



Forgetting what is
behind,
and straining toward
what is ahead,
I press on toward the
goal to win the prize
for which God has
called me Heavenward
in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

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*Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403
February 4, 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 Joyful Sound Arr. Mark Hayes Lloyd Eubanks, Cello

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship Sanctuary Thompson/Scruggs Choir

Call to Worship

L: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

P: Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

L: Come and let us worship with great joy!

P: Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!

L: God is about to do something new in our lives!

P: Let God's will become strong in our lives.

L: Let us pray:

P: We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts. Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In Christ's name, we pray. AMEN

†Hymn My Hope is Built UMH 368

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Anthem Grace Alone Brown/Nelson Choir

Scripture: Philippians 3: 10-14

Sermon: "Leaving behind the past to press forward in the future" Rev. Kelley Groce

†Affirmation of Faith The Apostle's Creed Traditional Version UMH 881

†Gloria Patri

Special Music Near the Cross Arr. Mark Hayes Lloyd Eubanks, Cello

Invitation

Leader:

Here is the table of the Lord,
we are gathered to his supper,
a foretaste of things eternal.

Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.

Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.

Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.

Come, old and young,
there is room for all.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison) Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and left undone. We have not loved you fully, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsively) based on Psalm 130 s the Psalmist proclaims,
“If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.”**

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

We Worship with God’s Tithes and our Offerings.

Offertory

Pass It On

Kurt Kaiser

Choir

†Doxology

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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!**

Celebrant: All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

†THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Prayer following Communion:

Grant us, almighty God, that we may be refreshed and nourished by the Sacrament which we have received, so as to be transformed into what we consume. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

†Hymn

A Charge to Keep I Have

UMH 413

†Benediction

†Postlude

Life Eternal

Gerald Peterson

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

“We welcome cellist Lloyd Eubanks for sharing his beautiful music with us this morning!”
Thank you so much for sharing your musical talent.