

Peace



**Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403
December 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 Good King Wenceslas; and O Come, All Ye Faithful Melody Rose
Flutist

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Choir

Call to worship:

One: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages

All: *We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.*

One: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

All: Comfort, comfort O my people says our God of love.

The grass withers and the flower fades; But the word of our God will stand forever!

Invocation

O God,

You call to us from the wild places,

You call to us from the inner chambers of our hearts.

We come in answer to your call.

We come to pray, to praise,

To learn of your love for all creation.

Reveal your glory that we may see it together -

Inform and inspire us to seek your kingdom on earth in our time. Amen.

†Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel UMH 211 (1-4)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles Frank Hinshaw

Hymn Light the Advent candle TFWS 2090 (v. 2)

Scripture: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Sermon: Hope Made Possible

Anthem

Carol for Advent

Choir with
Melody Rose, Flutist

Joys and Concerns of Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

One: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.

Many: And may you see the God of hope with you.

One: Open wide our anxious hearts!

Many: We open them to God's peace.

One: Let us give thanks and share our joy.

Many: In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

All: We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We go about our lives as if Christmas is an event to be celebrated, but not lived. We hear the good news, but do not heed it. We turn away the holy family for there is no room in our hearts. We hear the cry of the expectant mother, desperate for care and a place to lie, but listen instead to the carols. We see the lowly children, born in manglers among the filth of the world, but we look instead to the decorations. We hear the call of the Angels to come and worship the newborn King, but we bow down to the idols of our culture. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us and free us for joyful obedience. Remove the barriers that we construct, and empower us to be a people doing the real, gritty, holy, graceful, loving work of Christmas every day. In the name of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen. (pause for silent confession and prayer)

One: Out of the wilderness a voice calls out. Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Prepare ye the way of love. Prepare ye the way of forgiveness. The Christ child was born in the midst of darkness. The waiting is over. Christ may be born today in your heart. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.

All: Joy to the World. Amen.

We worship with God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory

O Holy Night

Melody Rose, Flutist

†Doxology

†Hymn

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

UMH 216

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you

All: *And also, with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

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

One: Now let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: *How good it is to give thanks and praise.*

One: It is good to give our thanks and praise. It is a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You create the world from chaos. By simply speaking, you set the cosmos into motion, and create all things from the dust of stars.

All: Blessed are you, O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth.

One: God of many blessings, you called out a family to be a blessing to all the families of the earth. You gave them a land and promised to make of them a great nation so that all of the nations of the world could be blessed.

All: Blessed are you, God of Abraham and Sarah.

One: God of salvation, when the people were but slaves in Egypt you called upon your servant Moses. You gave him the power to speak salvation to the Pharaoh and led your people out of slavery. You led them over the water and helped them Passover into freedom. When the people were hungry, you gave them food from the sky. When the people were thirsty, you brought forth water from the rocks. When the people were no people, you gave them the Law.

All: Blessed are you, God of our salvation.

One: When the people asked for a King, you anointed David to be a just ruler. Though flawed, David united the people, and you promised to be with his line forever. When the Kings rebelled, as you warned them they would, you anointed the prophets, who called the people back to obedience. The prophets spoke the truth to power and called the people to remember who and whose they were. The prophets warned the people of the consequences of injustice and false worship. When the people fell into exile, the prophets spoke words of hope and restoration when all around them, there was nothing but despair.

All: A voice is crying out: “Clear the Lord’s way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!

One: You promised the coming of an anointed one, who would lead the people to peace and righteousness. You promised that the descendant of David would rule forever. You promised that out of Bethlehem would come the Prince of Peace. You promised the coming of your Kingdom, when “swords would be beaten into plows, and spears into pruning hooks.”

All: “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.”

One: John the Baptist came, telling the people to “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!” John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. And so now we come, having confessed our sins, searching for the Holy Spirit to come and fill us with expectant grace. We come to be transformed by what has already come and waiting with hope for what is to come. We deck our halls with joy, but it is our hearts that truly matter.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord in our world. Prepare the way of the Lord in our communities. Prepare the way of the Lord in our churches. Prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts.

One: And so, in hopeful anticipation, we give thanks to you, God of Creation, God of Abraham and Sarah, God of salvation, God of the Law, God of King David, God of the Prophets, God of hope and deliverance, God of John, and God of us all. We join in praise and come together to sing unending hymn:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and might adored, heaven and earth are shining bright with the glory of your light. Loud Hosannas now we sing. In the highest they may ring. Blessed is the coming one. Christ Emmanuel your son. Glory in the highest. Holy God, your name is blessed.

