pruitt. Andy McFarland-health issues (Milton McFarland’s brother). Andrew Gibbons. Michael Santowaso-cancer (Becky’s husband, David Sillmon’s son-in-law). Pray for our church during this time of transition. Joann Martin. Carol & Bobby Burklin. Margaret & Patrick Miller. Martha Nell Rives. Gretchen Crabtree. Dave & Barbara Blackman. Susan Carrick. Sheridian. Lee & Jane Norman. Al & Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris.

Diane & Jim Stanley. Aly Saunders. Hazel Perritt. Debra Kirkman (Jean Greene, Kelley's Mom, friend). Carolyn Crabtree (Mike Crabtree's aunt). Joe (Susan Shuping's brother). Continue to be in prayer for the victims of Hurricane Helene and all the First Responders. Cheyenne Thomas (Betty Durham's granddaughter).

**December Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – 6pm** - Advent Bible Study in Conference Room.

**December 24<sup>th</sup> - 5pm- Christmas Eve Service.** At the end of the service you may take a Chrismon off the Christmas Tree as a remembrance of Christmas at Centenary.

**December 29<sup>th</sup> - Last Worship Service at Centenary.**