

# Centenary United Methodist Church 2300 W. Friendly Ave. Greensboro, NC 27403 August 6, 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

Come Unto Him

Maunder, arr. Price

Announcements for Mission and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

You Are the Seed

C. Gabarain

Choir

### CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Weeds and seeds, growing together.

**P: Each will influence the other.** 

L: What will we learn from the weeds?

**P:** Trials and tribulations, choices that have not always worked out. Weeds can teach us about perseverance — consider the tough dandelion plant pushing its way up through the pavement — for some it's just a weed, but for others there are lessons to be learned. L: What will be gained from seeds?

P: Inside each one of us is a special person, waiting to be nurtured to wholeness. Each seed is unique; each has its own gifts to offer.

L: In God's Garden, God's love extends to both – asking both to consider what each has to offer to a hurting world.

**P:** Lord, help us to be good seeds, bearing fruits of kindness, justice and compassion. Keep us mindful of those for whom life has been difficult and yet they persist in trying to make each day better. Be in our hearts, O Lord, and in our lives. AMEN

†Hymn	Surely the Presence of the Lord	UMH 328	
PRAYER FOR ILLUM Lord, open our hearts by the power of your H that, as the Scriptures and your Word proclai we may hear with joy w	and minds Ioly Spirit, are read		
Anthem	Look at the World	John Rutter	Choir
Scripture:	Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43		
Sermon:	A Life of Contrasts	Rev. Kelley Groce	
†Affirmation of Faith	Apostle's Creed	UMH 881	
†Gloria Patri			
†Hymn	Seek Ye First	U	MH 405
CONCERNS AND JOY	'S OF CONGREGATION		
Pastoral Prayer			
INVITATION Christ our Lord invites t	o his table all who love him,		
who earnestly repent of			
and seek to live in peace	e with one another.		
Therefore, let us confess	s 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 not done your law, we have rebelled against your love, 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.

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: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

Let us worship with God's Tithes and our Offerings				
Offertory	Gather Us In	Marty Haugen		

Choir

†Doxology

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING\*

Minister:

Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God. 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 for ever. 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 for ever.

## People: 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	God Be With You till we Meet Again	UMH 673 (1&4)
†DISMISSAL WITH BLES	SING	
†Choral Benediction	Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing	Choir
†Postlude	The Glory of the Lord	Handel, arr. L. Smith
†Please s	tand as you are able and silence your cell phones.	