

The Third Sunday in Lent

CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2300 W. Friendly Ave.

Greensboro, NC 27403

March 7, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director

Announcements for Ministry and Missions

Choral Call to Worship "You Are My All in All"

Call to Worship: A Love Better Than Life

by Valerie Bridgeman

(Based on Psalm 63:1-8)

Sisters and Brothers, God our God is full of power!

Like someone stranded in the desert looking for water, we will seek the Lord.

God's love is better than life and worthy of our praise.

We will praise the Lord as long as we live, lifting our hands to heaven.

God is our help and upholds us like an eagle gathering her own.

We will bless the Lord and sing under the shadow of God's wings.

About the Author: Valerie Bridgeman, Ph.D., Biblical Studies (Hebrew Bible), is an Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Homiletics and Worship at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation"

UMH 529 vs. 1&2

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Anthem

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

UMH 404 v. 1

(Refrain)

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart,
I will pray. Yes, every time I feel the
Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out his
mouth came fire and smoke. All around me looks so
shine, ask my Lord if all was mine.

(Refrain)

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart,
I will pray. Yes, every time I feel the
Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Old Testament Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17

New Testament Scripture: John 2: 13-22

Sermon: Holy Anger

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;* the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Invitation to the Table

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.

Prayer of Confession:

Patient Lord, we have cluttered the “temples” of our lives with so much unnecessary things that they have blocked out your healing words of hope and mercy. We have been keenly aware of our economic situation and have spent much time and energy worrying about these things. . Forgive us when we have been so preoccupied with these things that we have not listened to your words and followed your ways. Clear away our fears and frustrations. Give us clean hearts and spirits. Help us to be confident in your mercy and transformational love. These things we offer in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Minister: Rejoice! You are forgiven. Let the clutter of your life fall away and be replaced by the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen

Hymn

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

UMH 269 vs. 1&5

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his 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, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his 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, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty *God*, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Giving The Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion:

Faithful, generous, abiding God, we give you thanks for the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation. May the taste of this meal linger so that we will be strengthened in our Lenten journey. Give us courage to hear what may seem harsh so that we can find a deeper relationship with you. To your glory, Amen.

Hymn

“Go Now in Peace”

UMH 665

Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of
God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

“God So Loved the World”

Stainer

Altar Flowers: The flowers are given today for the March birthdays by Betty Durham.

Birthdays for this week – Estelle Cranford, Jean York (7), Meghan Whitaker, Dottie Rayburn (10), Rachel Sheppard (11), Marty Mikles (12)

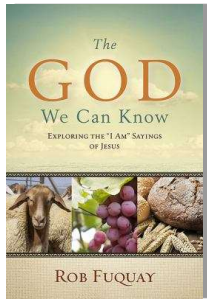
Prayer Concerns

If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation or only with the pastoral staff.

Suzy Swindell’s Uncle Jack passed away, keep Suzy and the family in your prayers. Ms. Carol, friend of Scott Stanley, health problems. Edna Johnson had surgery. Carrie Hodgin, friend of Dona Pickett, going through some serious health issues. Sean Houle the police officer that was shot Sunday morning in Kernersville. He is in the ICU in critical condition. Sean is a member at Pine Grove UMC. Please, please pray for Sean’s complete recovery. Scott Stanley’s friend, Sam Howard. Scott Stanley’s friend, Brad. Gretchen Crabtree’s sister, Joyce Anderson, health concerns. Cynthia Michael, upcoming shoulder surgery in March. Susan Carrick with health issues. Nancy Carrick upcoming medical tests. Corey Marion, esophageal cancer. Abbie Samuel. Peggy Boles. Don & Clara Ellis, Trudy Sillmon, Rachel Sheppard.

Also, many are dealing with anxiety, stress, depression, and loneliness due to COVID-19. Please put it upon your heart to offer all people the grace which God offers all. Prayers for our country during this transition.

Continue to lift up Centenary UMC in prayer. The leadership of the church is working on creative ways to bring smaller groups in for study and worship.



New Bible Study: *The GOD We Can Know*

Exploring the "I am" sayings of Jesus

When: Tuesday Mornings @ 10:00 AM and

Tuesday Evenings @6:30 PM

Where: Via Zoom

Dates: February 23-March 30, 2021

(6 weeks) There is still time to sign up. Books are \$10.

