



April 4, 2021

11:00 AM

**Welcome to Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403
(336) 299-9643**

Rev. Kelley Groce, Pastor Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director

Prelude

"Allegretto"...Handel

Leah Bergner and Jeff Mathis, Trumpet

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship

"The Day of Resurrection"

UMH 303, v. 1

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen today!

People: Christ is risen, indeed!

Leader: The tomb could not hold him.

People: The grave is empty. Christ is risen!

Leader: Humanity's sin could not condemn him.

People: He shattered sin's power over us. Christ is risen!

Leader: Death could not contain him.

People: He conquered death for all eternity. Christ is risen!

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen today!

People: Christ is risen, indeed!:

Opening prayer:

O God, it is our prayer –

Let us come together in joy,

For each Lord's Day

Is a celebration of Easter,

A festival of hope,

A day of victory,

An expression of new life.

We pray that during this hour, miracles will take place:

That the discouraged will gain confidence,

That the despairing will receive hope,

And the disillusioned will regain faith.

For Jesus lives and is present, now and eternally. Amen

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Invitation

We come to the table of our Lord
recognizing our need for divine grace.
In humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon (Unison)

Merciful God,
we confess that we do not want to be challenged by the cross.
We set our minds on human things—
we long for the security from our possessions;
we prefer our own comfort;
Forgive us, we pray.
May our sense of self preservation
be disturbed by your Son's example;
that we might take up his cross in service to the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence

Minister:

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.
The Mighty One has sent his deliverance for all people;
even the generations yet unborn.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God! Amen.

We worship with God's offerings and our Tithes

Scripture John 20:1-18

Solo "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"...Bach

Jeff Mathis, Trumpet

Sermon The Easter Twist

Rev. Kelley Groce

Hymn "Up From the Grave He Arose"

UMH 322, vs. 1&3

1. Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

(Refrain)

Up from the grave he arose, with a
mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose
a victor from the dark domain, and he
lives forever, with his saints to reign. He
arose! He Arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

3. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

(Refrain)

Up from the grave he arose, with a
mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose
a victor from the dark domain, and he
lives forever, with his saints to reign. He
arose! He Arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Leader: Lift up your heads

People: We lift them up to God

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to the Lord

Leader: Lift up your hands

People: We dedicate our heads, our hearts, and our hands to the worship of God.

We offer our entire being to the God of Creation,
who made the sun and the moon to govern by day and by night
and hung the stars in the sky.

We offer our entire being to the great God
who hollowed out the valleys and bulged up the mountains,
who spat out the seven seas,
and populated the world with glorious creatures.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
who created us and fashioned us from the dust
and breathed into us the breath of life.

Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
who came to us in spite of our destructive ways.

He healed the sick,
raised the dead

and cast out demons.

In the brief time that he was with us,

Jesus sided with the oppressed,

had compassion for those who suffer,

and gave dignity to women and children.

He taught us in word and deed about a God we had been unable to understand.

In spite of his glory-revealing presence among us,

we turned him into a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.

Jesus was persecuted by certain religious leaders

and betrayed by one of his own.

He was lied about, tortured, and hung on a cross to die.

Yet, even on the day of his crucifixion,

Jesus continued to teach those who would listen.

When evil people came with his betrayer,

Jesus did not respond with violence,

choosing instead to remind us that

those who live by the sword will die by the sword.

When he was falsely accused and condemned to death,

Jesus refused to do harm.

And while hanging on the cross, he prayed:

"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

But we give you thanks that nothing ever was,

or ever will be,

able to separate us from the love of God

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Early on the morning of the third day

Jesus laughed at death,

shed his grave clothes,

and walked among us alive!

Forty days later, he ascended into heaven,

where he is seated at the right hand of the God of our ancestors

Our eyes are turned toward the skies looking for the day

when Jesus shall return to a kingdom without end,

where the lion will lie down peaceably with the lamb,

where sickness and disease are not known

where the wicked will cease from troubling

and we will study war no more!

On the night that Jesus was betrayed,
He shared a meal with his disciples.
He took bread from the table,
gave thanks to God,
and gave it to his disciples saying:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was over he took the cup,
gave thanks,
and gave it to his disciples saying:
"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."

Today, Jesus, we remember the bread and the cup.
Today, we remember your life and your death.
We remember your resurrection; we remember eternal life.
As we receive these gifts in praise and thanksgiving we proclaim
the mystery of our faith:

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

Holy God,
pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine;
make them be for us the body and blood of Christ.
Wonder-working God, pour out your Spirit upon us;
as we offer ourselves to be God's presence in the world
until Jesus returns in glory.
Almighty God,
We your people cry out to you on behalf of our community:
Have mercy upon all who suffer from the evils of poverty.
Have mercy, Lord!
Have mercy upon all who have lost their way.
Have mercy, Lord!

Have mercy upon all who have been offended by the church.

Have mercy, Lord!

Have mercy upon all who feel forgotten and neglected.

Have mercy, Lord!

Have mercy upon us Triune God,

and make us worthy to be called your people

who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to 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.
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.**

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion

**Life-giving God, we thank you that you were willing to dwell among us,
to be born one of us, to live our life and die our death.**

**We praise you that the limits of our mortal life do not limit you, O God,
that you are able to bring life out of death
and newness out of human destruction.**

**We thank you for feeding us with this bread and cup,
by which your disciples recognized you on the day of your resurrection,
and for claiming us as children and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.**

**And now give us the strength and grace to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart,**

In the name of our risen Lord,

Amen.

1. Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.

(Refrain)

This the power of the cross; Christ became
sin for us. Took the blame, bore the
wrath, we stand forgiven at the cross.

4. Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
for through your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
won through your selfless love!

(Refrain)

This the power of the cross; Son of God
slain for us. What a love, what a
cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

Blessing and Benediction:

Leader:

Believe! Believe the good news! As you leave this morning, go with a joyful heart, confident of God's grace and love. Proclaim the good news without shame. Christ is risen!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Go in Celebration of the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Postlude

“*Hymn of Promise*”

UMH 707, v. 3

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity,
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

We welcome Leah Bergner and Jeff Mathis and thank both of them for their wonderful trumpet music this Easter morning!

Ushers: John Pugh and Harold Billings

Note:

The lilies are available for purchase after worship service, see Betty Durham if you wish to buy one. Make checks payable to Centenary UMC.

6 single ones at 15.00 each 1 triple one \$25.00