



**WE ARE THEREFORE CHRIST'S
AMBASSADORS, AS THOUGH
GOD WERE MAKING HIS
APPEAL THROUGH US.**

II CORINTHIANS 5:20

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue Greensboro, NC 27403

September 6, 2020

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship *Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me*Hopper/Gould

Call to Worship (Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

Leader: In Jesus Christ, there is a new creation.

People: Everything old has passed away. Everything has become new.

Leader: This newness is from God, who has reconciled us through Jesus Christ.

People: Rejoice and be glad! Everything has become new.

Opening Prayer

God of steadfast love and mercy, remind us once again that in Jesus Christ everything has become new. For far too often, things seem as they have always been: old habits die hard, difficult situations linger, failures from our past linger. We look for your promised newness but cannot see it. Speak to us again of your new creation. Open our eyes to its presence in our lives. Call us forth to claim this newness, that we may be healed and made whole. Amen.

Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* 384 UMH verses 1 & 4

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;

Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love though art;

Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.

Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;

Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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 *In the Garden*.....Austin Miles, adapt. Charles Webb

Scripture 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sermon "Reaching and Stretching Our Arms around
Our Christian Witness"

Rev. Kelley Groce

Joys and Concerns of the 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.

All pray in silence.

Leader to people: 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 to leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Leader and people: Glory to God. Amen.

Offering

Offertory *One Bread, One Body*..... John Foley

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

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.

Blessed are you, O God, who with your Word and Holy Spirit created all things and called them good. In Jesus Christ, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Through Jesus' suffering and death you took upon yourself our sin and death and destroyed their power forever. You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory, and poured upon us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of your new covenant.

On the night before meeting with death, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the 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 Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the 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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ's blood, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your table for ever. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in

the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, 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 *Jesus Is All the World to Me* 469 UMH, verses 1 & 4

Jesus is all the world to me, my life, my joy, my all;

He is my strength from day to day, without him I would fall.

When I am sad, to him I go, no other one can cheer me so;

When I am sad, he makes me glad, he's my friend.

Jesus is all the world to me, I want no better friend;

I trust him now, I'll trust him when life's fleeting days shall end.

Beautiful life with such a friend, beautiful life that has no end;

Eternal life, eternal joy, he's my friend.

Benediction

Leader: May the love of the Father, the tenderness of the Son, and the presence of the Spirit, gladden your heart and bring peace to your soul, this day and all days.

People: Amen.

Choral Benediction *Blest be the Tie that Binds.....* Avery/Marsh

The altar flowers are given today by Paul Long and the Long family in honor of Denise and Dawn's birthdays.

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

Chuck Carrick, Nancy Carrick, and Susan Carrick's friend, Dottie Meachem. Jim and Brenda Wilson's daughter, Traci Wilson, had surgery on August 31 and it went well. Prayers for Sheridan Wacker in Japan. Please pray for Judy Milligan, Noah Demmitt, Amy Coffee, and many others dealing with the challenges of our COVID times. Bianca York's infant nephew, Ezra James Lacy, has an irregular heartbeat. Prayers for Don & Clara Ellis, Albert Esterline, Frank York, Jean Farabee, Chuck Farabee (still in the hospital), and Trudy Sillmon. Rachel Sheppard and Pat Stevenson are recovering from surgeries. Prayers for Susan Carrick's friend, Betty Ann Brown, with health issues. Chris Bagwell asks for prayer for his friend, Brendan Ham. Keep everyone affected by Hurricane Laura in your prayers.

If you have a prayer concern, 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.

Zoom Sunday School – Harold Billings and Harold Billings and Dave Blackman are offering the Sunday School lessons via Zoom, beginning Sunday, September 13 at 10:00 AM. They will use the International Lesson. No book required. Rev. Kelley Groce is the administrator for our

church, regarding Zoom. In order to join the live meeting by phone or computer, please email her your interest and best email to kgroce@wnccumc.net. It will be another spiritual growth opportunity for us at CUMC.

Sermon By Phone – Centenary UMC is now recording the audio of the sermon only for playback by phone call. So, for those in our congregation that do not have the capability to watch our YouTube videos of the entire worship service, they may now call 336-270-2202 and listen to the sermon.

Drive Thru Communion on Sunday, September 6 from 1:00-2:00 PM please come to receive the elements and blessing from the minister and communion stewards. You will not need to get out of your car. You will come in under the portico in the back of the church, receive the elements, and blessing. Come, let us celebrate the Lord's Supper together!



WNCC UMW Annual Celebration will be held via Zoom Webinar on September 26 & 27. The theme for this year's celebration is *Walk in God's Light*. Registration is now open at <https://wnccumw.org/events/annual-celebration-2020/>



Giving Above and Beyond! – We are a church dedicated to making an impact on food insecurity in our community. During the month of September, Centenary will collect monetary donations for A Simple Gesture in honor or in memory of a loved one, and recognitions will be in the October *Centenarian*. Make your check payable to Centenary UMC and put "ASG" in the memo line.