



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

September 4, 2022

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

With Prayerful Heart

B. Frick

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral call to worship

We, Thy People, Praise Thee

Page/Haydn

Call to Worship:

L: Look around. What wonders we behold!

P: We see others, gathered here to worship and praise God.

L: Each person here is a unique, beloved creation of God.

P: Each person here is given special gifts and talents by God.

L: Come, let us worship God who has blessed us so mightily.

P: Let us praise God with our whole hearts, souls, minds, and spirits. AMEN.

Opening Prayer:

Lord, from the very beginning of your creation, you breathed your love in to all that you made. You gave us the breath of life and asked us to be good stewards of all creation. You placed your trust and love in us. Help us to turn again with joyful hearts to you, placing our trust in all that you have done for us. Let us be a blessing for you. AMEN.

†Hymn:

God is Here

UMH 660 v 1,4)

Scripture: Daniel 6:12-28

Anthem

Grace Alone

Choir

Sermon:

The Problem with Power

Rev. Kelley Groce

†Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

†Gloria Patri

†Hymn: Become to Us the Living Bread

UMH 630

(Choir Sing first verse and congregation verses 2&3)

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

We Worship with our Tithes and our Offering

†Doxology

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

Call to Confession: On this Labor Day Sunday let us, in a special way, lift all people who labor, either for pay or as volunteers, in jobs or at school, at home or in the workplace, in the U.S. and around the world.

Unison Prayer of Confession: **We are workers, God, just like you. But we confess that our actions do not always affirm and honor each other. Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you. We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions. We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits while others may have no job, or one that pays little and provides few benefits.**

Creator God, help us to be your people, working for a world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. And one where those who serve and care for others — in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places — are, themselves, also served and cared for. It will be a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.
(Pray in Silence)

Words of Assurance: Our God is a God of grace and transformation. When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also, with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our creator. You have given us life and second birth in your Spirit. Once we were no people, but now we are your people. You claimed Israel as your chosen nation and raised up the church as a witness to the **resurrection**, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together. When we go astray, you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Congregation: 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.

Minister:

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In love with you and in compassion for all, Jesus healed and taught, challenged, and comforted, welcomed, and saved. He formed a community, promising to be with his disciples wherever two or three were gathered, and sending them on his mission of hope and healing in the world.

Jesus trusted his life to you, and went freely to his death, so the world might be set free from suffering and sin. You raised him from death and raise us also to live a new life with him.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, you send us out to make disciples as he commanded. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith.

Congregation: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Minister: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. It is appropriate to offer intercessions for the church and the world, including prayers for the WNC Conference, its leaders, pastors, and congregations, and its mission and ministry. It is also appropriate to give thanks for the life and witness of those who have died. O God, today you have called us together to be the church. Unite us now at your table, and in one loaf and a common cup, make us one in Christ Jesus. Let your Spirit empower the life we share and ignite our witness in the world. With all who have gone before us,

keep us faithful to the gospel teachings and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Give us strength to serve you until the promised day of the resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

Minister: As Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

Congregation: 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is 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. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

Partaking of the Bread and Juice

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Adapted from the Book of Occasional Services, 217-226)

†Hymn: There is a Fountain Filled with Blood UMH 622 v (1,3,5)

†Benediction

†Postlude The Heavens Declare Benedetto Marcello

†Please stand as you are able.



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.

Lori Eaton, Health concerns, David Baum, Nelda King, Peggy Harris, Diane, Jim & Scott Stanley, Gretchen Crabtree, Anne Murr, Lori Johnson, Trudy Sillmon, Don & Clara Ellis, Aly Saunders, Cecil Overbey, Lisa Goller (Kelley Groce's friend), Gwen, hand tremors (Jeane Batten's niece), Jenny Hill Madigan, cancer (Jeane Batten's friend), Kathy Teer Matanorts, stroke (Jean Brincefield's niece), Joyce Stewart, surgery (Faye Elliott's friend), Tricia Wurst, health issues (Faye Elliott's sister), Gloria Burton (Margaret Turnage's sister) Doris Pruitt and two of her friends with Covid, Meredith Bartlett, surgery (Lori & Al Eaton's daughter) Sara Jenkins, blood clot (UMAR friend), Eaton's daughter).

Our Sympathy to the family of Sid Campbell (Anne Murr's close friend) upon his death.
Our Sympathy to Caroline Howerton upon the death of her sister Kathryn.
Our Sympathy to Dean Saunders and his family upon the death of his father.
Our Sympathy to Kelley Groce and her family upon the death of her cousin Debbie Queen.



September Birthdays- Polly Bowman (5), Dawn Long (9), Sarah Horn, Mary Ann Smith (12), Lee Norman (16), Shari Saunders (21), Martha Nell Rives (23), Lori Eaton (24), Joshua Pace, Caroline Robinson (25), Brenda Wilson (27), Bill Deuterman (29).

Altar Flowers: The Altar Flower calendar is open for this year. The cost is **\$65.00/Sunday**. Call the church office if you are interested in a less expensive option (336-299-9643). Dates still available: September 25, October 2, November 6,13,27, December 4,11

The Altar Flowers are given today to the Glory of God in honor of Landon Ford, Emily Wagoner's first godson in celebration of his 16th birthday on September 6.

Announcements and Calendar of events

September 4- Undie Sunday. The first Sunday of each month is Undie Sunday. We need new, packaged undies (men and women's) and socks (white or black, men's and women's).

September 5- Labor Day, the church office will be closed.

September 8- Pastor, Picnic and Passages, 6pm in the conference room.

September 11- Pinto Bean and Rice Luncheon after worship. This is a fundraiser for the DR. The cost is a donation. All donations will go to the DR.

September 13- Friendship Club at noon. Our own James Esterline will share his musical talents. The meal will be pasta, salad, and dessert.

September 14- UMW meeting at 10am in the parlor. Program: Women of the Bible by Carolyn Townsend.

September 15- The Starlight Book Club will meet at Lucky 32 at 6:30pm.

September 17- Community Breakfast and Clothes Closet. 8am to 10am

Centenary Choir invites all Centenary members and visitors to come sing with us! There's always room for more singers, and you are all welcome. The choir will return to holding choir practice on Wednesday evenings, from 6:45pm to about 7:30pm.

We have a continuous collection of nonperishable items for the **Urban Ministry** at our church. The month of September we will collect can meats. You may drop them in the baskets located throughout the church, and we will make sure that they are delivered.

Crop Walk is October 2, 2022, Save the Date! There's a signup sheet in the narthex. Look for more information to come. Don't forget if you can't walk you can collect donations.

Chane to Change in September will go to UMCOR for disaster relief.

