



**Centenary United Methodist Church  
2300 W. Friendly Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
October 2, 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.*

†Please stand as you are able.

Gathering Music

Fanfare and Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell

Choir

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

## †Call to Worship:

Leader: Today we gather around God's table from near and far

**People: We are the People of God!**

Leader: Though we differ in language, custom, and tradition

**People: We are brothers and sisters in Christ!**

Leader: For there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism

**People: We are One in God's Spirit!**

Leader: We are one and together we remember our Lord Jesus

**People: For we are the people of Redemption!**

Leader: He gave himself up for us, so we could be reconciled to God.

**People: Come, let us worship the God of our Salvation!**

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: O Redeemer God, as we gather in worship on this World Communion Sunday, we ask that you send your Holy Spirit to fall afresh on us. We pray for your Spirit to awaken new hope in us. Grant us the vision to see the coming of your kingdom. Help us to celebrate the glimpses of grace that you have given to each of us. Knit our hearts together in worship and communion so that we know we do not struggle alone in working for your peace and justice. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen**

†Hymn In Christ There is No East or West

UMH 548 (1&4)

Scripture: Luke 17: 5-10

Sermon: How much faith is needed

†Apostle's Creed

†Gloria Patri

†Hymn Hymn of Promise

UMH 707

Joys and Concerns of Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

**Invitation to the Table:**

**Leader:** This table is for all of us, near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south. This table is for all of us, but it is not our table. It's not a United Methodist table. It's not an American table. It's God's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace. So come and take your place at the table. You are welcome, you are invited, you are called: come, let us share this meal together.

**Call to Confession:**

**Leader:** Great indeed is the faithfulness of God, and yet our hearts are not so reliable. We wander. We argue. We forget. We divide ourselves with anger and bitterness and falsehood. Let's try to come back together again, and let's start with the truth. Let's confess our sins, to God, and also, to each other.

**Prayer of Confession: Almighty God, mother of mercy, father of grace: You have called us to one table, but we have pursued our own course. You have promised us the abundance of all creation, but in our greed,**

**and in our envy, the world goes without. You have promised us the bread of life itself, but in our pride, and in our arrogance, the world goes hungry. You have promised us the waters of peace and justice, but in our violence, and in our discord, the world goes thirsty. And now we are famished, too, Lord. Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again. Transform us, at this table, and for this table, and send us from this table as servants of your righteousness, by the power of your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Minister:** Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows. Even when our plates are empty, God's generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren, God's love overflows. Friends, you have been called and claimed by the God of all things, and by the abundance of God's grace, and by the power of God's love, your sins have been forgiven. Go in peace. Amen

Anthem                      They'll Know We are Christians by our Love                      Choir

Gift of God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory                      A Place at the Table                      Choir

†Doxology

†Hymn:                      Let us break Bread Together on Our Knees                      UMH 618 (1&2)

### **Thanksgiving and Communion**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving for World Communion Sunday**

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**Leader:** God of all nations, you created every person in your image and called us by your Holy Spirit to become one in Christ Jesus, through Baptism and through faith.

In Jesus Christ, you showed us the way to live with unique gifts and particularities, yet in harmony with you and with each other.

You, O God, are indeed above all and through all and in all.

So, today we join with voices throughout the earth and in heaven, saying:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Leader:** Holy are you and blessed is your child, Jesus Christ.

Jesus lived among us to show us your love: caring enough to feed hungry persons, stopping to touch persons in need of healing, reaching out to those not like himself:

a Samaritan woman at a well,

lepers from another country,

those tortured by demons,

a father pleading for his daughter,  
a woman from Syro-Phoenicia,  
Zacchaeus, a tax collector,  
a rich young ruler, and humble fishermen.

When people gathered to hear his teachings, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them to eat, so that they might be fed.

When Jesus ate with his disciples for his final meal on earth, they remembered his blessing on the multitude, and listened as he told them:

“Take, eat, this is my body given for you.”

They watched as Jesus took the cup, blessed it and said,

“Take, drink, this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for the whole world for the forgiveness of sins.”

After his death and resurrection, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples told others through this meal, that Jesus was the Messiah, sent by God, for all humankind.

Remembering now, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.**

**You are the Savior of the world.**

**Leader:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on the table  
spread this day around this globe,  
and here spread with breads from around the world.

May all who partake, wherever they live,  
know the reconciling love of Jesus Christ.

May your church go forth from Communion with you  
to be one in Christ and one in witness to the world.

In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

**Leader:** And now with the confidence of the Children of God let us pray:

**People: The Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Giving the Bread and cup**

**Prayer following Communion prayed by all:**

**Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for our service. God of peace, may this meal, shared in the Spirit with your son Jesus, strengthen us, your people, to engage in peacemaking, to call for restraint, to plead for diplomacy, to urge the use of international law, to halt the endless, downward spiral of violence in all places. Strengthen us, your people, to raise our voices and to act. Amen**

†Hymn:

Go now in Peace

UMH 665

†Benediction

†Postlude

Down by the Riverside

Frederic Rzewsk

James Esterline, Piano