One: Holy are you, and holy is your Son Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh.

All: Holy are you, and Holy is your Son Jesus Christ.

One: Who is the one to whom John pointed in the wilderness.

All: Holy are you, and Holy is your Son Jesus Christ.

One: Who was born to us in a manger, for there was no room in the inn.

All: Holy are you, and Holy is your Son Jesus Christ.

One: Who came to show us the way to your love. He proclaimed good news to the poor. He restored the sight to the blind. He called the children to his side, taught the women, ate with sinners, and called out the religious leaders blinded by the letter of the Law.

All: Holy are you, and Holy is your Son Jesus Christ.

One: Who was betrayed by those who loved him. Who was persecuted by those who feared him. Who was crucified by those who thought that his death would be the end of him.

All: Holy are you, and Holy is your Son Jesus Christ.

One: Who, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

All: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

One: And when the supper was over, took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said:

All: "Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

One: 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.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Make us a Christmas people, secure in what has come, and hopeful for what is yet to be. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Keep us vigilant in our Advent waiting until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer Following Communion:

**We thank you, God,
for breaking into our world
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.
We thank you, God,
for this meal of thanksgiving
and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.**

†Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH 211 (5-7)

Benediction

†Postlude A Christmas Trilogy Mansfield

†Please stand as you are able.

"We welcome and thank Melody Rose for her beautiful music today!"

The white poinsettia was given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jim Batten and Jeane's mother - Lula Strickland Johnson, who was born on December 4, 1905, by Jeane and the family.



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 336-285-081. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Prayer Requests:

Donnie Stowe. Paul Long. Susan Carrick. Sheridian Wacker. Lori Johnson. Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane, Jim & Scott Stanley. Anne Murr. Trudy Sillmon. Don & Clara Ellis. Aly Saunders. Cecil Overbey. Al Barnes (Dave & Caryn Hull's friend). Sharry Hastings (Caryn Hull's sister) Claire (Suzy Swindell's cousin-in-law). Rachel Dykes, Sue Rosser (Debbie Robinson's friends).

Hilda (Debbie Robinson's Aunt). Quinton Verchick (Harold & Linda Billing's grandson). Rob Barnard (Larry & Suzy Swindell's nephew).

We extend of sympathy to the family of Nelda King who passed away November 26, 2022.



December Birthdays – Nina Stowe (5). Charles Gordan (6). Grant Sillmon (7). Carol Burklin, Betty Durham, Alvin Eaton (10). David Sillmom (12) Scott Stanley (13). Bobby Burklin (15) Haley Saunders (17).

Clara Ellis, March Schlueter, Geoff Horn (18) Nancy Carrick (19). Harrison Stout (22). Trudy Sillmon (24).

Mary Jo Baugh (30). Travis John (31).

Announcements and Calendar of events

December 8- noon to 8pm – Salvation Army Bell Ringers needed. Signup Sheet in Narthex

December 10am- Summerfield-Peace Christmas Store.

December 11-2pm – Blessing of the Animals on the front lawn at the manger. Please bring items for the Greensboro Animal Shelter.

December 11-3pm – Centenary Community Concerts presents a program of piano music, from far and near, with Christmas themes performed by Anita Trumpler-Rich and James Esterline.

Wednesdays at 6:45pm choir practice and bell practice at 7:30pm. All are welcome to join. See Anita if you have any questions.

Sunday School at 9:45am – in the Fellowship Hall. Advent Bible Study: “The Heart That Grew Three Sizes. Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch” by Matt Rawle. November 27-December 18. Teachers: Kelley and David Groce.

Light Up the Sanctuary Campaign. The sanctuary lights have been in despair for several years. You may have not noticed because you see the lights on, but you do not know what goes on to make this happen. If you would like to contribute to the cause-please gift to **Light Up the Sanctuary Campaign and designate as such.**

This year we will have personalized luminaries that will be lit on Christmas Eve. We're asking for a suggested \$5.00 donation to go to this campaign.

The Worship, Mission, Nurture and Outreach Committees decided in lieu of poinsettias this year we will ask that you support the Urban Ministry with Food Bags. Order form for Luminaries and Food Bags. See insert. Extra forms can be found in the narthex.

Reminder: As we enter the time of the year when we can experience inclement weather Centenary Closings will be listed on FOX 8 and WXII 12.