



**Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403
December 3, 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.*

**O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging!**

Joys and Concerns of Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2, John 1: 1-5, 9

Meaning of Light in Windows and on the Tree

Anthem Come to my Heart Fettke/Grassi Choir

The Meaning of the Chrismons

The Nativity Scene

Hymn: Away in a Manger

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the heavens looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

We worship with God's Tithes and our Offerings.

Offertory

†Doxology

Sacrament of Holy 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.

It is right to give you thanks and praise,
Great God of the Coming Dawn,
for in each new day you surprise the earth with splendor.
Your Spirit moves across the face of the waters
and brings forth life.
At the dawn of all things
in a garden you worked the earth.
Elbow deep in mud you fashioned us,
gifted us,
gave us work to do.

Made from the earth,
Made by your hand,
We forgot who we were
We forgot who you were
and we tried to remake ourselves.
We rejected your love and fell into sin and death.

Yet even in our darkness you continued to speak light and life.
When we were slaves in a foreign land,
You brought us out of our oppression,
led us through the waters,
and washed us up on the shores of a new life as a chosen people.

As your people,
we sometimes sought you and often strayed
But you were faithful to your promise and to us,
and called yourself by our name.
The God of Israel did not abandon the people Israel
And you spoke of a day to come
when you would come once more to save.

And so we who live on the edge of this land
Look across the waters to the horizon.
We come to live on the edge
Of your new and promised day.
And we raise our voices with all the saints as we proclaim,

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, and blessed in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

Whose coming was announced by wilderness prophets
and who arrived to the song of angels
in the choir stall of a manger.

In Jesus you not only took our name but our flesh.
He was the One promised
He announced the new day and the acceptable year
When blind folks would see
And poor folks would rejoice
When captives would be set free
And the oppressed would once more walk upright in liberty.

In stories he spoke of waiting bridesmaids and prodigal sons,
With tears and compassion he brought a dead man to life
and gave a woman at a well the living water she sought.
With anger he overturned tables and challenged the powerful.
On the cross he revealed the power of weakness
and in the emptiness of the tomb
he gave us a glimpse of your tomorrow
that does not end in death.

On the night when he was betrayed
he sat at a table with his friends.
He took bread,
blessed it,
broke it,
served it to them, and said,
"Take this. Eat it.
It is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me."

In the same way he took the cup,
Blessed it, served it to them, and said,
"Drink from this every one of you.
This is my blood
poured out for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this to remember me."

And so we remember.
And so we offer our praise and thanks
and our very selves
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.

So we await your new day.
So we call on you to send your Holy Spirit on us once more
And on this parched and thirsty land
And on these elements of bread and wine.
Let them be for us once more Christ's body
and let us be for you once more Christ's body
redeemed by his blood.

Make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes again and we feast at his table.

With all the saints who share your name and our flesh,
we raise this song,
until we hear in fullness the harmony of heaven.
God of the Dawn,
Christ of the new Day Coming,
Spirit who is Ever Present,
we wait for you this day,
your day.

Amen.

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

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, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Serving the Bread and wine

The significance of the Christmas Bells

†Hymn Joy to the world

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

†Benediction

†Postlude

†Please rise in body or in spirit as you are able and please silence your cell phones.

The beautiful altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Martha Proffitt for all she does for her church family by Andreas Daiber.

The altar Poinsettia is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jim Batten by Jeane and his family.



As you engage your 'Prayer Life' this week, please remember these prayer concerns. If you have a prayer concern or praises, 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 Concerns:

Abbie Samuel. David Sillmon, Margaret & Patrick Miller. Joann Martin. Martha Nell Rives. Chuck Farabee. Gretchen Crabtree. Dave & Barbara Blackman. Susan Carrick. Sheridian Wacker. Lee & Jane Norman. Scott Stanley. Al & Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane & Jim Stanley. Trudy Sillmon. Don & Clara Ellis. Aly Saunders. Hazel Perritt, Pat Glover. Anne Trumpler (Anita sister-in-law). Richard Fischer (Anita Trumpler's brother-in-law). Margey Sienkiewicz (Larry & Suzy Swindell's aunt) Peace in the Middle East. George Rich (Anita's brother-in-law) John from Newlyn St. fall from a tree stand (family member of Bari Lynn's) Sharon Schwartz (Suzy Swindell's friend)

*As you are leaving today, please pick up your Advent bag that's in the Narthex.



December Birthday- 1st Dona Pickett. 5th Nina Stowe. 6th Charles Gordon.
7th Grant Sillmon. 10th Carol Burklin, Betty Durham, Alvim Eaton. 12th David
Sillmon. 13th Scott Stanley. 15th Bobby Burklin. 17th Haley Saunders. 18th Clara Ellis,
Mark Schlueter, Geoff Horn. 19th Nancy Carrick. 22nd Harrison Stout.
24th Trudy Sillmon. 30th Mary Jo Baugh. 31st Travis John.

Announcements and Calendar of events

Advent Bible Study for both Newlyn Street and Centenary will be held at Newlyn Street in the gathering area. You may enter from the front door on the patio. **It will be on Wednesdays at 6, beginning November 29 – December 20.** Please see Kelley or Betty if you need a book.

Once again, this year we will supply Food Bags to help with those with food insecurities in our community. All money will go to the Urban Ministry. This donation will be in lieu of poinsettias. You can donate a bag or bags in Honor of someone special in your life or in Memory of a loved one. Bags are \$25.00. Just fill out the form, attach your check or cash. You can put it in the lock box or see Betty Durham. All checks should be made to CUMC with Food Bags on the memo line. Deadline is December 20th.

December 4th Salvation Bell Ringers 12pm to 4pm at Belk's at Friendly.

December 9th 10am to 1pm Hot Dog and Apple Pies at Newlyn St. UMC

December 12th Friendship Club at 12pm

December 14th Centenary Starlight Book Club 6:30pm at Luck 32. Please bring a book to exchange.

December 16th 8am to 10am Community Breakfast and Clothes Closet

Clothes Closet special requests: We need Men's pants and shirts ALL sizes, but especially 32, 34 & 36. Men's winter shirts. Men's shoes, especially athletic shoes. Men's belts 34, 36 & 38. Women's Small and Medium **winter** clothes. Women's Small and Medium underwear. Take-along 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. There is a basket at the bottom of the shopping cart for cash if you prefer.

Attendance – November 26, 2023

Sunday School	10
Worship in-person	28
Worship - Facebook Live	
Worship –YouTube	

