

*The
Season
of
Lent*



**Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403
March 5, 2023**

Second Sunday of Lent

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	Litany	David Paxton
Choral call to worship	Lord, Speak to Me	Choir

†Call to Worship

Ashes have been smeared and sins have been confessed...

We follow our faithful Lord.

These times, they are troubling. This journey, it is hard...

We follow our faithful Lord.

It is God who sustains, not the temptations of this world...

We follow our faithful Lord.

In the Lord is our trust, our protection from harm...

We follow our faithful Lord.

Come, let us worship the One whom we serve...

We follow our faithful Lord.

*Written by Stephen Fearing, and posted on **Wild and Precious Life***

†Hymn	Lift High the Cross	UMH 159
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Lenten Wreath Observance	Carolyn & Reid Townsend
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Anthem	God So Loved the World	John Stainer	Choir
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Prayer for Illumination:

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Scripture:	Acts 1: 16-17
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Sermon:	The Characters of Easter: The Betrayer: Judas Groce	Rev. Kelley
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†Affirmation of Faith	Apostle's Creed	UMH 881
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†Hymn	Because He Lives	UMH 364
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Concerns and Joys

Pastoral Prayer

INVITATION

Minister: 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 do not want to be challenged by the cross.
We set our minds on human things—
we long for the security from our possessions;
we prefer our own comfort;
Forgive us, we pray.
May our sense of self preservation
be disturbed by your Son's example;
that we might take up his cross in service to the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silence

Hear the good news:

Minister: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.
The Mighty One has sent his deliverance for all people;
even the generations yet unborn.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen.**

We worship with God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

In Remembrance of Me

Choir

†Doxology

The 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 right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,
you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,
you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant,
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

When you gave him to save us from our sin,
your Spirit led him into the wilderness,

where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.

When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,
presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,
and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,
that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

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

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"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."

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.

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.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
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.**

Minister: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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.

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion:

Let us give thanks!

**Thank you, merciful God,
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice
you have made our own.**

**Give us the gifts of this holy communion —
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

†Hymn

Go Now in Peace

UMH 665

†Blessing and Benediction

†Postlude

Let Your Light So Shine

Tom Birchwood

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



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 Requests: Andreas Daiber. Gretchen Crabtree. Susn Shuping. Betty Pleasants. Dave Blackman. Susan Carrick. Sheridian Wacker. Lori Johnson. Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane, Jim & Scott Stanley. Anne Murr. Trudy Sillmon. Don & Clara Ellis. Aly Saunders. Rachel Dykes. Till West (David Groce's aunt). Rob Barnard (Larry Swindell's nephew). Sharon (Larry Swindell's sister).

Announcements and Calendar of events



March Birthdays – Jim Wilson (1). Chrissy Verchick (2). Frazier Robinson (3) Estelle Cranford (7). Dottie Rayburn (10). Rachel Sheppard (11). Pat Stevenson, Alan Rayburn 15). Kristina Kinard (16). Harold Billings (19). Charlie Sartore (22) Doris Pruitt (24). Andrew Snider (25). Cindie Sillmon (29). Caryn Hull, Michael Townsend (31).

Ad Council – Rescheduled to March 12th in the Conference Room.

March 14th – 12pm – Friendship Club. All are welcome!

March 15th – 3pm – Rev. Kelley will be at Friends Home, Guilford for Devoting and Communion.

March 16th – 6:30pm, Lucky 32, Centenary Starlight Book Club. Book: "The Measure" by Nikki Brick. All are welcome.

March 19th St. Patrick's Day Celebration - Chili Lunch and Program from Barbara Danais and Barbara Albright after worship. All are invited!

March 22nd – 5:30pm Worship/Nurture/Mission Committee Meeting in Conference Room.

Sunday School at 9:45am – in the Fellowship Hall. Study: Season 3 of “The Chosen”.

Undie Sunday. The first Sunday of each month. Needed black and white socks for men and women. New packaged underwear for men and women, all sizes.

Light Up the Sanctuary Campaign continues. If you would like to contribute to the cause-please gift to **Light Up the Sanctuary Campaign and designate as such.**

The Altar Flower Calendar is posted. There are dates still available. The cost is \$65.00/Sunday if we order from the florist. If you are interested in a less expensive option, please call the church office (336-299-9643).