



# Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue.

Greensboro, NC 27403

October 6, 2024

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

Barbara Wolfe

Announcements for Mission and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship                      O Church of God, United                      Frederick Morley                      Choir

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north, to celebrate the God of peace who accompanies us in our acts of peace. This God of peace accompanies us in each and every circumstance around us. We praise God's name!

**All: Amen!**

Leader: Let us pray together:

**Our God who is Our Creator God Our Heavenly Father**

**Bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships.**

**Bless us with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people.**

**Bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war.**

**Bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world.**

**In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

†Hymn:    In Christ There is No East or West    UMH 528

Scripture:    1 Corinthians 1: 10-17

Sermon:    "United We Stand, Divided We Fall"    Rev. Kelley Groce

Anthem    Let There be Peace on Earth                      Miller/Jackson                      Choir

**CONCERNS AND JOYS OF CONGREGATION**

Pastoral Prayer

**INVITATION**

This is the table to which Jesus invites us!  
Let us participate joyfully!

God-planted seeds now germinate  
A tree of life, an orchard bearing fruit  
Such is nature, abundant life budding,  
And Jesus sets the table, invites us to dine.

Water into wine, land where bread is born,  
A people on the path of perfect communion.

**Call to Confession**

Great indeed is the faithfulness of God, and yet our hearts are not so reliable. We wander. We argue. We forget. We divide ourselves with anger and bitterness and falsehood. Let's try to come back together again, and let's start with the truth. Let's confess our sins, to God, and also, to each other.

## Prayer of Confession

Oh God, the storms of life are raging. The signs of death and devastation are all around us.

We are overwhelmed by human need, and quick to cast blame or judgment.

We ask for your calm; your presence; your peace; your strength. Help us pass through the storms, and guide all of your people safely into the promised land. Oh God, the storms of life are raging, and yet, we believe that you are our help in ages past and our hope for years to come. +*Silence*

## Words of Assurance

Believe the good news: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

Be of good courage; strengthen the weak; trust in the goodness of God, who loves the poor and hears their cries. Amen.

Let us worship with God's Tithes and our Offerings.

Offertory

Let Us Break Bread Together

Spiritual

Choir

†Doxology

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. Even when we were dust, when our story begins in dust, you were there, your word was there, your breath into the lifeless void. And upon your word all creation sprang into life. When we were in the wilderness, terrified, timid, you were there, your word was there, with manna just enough for today, with water even from the driest rock, with the abundant grace upon which our story always rests. And when we fell short, slaves to power and greed, you were there, your word was there, on the lips of prophets, and in the hearts of servants, in stories of revolution and revelation and liberation, calling us even now to acts of courage and witness and peace. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Indeed, blessed are you, O Christ, our Lord, for risking yourself among us, vulnerable and rejected; for teaching among us, teaching the radical hope of God; teaching grace to a world bent on vengeance, teaching love to a world bent on destruction, teaching peace to a world bent on tearing itself apart. You were there, your word was there, even to the point of death itself. Even faced with terror and hatred and the brokenness of the world, you rose again, to new life, to new creation, to resurrection, that we might know something other than the dust, that we might expect something other than the end, that we might work for something other than ourselves.

And so you speak to us again, with these abundant gifts of bread and wine, with which we joyfully celebrate your dying and rising, as we await the table of the Kingdom yet to come, and as we dedicate ourselves again to

you, thankful, and transformed, as living and holy sacrifices, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

**Many: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break together, and the cup we share together, may retell our common stories together and reshape our common bonds together, and remember our common grace together, in the communion of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ, the one in whose life and death you have torn down our divisions. And so may we be one with all who share this feast, on this day, of all days, with all your children at every corner of your table. May we share this abundant cup with all those who thirst for your justice. May we share this abundant bread with all those who hunger for your righteousness, May we be united with every corner of your story, united in hope, united in vision, united in purpose, united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us from this table to be the body of Christ in all the world. Send us with a spirit of courage, a spirit of power and love, that we may be witnesses in all creation to the unending story of your word breathing life into the dust. Keep us faithful, and fruitful, and hopeful, and peaceful, until we come at last to the one table of your Kingdom, to feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm, with you and with your Word, through Christ and in Christ, the one who came for us, died for us, and rose for us, the one who prays even for us, the one who first taught us to pray, saying: **Our Father...**

**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, forever. Amen.**

Giving the Bread and Cup

### Prayer following Communion

**Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for the whole communion of saint's witness to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. By this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come. By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the proclamation of your Kingdom. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, dying and made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace. Amen**

†HYMN

Blest be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557

†DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†Postlude

Barbara Wolfe

†Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit and silence your cell phones†

We thank Barbara Wolfe for playing piano and sharing her beautiful music in today's service.

The altar flowers are given today for the Glory of God from Barbara Albright in memory of Doris Rousseaux.