You can come by the office during working hours 9-2:30 to pick up a book.

Getting to know God means getting to know ourselves. The more we know who God is the more we know who we are. The Gospel of John records several declarations of Jesus known as the "I Am" sayings. This 6-week study is designed for the entire congregation to explore each of those sayings and will help you find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, "Who do you say I am?"

One by one, Jesus' statements grab our imagination, reveal more about his identity and purpose, and connect us to the God of Moses, who spoke the first "I Am." These significant yet ordinary images (bread, light, shepherd, vine, and more) give us insightful ways to experience Jesus and point us to a God who wants to be known.

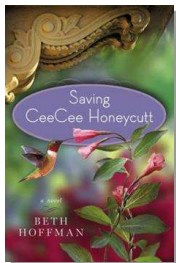
- **Drive-through Communion and Prayer, Sunday March 7th 1-2:00pm.** You will not need to get out of your car. You will drive in under the portico in the back of the church, receive your elements, and blessing. Come, let us celebrate the Lord's Supper together.
- Trustees meeting Sunday March 7th at 2:00pm

Upcoming events for Holy Week

- March 28th Palm Sunday, Stations of the Cross Begins at 2:00pm enter at the portico and walk the stations. **We ask that you wear your mask, social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons.**
- March 29th Monday, noon prayer service—Call the office 336-299-9643 or email Libby libby@centenaryumcgreensboro.org to make reservations to attend the in person prayer service. **(We are Limited to 80 people). We ask that you wear your mask,**

social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons.

- March 30th Tuesday, Lenten Bible Study at 10:00am or 6:30pm.
- April 1st Maundy Thursday Service –service will be recorded.
- April 2nd, Good Friday Service-service will be recorded.
- Easter Sunday Celebration, April 4th, - Call Libby at the office 336-299-9643 or email Libby libby@centenaryumcgreensboro.org to make reservations to attend a in person Easter service. **(We are limited to 80 people) We ask that you wear your mask, social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons.** Flower Cross-Bring your Flowers to decorate the Cross to adorn our Cross on the Front Lawn and Celebrate Easter.



Centenary Starlight Book Club

Thursday, March 18th–Saving CeeCee Honeycutt by Beth Hoffman.

Where- TBA

When- 7:00pm

Magnolias meets The Help in Beth Hoffman’s New York Times bestselling Southern debut novel, Saving CeeCee Honeycutt

Twelve-year-old CeeCee Honeycutt is in trouble. For years, she has been the caretaker of her mother, Camille, the town’s tiara-wearing, lipstick-smearing laughingstock, a woman who is trapped in her long-ago moment of glory as the 1951 Vidalia Onion Queen of Georgia. When tragedy strikes, Tootie Caldwell, CeeCee’s long-lost great-aunt, comes to the rescue and whisks her away to Savannah. There, CeeCee is catapulted into a perfumed world of prosperity and Southern eccentricity—one that appears to be run entirely by strong, wacky women. From the exotic Miz Thelma Rae Goodpepper, who bathes in her backyard bathtub and uses garden slugs as her secret weapons; to Tootie’s all-knowing housekeeper, Oletta Jones; to Violene Hobbs, who entertains a local police officer in her canary-yellow peignoir, the women of Gaston Street keep CeeCee entertained and enthralled for an entire summer.

A timeless coming of age novel set in the 1960s, *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt* explores the indomitable strengths of female friendship, and charts the journey of an unforgettable girl who loses one mother, but finds many others in the storybook city of Savannah. As Kristin Hannah, author of *Fly Away*, says, Beth Hoffman’s sparkling debut is “packed full of Southern charm, strong women, wacky humor, and good old-fashioned heart.”



March Birthdays- 1st Jim Wilson, 3rd Frazier Robinson, 7th Estelle Cranford and Jean York, 10th Meghan Whitaker and Dottie Rayburn, 11th Rachel Sheppard, 12th Marty Mikles, 15th Pat Stevenson, 16th Kristina Kinard, 19th Harold Billings, 22nd Charles Sartore, 24th Doris Pruitt, 25th Andrew Snider, 29th Cindie Sillmon, 31st Caryn Hull