



**Centenary United Methodist Church**

**2300 W. Friendly Ave.**

**Greensboro, NC 27403**

**March 21, 2021**

**Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor**

**Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director**

## Announcements for Missions and Ministries

Prelude "Lamb of God" by Twila Paris....Sung by Tarron McCord, Soprano

Call to Worship "Covenant Prayer"

**Leader:** The Lord is making a new covenant with the people of God.

People: **Here in this place,  
Christ writes the law of love on our hearts.**

**Leader:** We are children of the living God.

People: **Together, let us worship the Lord of Love!**

*written by Amy Loving, and posted on The Worship Closet: The Place for Creative Worship Ideas, <http://worshipcloset.com/baptism-of-the-lord-sunday-year-b-words-for-worship/>.*

Prayer of Confession:

**Lord, we know Easter is coming soon and while we anxiously wait to celebrate your triumphant victory over sin and death, there are still difficult days between now and then. There is nothing perfect about us, yet you beckon us with hands that soon will be scarred by betrayal, greed, selfishness, pettiness, pride, and apathy. You see us and our imperfections with compassionate and patient eyes as we struggle to rid our lives of all the worldly things that distort, distract, and entangle us. As the cross looms ahead, our eyes and our focus are on you and you alone for our redemption and salvation.**

*Cynthia Bond Hopson, The Africana Worship Book for Year B, Discipleship Resources, 2007, p. 153.*

### **Words of Assurance**

Hear these words. The Lord is merciful and kind. God delights in repentance and forgives. Receive God's grace and mercy. Walk now in the joy of your salvation. Amen

Hymn "Lift High the Cross"

UMH 159 vs, 1&3

(Refrain)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The

hosts of God in unity combine.

(Refrain)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as  
thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

(Refrain)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Joys and Concerns of Congregation and Community

Pastoral prayer and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

We worship with our Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory                    "What Wondrous Love is This"                    Tarron McCord, Soprano

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

New Testament Scripture: John 12: 20-33

Solo                         "Kyrie" by Andrea Klouse....                         Tarron McCord, Soprano

Sermon:                         Deal or No Deal?                                                 Rev. Kelley Groce

Lenten Litany

**Leader:** Let us live this Lenten season with the cross before us.

People: **Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:** In times of prosperity,  
when success and comfort would draw us away  
from the way of the cross,

People: **Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:** In darker times of trial and worry  
when we feel alone,  
abandoned to wander in the valley of the shadow,

People: **Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:** In the routine of each day,  
in the work we do, in our lives with family and friends,  
in the light of each day, and in the rest of each night,

**Leader: Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!**

People: Heavenly Father,  
as a family of believers in this congregation,  
we pray that all we do together  
be governed by your love for us in Christ.

**Leader: Keep his cross before us,  
so that we are always ready and eager to follow him!**

— anonymous. Posted on the **Worship Ideas You Can Use** website. <http://sjbrown58.wordpress.com/>

Hymn

“Since Jesus Came Into my Heart”

#2140 vs, 1&2

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought  
since Jesus came into my heart!  
I have light in my soul for which long I have sought,  
since Jesus came into my heart!

Since Jesus came into my heart,  
since Jesus came into my heart,  
Floods of joy o’er my soul like the sea billows roll,  
since Jesus came into my heart.

I have ceased from my wandering and going astray,  
since Jesus came into my heart!  
And my sins which were many are all washed away,  
since Jesus came into my heart!

Since Jesus came into my heart,  
since Jesus came into my heart,  
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll,  
since Jesus came into my heart.

Benediction

Choral Benediction                    “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

 **We welcome Tarron McCord, Soprano, to our service today and thank her for sharing her beautiful voice with us!**



**Birthdays for this week** –Charles Sartore (22), Doris Pruitt (24),  
Andrew Snider (25), Cindie Sillmon (29), Caryn Hull (31)

### 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. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation or only with the pastoral staff.

**Sally Goin**, prayer for continue health. **Joe Foster, Pat Stevenson’s son**, has developed Covid-19. **Abbie Samuel**, recovering from her second detached retina surgery. She is home. **Jane Koenig, friend of Debbie Robinson**, fell and has terrible brain and head injuries. **Scott Stanley**, cellulitis. **Ms. Carol, friend of Scott Stanley**, health problems. **Edna Johnson** had surgery. **Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett**, going through some serious health issues. **Gretchen Crabtree’s sister, Joyce Anderson**, health concerns. **Cynthia Michael**, upcoming shoulder surgery in March. **Susan Carrick** with health issues. **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Peggy Boles. Don & Clara Ellis, Trudy Sillmon, Rachel Sheppard.**

Also, many are dealing with anxiety, stress, depression, and loneliness due to COVID-19. Please put it upon your heart to offer all people the grace which God offers all. Prayers for our country during this transition.

**Continue to lift up Centenary UMC in prayer.** The leadership of the church is working on creative ways to bring smaller groups in for study and worship.



## Upcoming events for Holy Week

- March 28<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday, Stations of the Cross Begins at 2:00pm enter at the portico and walk the stations. **We ask that you wear your mask, social distance and use hand sanitizer.**
  - March 29<sup>th</sup> Monday, noon prayer service—Call the office 336-299-9643 or email Libby [libby@centenaryumcgreensboro.org](mailto:libby@centenaryumcgreensboro.org) to make reservations to attend. **(We are Limited to 80 people). We ask that you wear your mask, social distance and use hand sanitizer.**
  - March 30<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Lenten Bible Study at 10:00am or 6:30pm.
  - April 1<sup>st</sup> Maundy Thursday Service –service will be recorded.
  - April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Good Friday Service-service will be recorded.
  - Easter Sunday Celebration, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, - We will meet in person and require reservations. **We are limited to 80 people. There will be a temperature check performed, use hand sanitizer, wear a mask, social distance.** You will be ushered to your seats. We will continue to record the service until the pandemic is over. Call Libby at the office 336-299-9643 or email Libby [libby@centenaryumcgreensboro.org](mailto:libby@centenaryumcgreensboro.org) to make reservations to attend. Flower Cross-Bring your Flowers to decorate the Cross to adorn our Cross on the Front Lawn and Celebrate Easter.
- ✚ **Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – The church office will be closed for the holiday.**
- ✚ **The church will have a recorded service on April 11<sup>th</sup> .**
- ✚ **Welcome Back! We will re-open for in person service at 11:00am on April 18<sup>th</sup> with reservations, limited to 80 people.**