



**Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403
September 3, 2023**

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.*

Prelude

AdagioBach

arr. Lani Smith

Announcements for Mission and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Father, I Adore You

Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beatitudes for Workers

(a responsive reading or prayer)

Leader: Blessed are you poor who have no work or too little income.

People: God has promised: yours is the kingdom of heaven.

Leader: Blessed are you who are hungry now.

People: God has promised: you shall be filled.

Leader: Blessed are you who weep over unpaid bills, the loss of a job, or your children's lack of opportunities.

People: God has promised: you shall be comforted, you shall laugh.

Leader: Blessed are you who are merciful.

People: God has promised: you shall receive mercy.

Leader: Blessed are you who hunger and thirst for justice.

People: God has promised: you shall be filled.

All: The time is surely coming when God's justice and peace shall reign throughout the land.

Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: God of Grace, you have gifted us with a world of abundance; a land of plenty; a country where all can have enough. We come before you this day to thank you for this prosperity and to repent from our apparent inability to share this wealth. God, we declare our own complicity in systems that sustain some of us, while forsaking many others. And we come before you to seek your forgiveness, even as we pray for your justice.

Righteous God, you hear the cry of the poor. You listen to those who do without, while so many spend recklessly, and our leaders invest the wealth of the nation in instruments of destruction.

Be with us this day Lord. Hear our prayers. Touch our hearts that we may be faithful witnesses and effective voices for justice. God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

† Hymn

Standing on the Promises

UMH 374

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION*

**Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read
and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Anthem	Just As I Am	K. Lee Scott	Choir
Scripture:	John 6: 56-69		
Sermon:	The Bread of Life: Ever Enough?	Rev. Kelley Groce	
†Affirmation of Faith	Apostle's Creed		UMH 881
†Glori Patri			
†Hymn	Become to Us the Living Bread		UMH 630

CONCERNS AND JOYS OF CONGREGATION

Pastoral Prayer

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON.

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

Let us worship with God's Tithes and our Offerings.

Offertory

Time Now to Gather

Choir

†Doxology

†Hymn

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our creator. You have given us life and second birth in your Spirit. Once we were no people, but now we are your people. You claimed Israel as your chosen nation and raised up the church as a witness to the resurrection, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together. When we go astray, you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In love with you and in compassion for all, Jesus healed and taught, challenged and comforted, welcomed and saved. He formed a community, promising to be with his disciples wherever two or three were gathered, and sending them on his mission of hope and healing in the world. Jesus trusted his life to you, and went freely to his death, so the world might be set free from

suffering and sin. You raised him from death and raise us also to live a new life with him. In the power of the Holy Spirit, you send us out to make disciples as he commanded. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. It is appropriate to offer intercessions for the church and the world, including prayers for the presbytery, its leaders, pastors, and congregations, and its mission and ministry. It is also appropriate to give thanks for the life and witness of those who have died. O God, today you have called us together to be the church. Unite us now at your table, and in one loaf and a common cup, make us one in Christ Jesus. Let your Spirit empower the life we share and ignite our witness in the world. With all who have gone before us, keep us faithful to the gospel teachings and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Give us strength to serve you until the promised day of the resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

Now with the confidence as the children of God let us pray the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples:

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. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†HYMN

Blessed Assurance

UMH 369

†DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†Postlude

Trumpet Finale

John Stanley

†Please stand as you are able and silence your cell phones.

The Altar flowers are given today to the Glory of God in Celebration of the 35th birthday of Robert Hemphill by Carol and Bobby Burklin.



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.

Prayer Concerns

George & Estelle Cranford

Jack Cole

Lori Johnson

Gretchen Crabtree

Betty Pleasants

Dave and Barbara Blackman

Susan Carrick, Sheridian Wacker

Scott, Diane & Jim Stanley

Al & Lori Eaton

Peggy Harris

Trudy Sillmon

Don & Clara Ellis

Bruce Gillespie (Debbie Robinson's friend)

Rowan James (daughter of David Groce's friend)

Terry Pickett (Tom & Dona Pickett's son)

Hazel Perritt and Pat Glover

Judy Holland (Suzy Swindell's sister)

Barbara John (Jim John's mother)

Gordan Gummere (Jennifer Slaine's brother)

Anne Trumpler (Anita's sister-in-law)

Richard Fletcher (Anita's Trumpler-Rich's father-in-law).

We express our sympathy to Ursula and Andreas Daiber in the passing of their father Hermann Daiber on August 28, 2023. Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Congratulations to Nancy Carrick who received her Master of Science in Data Analytics from Western Governors University. She is the chief research scientist for R.J. Reynolds. Her proud parents are Susan and Charles Carrick.



September Birthdays— Susan Carrick (1st). Martha Proffitt, Chris Bagwell (2nd).

Robert Hemphill, David Groce (3rd). Waynette Goodson (4th). Polly Bowman (5th)

Dawn Long (9th). Mary Ann Smith, Sarah Horn (12th). Lee Norman (16th). Shari Saunders (21st).

Martha Nell Rives (23st). Lori Eaton (24th). Carolina Robinson Gillespie, Brenda Wilson (27th). Bill Deuterman (29th).

Announcements and Calendar of events

September 17th- after worship in the sanctuary-there will be a Called Churchwide Charge Conference to discuss the way forward for the church.

Clothes Closet special requests We need Men's pants and shirts ALL sizes, but especially 32, 34 & 36. Men's summer shirts. Men's shoes, especially athletic shoes. Men's belts 34, 36 & 38. Women's Small and Medium summer clothes. Women's Small and Medium underwear. Take-on style suitcases on wheels. Travel size shampoo, toothpaste, and body wash. If you have any questions, please see Caryn Hull or Dona Pickett.

The Blessed Table Food Pantry: food items needed for this month are **cans of Black Eye Peas, Pinto Beans, Great Northern Beans, Pork & Beans, and Green Peas.** Money is always helpful. There is a basket on the bottom shelf on the grocery cart for change if you would rather. Kelley will make sure that the items get to **The Blessed Table.**

Attendance – August 27, 2023

Sunday School	8
Worship in-person	55
Worship - FaceBook Live	
Worship – YouTube	

New Office Hours

Church office—Monday thru Thursday 9am to 2pm

Rev. Kelley's Office Hours

Monday—Centenary UMC

Tuesday—Newlyn St. UMC

Wednesday—Working from her Home Office

Thursday—Alternating Churches

Friday– Closed

The church office will be closed on September 4th in honor of Labor Day.