



**Centenary United Methodist Church  
2300 W. Friendly Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
May 21, 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 Prayer.... Schumann, arr. Blake;

Announcements for Mission and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship      Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee      Choir

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gathered here and through the Spirit, we are the people of God and we come open to the Word of the Lord for us today.

**People: Gathered are we, children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ, to hear the teachings of our Lord.**

Leader: Gathered are we, as those first disciples gathered with Jesus long ago, to be inspired by the words and prayers of Christ.

**People: We are the people of God and pray with Jesus that we all may be one as he and God, our Creator are one.**

Leader: Let us pray together:

**Lord God, when Jesus spent his last hours with his disciples he shared so much with them and prayed for them – and for us. There were many of his teachings that he wanted them to remember and later “tell it strong and clear” to everyone who did not know the story of God’s love. Jesus knew that in the stories of God’s love people would be drawn together so that all “may be made one”. Guide us in our worship and guide us in working together with all your servants in your work of ministry and mission in your world. Amen**

†Hymn      Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty      UMH 64

## †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      Come to the Table      Earlene Rentz      Choir

Scripture:      John 17: 1-11

Sermon:	The Meaning of Life	Rev. Kelley Groce
†Affirmation of Faith	Apostle's Creed	UMH 881
†Gloria Patri		
†Hymn	Take our Bread	UMH 640

Joys and Concerns 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                      Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me

Choir

†Doxology

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR THE DAY OF PENTECOST

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty (*almighty God*), creator of heaven and earth.

In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers,  
anointing them to speak your Word.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him  
and declared him your beloved Son.

With your Spirit upon him he turned away the temptations of sin.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

and to announce that the time had come

when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

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.  
When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,  
baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, as on the Day of Pentecost.

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."

On the day you raised him from the dead  
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,  
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued  
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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 and empowered by the gifts of the Spirit.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,

showing forth the fruit of the Spirit 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 Father (God ), now and for ever. **Amen.**

Now with the confidence as the children of God let us pray the prayer which Jesus  
taught 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. Lead us  
not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the  
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

†HYMN                      God Be With You till we Meet Again                      UMH 673(1&4)

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†Choral Benediction                      Go Now in Peace                      Choir

†Postlude                      March                      Edward Wetheril

†Please stand as you are able and silence your cell phones.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Jeane Batten's 80<sup>th</sup>  
birthday from her family.



**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.**

## **Prayer Concerns:**

Lori Johnson. Gretchen Crabtree. Betty Pleasants. Dave Blackman. Susan Carrick. Sheridian Wacker. Scott Stanley. Al & Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane & Jim Stanley. Trudy Sillmon. Don & Clara Ellis. Aly Saunders. Till West (David Groce's aunt). Bruce Gillespie (Debbie Robinson's friend). June Robb (Mary von Glahn's sister). Annie Oakley (Margaret Turnage's friend). Rowan James (daughter of David Groce's co-worker).

## **Announcements and Calendar of events**



**May Birthdays** – Jameson Stout (3). Coak May (5). Robb Stowe (8). Betty Chambers (10). Fred Wampler (12). Jeane Battten (22). Bianca York (24). Dylan Sillmon (25). Spencer Deuterman ,Kathy Swing (27). Susan Roach (30)

If you have a child or grandchild who is graduating this year please fill out the insert so they can be recognized. This form will need to be returned to the church office by June 1st.

**Sunday School at 9:45am** – in the Fellowship Hall. With a 12-week study on the Disciples of Jesus.

**May 21<sup>st</sup> – 12:30pm- Ad Council and Called Church Charge Conference – for the purpose of approving clergy compensation for Rev. Kelley Groce effective July 1, 2023.**

**May 24<sup>th</sup> – 2pm to 6:30pm - Mark your calendars- Red Cross Blood drive.** Please spread the word to your family and friends. The Red Cross has contacted us to say there is a great need currently! What better gift to give than the gift of Life!

**No Pastor, Passage and Picnic this week.**

Rev. Kelley will be out of the office June 10th thru June 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Betty will be out of the office June 7<sup>th</sup> thru June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Betty and Kelley will be out of the office June 14<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup> at WNCC Annual Conference.

**June 17<sup>th</sup> – Community Breakfast 8am to 10am.** Please consider coming out to support this all-important mission. We need cooks and servers. Most of all we need those who are willing to provide a listening ear and those willing to pray with our guests. As our numbers continue to grow our community needs you.

Attendance – May 7, 2023

Sunday School 14

Worship in-person 49

Worship - FaceBook Live

Worship - YouTube