



**Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403
January 9, 2022**

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

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.

†Please stand as you are able.

Thank you for continuing to wear a mask even if you are fully vaccinated to protect the most vulnerable in our midst, especially those not yet able to be vaccinated.

Gathering Music

Send Thy Grace...Gilbert Martin

Choral Call to worship

Jesus! The Name High Over All

Choir

Call to Worship:

Leader: In the beginning when God created

People: A wind swept over the waters,

A breath warmed the dark voids,

A Spirit called forth creation.

Leader: God gave in grace:

People: Let there be light for all to see,

Let there be water for all to splash in,

Let there be life in the midst of death

Yes, let there be life beyond death.

Leader: And God invited and invites us to respond, rejoicing!

People: **It was good,
It was awesome and awe-filled,**
Leader: It *is* good.

Leader: Let us pray together:

O God of all creation,

You came into the world that we might know love and new life. Pour your Spirit on your church, that it may fulfill Christ's command to live the gospel everywhere; that the proclamation of the good news might be heard throughout the earth. Reassure us, that we are your beloved people. Defend us against all evil and temptation. Give us grace to bear faithful witness to you. Endue us with love, keep us constant in prayer, empower us for the service of love. Amen.

Hymn: *When Jesus Came to Jordan* **UMH #252, v. 1&3**

Joys and Concerns of Congregation

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Anthem: *Baptized in Water* **Choir**

Scripture: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Sermon: "Being Beloved" **Rev. Kelley Groce**

Hymn: *How Firm A Foundation* **UMH #529, v. 1&3**

Congregational Reaffirmation of Baptism

Introduction:

Leader: Who are we?

We are brothers and sisters in Christ, whom you have called by name: Called together in the one body where there is no lesser or unneeded part. We are the community of the baptized and through baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of saving power and justice and given new birth through water and God's Spirit. All this is God's gift, a gift that freely flows to all who will receive it, offered to us without price.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, we acknowledge who God calls us to be: People who thirst for righteousness. People who continually offer ourselves to God's transforming action.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith We acknowledge God gathers us as one diverse and beloved community, We acknowledge God's transforming power and love within and among us, we affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church as a people called to God's Kingdom building work of planting seeds, along with cultivating and encouraging growth that births new life.

Reaffirmation of our Baptismal Identity and Profession of Faith

Who are we?

We are a people who renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent of our sin. We are a people who realize these are not just words but a constant call to action.

Who are we?

We are a people who accept the freedom and power God does indeed give us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. We are a people who are called to break down the walls of fear, build bridges of appreciation and equity, develop relationships with those who are not like us, and encourage curiosity, listening, and learning among the rich diversity of God's peoples in this world.

Who are we?

We are a people who confess Jesus Christ as our Savior. We are people who trust in the grace of Christ. We are a people who promise to serve Jesus as Lord – not all by ourselves, but in union with the whole Church which Christ has opened, not just to a few, but opened to people of all ages, nations, and races. We are a people who recognize Jesus came into the world not to condemn the world, but came so that the world might be saved through him.

Who are we?

We are a people whose vocation is to love neighbor. We are called to love the neighbors we know and do not know, the neighbors with whom we agree, and the neighbors with whom we disagree. We are a people called to serve as Christ's representatives in this world, working intentionally on moving ourselves and the communities in which we live and serve toward anti-racist thought, behavior and policy.

Who are we?

We are a people who need to remember our baptism daily. We are called to daily reaffirm that we are Christ's representatives. We are called to examine how we do what we are doing as Christ's ambassadors: Who are we leaving out? Who is not present? Who is potentially harmed by what we think, say, or do? Is what we are doing and discussing truly about Christ? Do our thoughts, words, and actions advance the mission of Christ and who we say we are as followers of Christ?

Who are we?

We are a people who will strive anew this day and every day to remain faithful members of Christ's holy church And serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Who are we?

We are a people who receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and make this affirmation anew as we profess our faith together:

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Leader: Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth

light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

People: Send your Spirit and help us remember who we are. Empower us to grow and live from God's transforming love and power each day.

Leader: In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

People: Send your Spirit and help us remember who we are. Empower us to grow and live from God's transforming love and power each day.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

People: All praise to you, Eternal God, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.

Remembering and Reaffirming who we are in and by our Baptism

Leader: Who are we?

People: We are the community of Christ, the baptized!

Leader: Remember your baptism and be thankful!

People: We remember and are thankful!

Leader: The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

People: May it be so!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, today we rejoice with You who gave us love of neighbor as our vocation. We rejoice with one another as we remember who we are. We rejoice in the remembrance that we are Your people called to serve as Christ's representatives in this world, called to intentionally move ourselves and the communities we serve toward anti-racist thought, behavior and policy, called to work toward an equitable way of being and living that truly honors the Christ we follow and the body of Christ of which we are all a part. Through your Spirit, help us to remember our baptismal identity daily. Help us to live as Christ's representatives in this world. Help us to examine what we are doing and how we are doing as Christ's ambassadors so that we, in faithfulness and joy, better spread the good news and life-giving justice and joy of Christ to all people. Amen

THANKSGIVING TO GOD THROUGH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *How Can We Name a Love* **Choir**

†Doxology

†Hymn: *Spirit Song* **UMH #347, All verses**

†Benediction

Postlude



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.

Paul Jones, Eye surgery on January 11. **Louise Woods**, back in the hospital. **Irmgard Daiber**, appointment with dermatologist on January 5. **Darryl**, (cousin of Mary Ann Smith) for esophageal and spine cancer. **Jennifer** (neighbor of Anita Trumpler-Rich) cancer. **Gretchen Crabtree**, blood pressure issues. **Sheridian Wacker**, breast cancer surgery. **Joann Martin**, health challenges and upcoming tests. **Susan Carrick**, AFib symptoms. **Dave Blackman**, had a stroke and is home with out-patient therapy. Keep Barbara and David in your prayers. **Jane Norman**, is at home now recovering. **Scott Stanley**. **Kay Scott**, health challenges and treatment. Please keep him and the family in your prayers. **Anne Murr**, prayers for her treatments. **Margaret Miller** health issues. **Lori Johnson**. **Trudy Sillmon**. **Don & Clara Ellis**. **Aly Saunders**.

Please be in prayer, as many are ready to return to this service of outreach.

Sympathy to the family of Becky Lineberry who passed away on December 20, 2021

Sympathy to the family of Betsy Wampler who passed away on January 2, 2022. Fred's address is 22 Dudley Brook Road, Deering NH 03244-6650

Sympathy to the family of Judy Milligan who passed away on January 3, 2022.

Sympathy to the family of Rev. Steve Martin who passed away on January 2, 2022.

Announcements

Soul to Soul will meet Saturday, January 8th at 10:00 am to put blessing bags together until we can gather for the Community Breakfast again.

There will be an SPRC meeting at 2:00 pm in the Conference Room on Sunday, January 9th.

On January 12th UMW Board Meeting at 10:00am followed by a guest speaker, Sandra Williamson Contact Debra Schlueter 336-707-4213 if you have any questions. Everyone is Welcome, do plan to attend!

The Office will be closed on Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday.

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

(over)

