



Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue

Greensboro, NC 27403

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor- Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Announcements for Ministry and Missions

Choral Call to Worship.....*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us hear what God will speak,
Tender words for a burdened people:

People: **Comfort, comfort, my people!**
The days of sorrow are ending!

Leader: Let us hear what God will speak,
Encouraging words for an anxious people:

People: **Prepare a way for the Holy One,**
Through deserts of despair
build a highway for our God!

Leader: Let us hear what God will speak,
words of vision for a weary people:

People: **Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;**
righteousness and peace will kiss!

All: **Come, let us worship!**

Invocation

O Holy One,
you are tender shepherd,
architect of the Way,
beguiling hope of all who go looking for you
deep in their lives.

Surprise us here with
Sweetness, challenge, vision—
Whatever we may need

In this moment to recognize you
and follow you into the future.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Beloved, Amen.

Hymn.....*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #218 v. 1&4*

*It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.*

*For Lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the evercircling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

Lighting of The Second Advent Candle.....Jackie Thompson

Musical Response:*O Come, O Come Emmanuel #211 v. 2*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things
far and nigh, to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.*

(Refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Joys and Concerns of Congregation and Community

Birthdays This Week Dona Pickett (1), Nina Stowe (5), Charles Gordon (6),
Grant Sillmon (7), Betty Durham, Carol Burklin, Al Eaton (10), David Sillmon (12)

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

We worship with our Tithes and God's Offering

We want to thank you each week for your gifting of your monetary donations to the church for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Your faithfulness is very appreciated.

The months of December and January we are going to have our over and above offering be designated for our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Dominican Republic. Our team is saddened that we cannot physically be there to share in healing ministry, but the pandemic has changed that for us also. We can still be resources of money to help with the orphanage, buying medical needs and resourcing the clinic, as well as rice and beans. So, if God puts it upon your heart to give to the Dominican republic, please make the check out to Centenary UMC with the DR in the memo line.

Offertory.....*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Scripture: Luke 1:78-79, Romans 12:9-13

Sermon: Peace: How the Grinch Stole Christmas or is it How the Grinch was Transformed by Christmas?

Litany – A Prayer for Peace

(Adapted from: David L. Bartlette, Barbara Brown Taylor & Kimberly Bracken Long. Feasting on Word Advent Companion: A Thematic Resource for Preaching and Worship (p. 125). Westminster John Knox Press.)

Leader: Let us pray for the world in which the Prince of Peace took flesh and form, saying,

People: Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

Leader: We give you thanks, Holy One,
for the light that has come into the
darkness of our world,
for the truth illuminated,
for the pathway that has opened,
for the rejoicing of your people.

People: Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

Leader: We give you thanks for the feet of those
who bring good news, friendship, comfort,
food, shelter, and medicine for healing.

People: Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

Leader: We give you thanks for the church of Christ Jesus
and for all people of faith
whose attention to the way of peace
tears down walls that keep us apart.

People: Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

Leader: We give you thanks for this country
and for every nation where wisdom reigns,
where leaders work for the well-being of the poor,
so that no one is hungry or homeless,
and every child is valued and nourished.

People: Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

Leader: We pray for the knowledge and courage
to be good stewards of all that you have given us:
ourselves, our neighbors, the strangers among us,
the oceans and rivers, the air and soil,

creatures large and small,
that we may continue to be blessed with health and life.

People: Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

Leader: We pray for those whose flesh is harmed
by poverty, sickness, and cruelty of any kind,
that the Word-made-flesh may so fill your world
with the power to heal that all people
would be made strong and whole.

People: Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.

Leader: We commend all these things to you
and offer our thanksgiving,
trusting that what we have left unsaid,
your holy wisdom can unearth;
in the name of the One who came among us
in the power of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Hymn..... *Let There Be Peace on Earth #431*

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with
me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was
meant to be. With God our creator,
children all are we. Let us
walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment
now. With every step I take, let
this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and
live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

Benediction

Choral Benediction.....*Dona Nobis Pacem*

The Altar Flowers are given today by Noel Von Glahn.

If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, to be given in honor, in memory, or in celebration, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643. The following date is still available in 2020: December 27.



Angel Tree for Seniors Opportunity

Carolina Pines Home where Louise Woods resides has an angel tree for their residents for Christmas. They have 7 angels left. My family always adopts 3. Their needs are very humble. For example the one of the women whom I am sponsoring wants Pepsi, snacks, a blanket and hygiene products.

As stated, they only have 7 angels left. If you contact Melissa, the Activities Director , at [336\) 522-5600](tel:3365225600). She will give you an angel. The gifts are due in a gift bag to Carolina Pines by December 21st. Please consider gifting to a Senior.

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.

The Prayer Chain has received requests to pray for the following people:

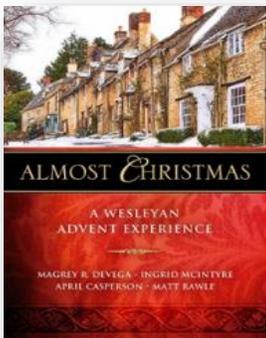
Jean Farabee, Cone Hospital. **Friend of Kelley Groces**, **Karen Dolbear** palliative care. **Barbara Blackman's sister, Dorthey Wessels**. **Buddy Durham** father of **Mandy and Jessica Durham**. **Dean Saunders**, collapsed lung. **Mary Louise Woods**, tested positive for the Covid-19 virus. **Dwight Adams**, **Coak and Nancy**

May's niece's husband who is hospitalized and on a ventilator with Covid-19. **Bonnie Travis' sister, Peggy Mayo** having chemo. **Bonnie Travis' granddaughter** needs prayer. **Paul Long's younger brother and sister-in-law, Dan and Sharon Long**, both have the Covid-19 virus. **Ann Hennings** fell and broke her shoulder on November 2. **Joann Martin** fell and broke her left hip. **Peggy Bowles. Mike Crabtree. Amy Coffee** and her grandmother-**Ruby Foland** . **Sally Goin's friend Janice Osborne. Jackie Thompson's mom-Lucille Crawford. Friend of Betty Durham-Julia Willis. Judy Milligan, Noah Demmitt, Don & Clara Ellis, Chuck Farabee, Trudy Sillmon, Rachel Sheppard, and Pat Stevenson.** Please, keep all in your prayers as so many who are dealing with many anxieties over the coronavirus.

Our sympathies to Bill, Keith, Teresa, and Lisa in the death of Celia Eller on November 18, 2020.

Our sympathies to Meissa Garner in the death of her mother Julie Brewer On December 2, 2020.

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.



New Advent Study-Almost Christmas

When: Sunday mornings @10:00am

Dates: Advent Study will begin November 29 –
December 20 (4 weeks)

Where: via zoom

Make your Wesleyan heritage
a part of your Christmas

In John Wesley's famous sermon, "The Almost Christian," he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. In *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, author and pastor Magrey deVega leads a group of authors in exploring how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent, and

connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. Additional components for a four-week study include a DVD and a comprehensive Leader Guide, as well as Nativity hymns by Charles Wesley, litanies for lighting the Advent wreath, and prayers that can be incorporated into both worship and small group Setting. You may order the book, which would be helpful, thru Cokesbury, Amazon, or Christianbooks.com

On December 13th at 2:00pm there will be a blessing of the Animals on the front lawn with the manger. Socially distanced, mask required, and lovable animals requested.

On Christmas Eve we are asking people to put a white lit candle on there front porch to symbolize the light of Christ on Christmas Eve and to allow it to symbolize all being unified in holding the white Candle during the singing of Silent Night on Christmas Eve night.

