



**Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403
October 1, 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

Hymns played by Barbara Wolfe

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Choir

GREETING

Almighty God: from the ends of the earth, you have gathered us around Christ's holy table.

We come to feast together.

Have mercy on your church, troubled and divided.

Renew us and make us one. Amen.

†Hymn

In Christ there is No East or West

UMH 548

Opening Prayer:

Jesus prayed that we might be one. One in spirit, One in mission.

In union and communion with each other and with You.

Today, God, we confess fumbling's and failures in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task.

On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere.

Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences.

Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere.

We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.

Anthem

In Unity We Lift Our Song

Choir

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Scripture:

Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon:

Grace abounds at the Table of God

Rev. Kelley Groce

†Affirmation of Faith:

The Apostle's Creed Traditional Version

UMH 881

†Gloria Patri

†Hymn

O Master Let Me Walk with Thee

UMH 430

Joys and Concerns of Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Leader: In the silence of the morning, as the new day dawned around the world, God's people began to gather for worship amid the sounds of drums or pipes, strings or organs. And now we, too, join in this worldwide chorus of those who call upon the name of the Lord. On this World Communion Sunday, we remember especially that the Scriptures are fulfilled as "People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God." So come, not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are strong, but because you seek God's strength. All those who trust in Jesus are invited to come and join in the feast that God has prepared.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

All: God of mercy,

we confess that we have not loved you with all our being.

We have done things which we ought not to have done,

and we have left undone things which we ought to have done.

We have built walls between neighbors and between countries, and we have ignored the cries of those in need.

Forgive us and set us free, that we may live into the hope of your calling, that your reign may come on earth as it is in heaven.

Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Leader: Thanks be to God: Jesus died for our sins.

We are forgiven!

All: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

We Worship with our Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory

I come with joy

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.

God of all nations, you created every person in your image and called us by your Holy Spirit to become one in Christ Jesus, through Baptism and through faith.

In Jesus Christ, you showed us the way to live with unique gifts and particularities, yet in harmony with you and with each other.

You, O God, are indeed above all and through all and in all.

So, today we join with voices throughout the earth and in heaven, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

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

Jesus lived among us to show us your love: caring enough to feed hungry persons, stopping to touch persons in need of healing, reaching out to those not like himself:

a Samaritan woman at a well,

lepers from another country,

those tortured by demons,

a father pleading for his daughter,

a woman from Syro-Phoenicia,

Zacchaeus, a tax collector,

a rich young ruler, and humble fishermen.

When people gathered to hear his teachings, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them to eat, so that they might be fed.

When Jesus ate with his disciples for his final meal on earth, they remembered his blessing on the multitude, and listened as he told them:

“Take, eat, this is my body given for you.”

They watched as Jesus took the cup, blessed it and said,

“Take, drink, this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for the whole world for the forgiveness of sins.”

After his death and resurrection, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples told others through this meal, that Jesus was the Messiah, sent by God, for all humankind.

Remembering now, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

You are the Savior of the world.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit on the table
spread this day around this globe,
and here spread with breads from around the world.**

**May all who partake, wherever they live,
know the reconciling love of Jesus Christ.**

**May your church go forth from Communion with you
to be one in Christ and one in witness to the world.**

In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

Minister: Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Minister: The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Prayer following Communion:

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for our service. God of peace, may this meal, shared in the Spirit with your son Jesus, strengthen us, your people, to engage in

peacemaking, to call for restraint, to plead for diplomacy, to urge the use of international law, to halt the endless, downward spiral of violence in all places. Strengthen us, your people, to raise our voices and to act. Amen.

Hymn

Blessed be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557(v1)

†SENDING FORTH

L: That peace will rise like bread we can always hope.

C: That justice will flow like wine we can always hope.

L: That this table will make strangers kin we can always hope.

All: That our hope will rise like bread we can always pray. Amen.

†Postlude

Ring the Bells of Heaven

Williams Cushing

Barbara Wolfe

“We extend our deep thanks to Barbara Wolfe for playing the piano in today’s worship service!”

†**Please rise in body or in spirit as you are able**†

Please 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.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Lori Johnson on September 28, 2023, with her family and friends surrounding her. We express our sympathy to her family and her extended family.

Other Prayer Concerns:

Lori Johnson's family, Gretchen Crabtree, Jeane Batten, Betty Pleasants, Dave & Barbara Blackman, Susan Carrick, Sheridian Wacker, Lee and Jane Norman, Scott Stanley, Al & Lori Eaton, Peggy Harris, Diane & Jim Stanley, Trudy Sillmon, Don & Clara Ellis, Aly Saunders, Bruce Gillespie (Debbie Robinson's friend), Terry Pickett (Tom & Dona Pickett's son), Hazel Perritt, Pat Glover, Linda Southard (Rachel Sheppard's cousin), Judy Holland (Suzy Swindell's sister), Barbara John (Jim John's mother), Chris Bagwell's nephew.



October Birthdays— 1st Sheridian Wacker, 4th Kathy Mullins, 8th Edna Johnson, Hazel Raper 11th Cecil Overbey, 12th Richard Liles, 23rd Ann Hennings, Margaret Miller, Christopher Mullins.

Announcements and Calendar of events

October 3rd -CUMC Bible Study 6:30pm

October 8th – Crop Walk- please walk independently where is best for you. You can support the walkers with a donation. Please make your check out to the church with Crop Walk in the memo line.

October 10th – 12pm - Friendship Club

October 10th- CUMC Bible Study 6:30pm

October 17th – CUMC Bible Study 6:30pm

October 18th – 3pm- Kelley will be at Friends Home, Guilford.

October 19th- 6:30pm – Starlight Book Club at Lucky 32

October 21st – Community Breakfast and Clothes Closet 8am to 10am

October 24th – 6:30pm CUMC Bible Study

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.

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