



Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.

Greensboro, NC 27403

January 2, 2022

Epiphany

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.

†Please stand as you are able.

Thank you for continuing to wear a mask even if you are fully vaccinated to protect the most vulnerable in our midst, especially those not yet able to be vaccinated.

Gathering Music

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Choir

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

†Call to Worship:

Leader: Arise! Shine!

Congregation: God's light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year.

Leader: Arise! Shine!

Congregation: God's light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.

Leader: Arise! Shine!

Congregation: Nations shall come to God's light; and kings to the brightness of God's dawn.

All: Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

†Opening Prayer:

God of our hopes, Christ of our faith, Spirit in our hearts, we come to worship you with joy and gladness. Your goodness knows no limits of generation or gender, of condition or citizenship. You are kind to all, and we worship you in all sincerity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn:

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH #220, v. 1,2 &4

Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-12

Sermon: King of Kings

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn:

We Three Kings

UMH #254, v. 1,2&5

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

All merciful, tender God, you have given birth to our world, conceiving and bearing all that lives and breathes. We come to you as your daughters and sons, aware of our aggression and anger, our drive to dominate and manipulate others. We ask you to forgive us, and by the gentle touch of your Spirit help us to find a renewed sense of compassion, that we may truly live as your people in service to all. AMEN.

Pray in Silence

Assurance of God's Grace:

This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus the Son cleanses us from all sin. May almighty God, who caused light to shine

out of darkness, shine in our hearts, cleansing us from all our sins, and restoring us to the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

AMEN.

We Worship with our Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory

Let Us Break Bread Together

Choir

Thanksgiving and Communion

Taking the Bread and Cup

The Great Thanksgiving

A Great Thanksgiving for Epiphany

Leader: God is with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is a right and joyous thing to lift our hearts and hands to you, God of Light and Love, in thanksgiving for your gift of grace. Before we knew the unsearchable riches of your child Jesus, we walked in shadows and cloud. But now as you reveal radiance to the world, we join the hymn sung in glory without end.

People: Holy God, Grace Revealed, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator God, and blessed is your child Jesus. While wise ones brought him gold, incense, and myrrh, he grew to reveal to us countless treasures, radiant with life and grace, revealing the Shining Mystery which is You. Jesus broke bread and broke open your love for us. He blessed the cup and you poured out mercy for the world.

People: Christ was promised; Christ is born; Christ will dwell among us. Leader: Come, Spirit, dwell among us, your sons and daughters, gathered here together to feast at this table. Use us to reveal your gifts of love and light for the world. People: God of the ages, shining among us, we are yours! Amen!

And now, with the confidence of 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, For ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion:

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence
in your incarnate Son,
who suffered, died, and was buried,
and who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen.

†Hymn: *Sing We Now of Christmas*

UMH #237, v. 1,4&5

Blessing and Benediction:

Postlude *Follow the Star...Franklin Ritter*



As you engage your 'Prayer Life' this week, please remember these 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 336-285-5081. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation.

Louise Woods, back in the hospital. **Rev. Steve Martin**, in the hospital and hospice has been called in (Betty Durham's neighbor). **Joann Martin**, health challenges and upcoming tests. **Dave Blackman**, had a stroke and is home with out-patient therapy. Keep Barbara and David in your prayers. **Jane Norman**, is at home now recovering. **Scott Stanley**. **Kay Scott**, health challenges and treatment. **Susan Carrick**. Please keep him and the family in your prayers. **Anne Murr**, prayers for her treatments. **Margaret Miller** health issues. **Lori Johnson**. **Sheridian Wacker**, health issues **Trudy Sillmon**. **Don & Clara Ellis**. **Aly Saunders**. **Judy Milligan**.

Please be in prayer, as many are ready to return to this service of outreach.

Correction of Bill Eller's new address is: 925 New Garden Road, Apt. 1401, Greensboro, NC 27410

Announcements

There will be an SPRC meeting at 2:00 pm in the Conference Room on Sunday, January 9th.

We have a continuous collection of nonperishable items for the Urban Ministry at our church. You may drop them in the baskets located throughout the church, and we will make sure that they are delivered.

Women's Supper Club will be meeting on Wednesday, January 26th at 6:00pm. Location TBD. Please contact Emily Lawing 336-906-9996 if you are planning on attending as some restaurants will not allow parties greater than 6 people. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Soul to Soul will meet Saturday, January 8th at 10:00 am to put blessing bags together until we can gather for the Community Breakfast again.

On January 12th UMW Board Meeting at 10:00am followed by a guest speaker, Sandra Williamson, with a \$5.00 box lunch from Jason's. Contact Debra Schlueter 336-707-4213 to let her know if you would like a box lunch. Everyone is welcome do plan to attend!

If you are in a new Leadership Position, the Western North Carolina Conference will host Leadership Trainings using Webinars the week of January 23-27. Like most events during the pandemic, our District Winter Leadership Training Events will look a little different for 2022. Rather than hosting in-person events in each district, we will offer a series of Conference-wide training webinars during the week of January 23-27 to resource and equip all areas of your Church leadership. More details will be announced soon.


