



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 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

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

UMH 405

CONCERNS AND JOYS OF 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.**

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."

