



For God called you to do *good*,
even if it means suffering, just as
Christ suffered for you.
He is your example,
and you must follow
in his **STEPS.**

- 1 Peter 2:21 (NLT)



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

Gathering Music

Lord of Love Unfailing

Haydn, arr. Lorenz

Announcements for Missions and Ministries

Choral Call to Worship Two Fishermen.... Choir

†Call to Worship:

L: The gate stands open, ready for us to travel onward.

P: But we are stubborn and fear to enter the gateway.

L: Listen for the voice of the true Shepherd.

P: His voice will we hear and obey.

L: Hallelujah!

P: Hallelujah!

L: Let us Join in Prayer:

We are standing at the gate, o loving Shepherd, not sure about the journey. But you have called our names, and in your voice we hear such love and surety. Bring us safely on the journey and strengthen us that we may serve you in all that we do. AMEN.

†Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

UMH 203

Scripture:

1 Peter 2: 19-25

Sermon:

"Endurance for the Living of These Days"

Rev. Kelley Groce

†Hymn

One Bread, One Body

UMH 620

Joys of Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to the Table:

Leader:

Here is the table of the Lord,
we are gathered to his supper,
a foretaste of things eternal.

Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.
Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.
Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.
Come, old and young, there is room for all.

Prayer of Confession

Patient and loving God, we stand at the gate and peer through. We keep creating our own ways, believing that we know what is in our own best interest, and we ignore the voice of the one Shepherd who will guide us to peace and hope. We wander aimlessly and then wonder why we get so lost. Help us stop and listen to the Shepherd's voice. Let us place our trust in the Shepherd who has never failed us, who loves and guides our lives. Forgive us our stubbornness and stupidity. For we ask this in Christ's Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Even though we have wandered and have become lost, the shepherd calls to us. We can place our trust in his loving care. For we are the sheep of his pasture, blessed and given hope.

AMEN.

Anthem

Hear My Words

Paulus

Choir

We Worship with our Tithes and our Offerings.

Offertory

"By the Still Waters," Op. 114, by Amy Beach

James Esterline

†Doxology

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader:

We give you thanks, O God, for making your love evident since the very beginning of time when you spoke the word which replaced the darkness of chaos with life-giving light. A light which has nurtured generations of people, and plants and creatures, great and small. A light which also revealed the fear and powerlessness caused by corrupt and evil actions. And so you spoke the Word which would once and for all dispel the darkness of chaotic lives. Through your love for the world the Word became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth. The angels carolled glory to you in the highest heavens and peace to all people on earth, and we join with them and with all people to praise your holy name:

People: Holy Lord, God of endless love,

heaven and earth are surely full of your glory.

The angels sang of it—we have been lavished with it.

Blessed is he who was born that we might have life.

Glory to God and on earth peace to all people.

Leader:

Holy God, as the travelers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of his love for us. For Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him, by loving us and giving himself for us. On that night when he gave himself up for us, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: 'Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Remember me each time you do this.' After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: 'Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you—the beginning of a new relationship with God.'

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh—Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him—living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen**

— Moira Laidlaw, on [Liturgies Online](#). Visit that site for many other excellent worship resources.

Leader: And now with the confidence of the Children of God let us pray:

People: The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and cup

Prayer following Communion prayed by all:

Dear Jesus, every time we eat and drink this meal together, we do it in remembrance of you. This Great Thanksgiving is a reminder of your love and provision. As we leave the Table nourished in body and soul, we ask your blessing on the many tables we will eat at this week. May they be tables of blessing for those who break bread together. We also lift up those who will not know tables of blessing this week due to poverty, loneliness, incarceration, broken relationships or distance. May you provide for them as each needs and may the leftovers of this Table and our Thanksgiving tables not be limited to food but also love and compassion for those in need. Amen.

†Hymn

Go now in Peace

UMH 665

†Benediction

†Postlude

Festive Proclamation

Jason Krug

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

“Our sincere thanks to James Esterline for sharing his beautiful piano music with us today!”



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: Gretchen Crabtree. Howard Fulcher. 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, Sue Rosser. Till West (David Groce's aunt). William (Suzy Swindell's friend)



February Birthdays - Lori Johnson (8). Allison Skenes (11). David Baugh, David Sillmon, Jr. Barbara Wolfe (13). Bob Smith (15). Ann Atchinson (16). Charles Wisekal (21). Peggy Harris (23). Jim Turnage (25). John Pugh (27). Susan Lee, Cynthia Michael (28).

Announcements and Calendar of events

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.

February 7th – 6pm – Pastor, Picnic and Passages in the Conference Room. All are welcome!

February 8th- Blood Drive 2pm to 6:30pm. Volunteers needed to help and to give! A signup sheet to volunteer is in the narthex. You can go on line to register to give blood.

February 12th- Souper Bowl Sunday. Valentine Lunch and program after worship. Signup sheet is in the narthex.

February 14th – 12pm Friendship Club in the Fellowship Hall.

February 16th – 6:30pm Centenary Starlight Book Club at Lucky 32.

February 22nd – Drive Thru Ashes 8am to 9:30am, 12pm to 1pm and 5pm to 6pm. Volunteers needed. There is a signup sheet in the narthex.

February 26th- 3:30pm Centenary Concert Series in Sanctuary.

Wednesdays at 6:45pm- Choir Practice. All are welcome to join. See Anita if you have any questions.

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

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.** To date we have received \$4,313.00. Thanks for your generous contributions.

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).

Reminder: As we enter the time of the year when we can have inclement weather please be aware that we will post Centenary closings on Fox 8 and WXII 12.