



*Centenary United Methodist Church
2300 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27403
December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to worship

Once in Royal David's City

Choir

Call to worship

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is PEACE.

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is HOPE.

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is JOY.

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LOVE.

Leader: There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in the place,

ALL: And we know that it's the Spirit of the Lord!

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Love

Debra Schlueter, Ben and Ellie Hockman

†Hymn

Silent Night

UMH 239

Joys and Concerns of Congregation

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

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 and ever. Amen.

Anthem

Only a Baby Came

Sleeth arr. Rubino

Choir

Scripture

Matthew 1: 18-25

Sermon

"A Man of Action"

Rev. Kelley Groce

†Affirmation of Faith: Advent Affirmation

We are an Advent people,
a people of hope.

For us, Advent is a time of waiting,
and so we wait.

We wait for the coming of the One
who is the fulfillment of God's promise,

the fulfillment of hope,
the declaration that we have been redeemed.
Even so, we are not a naïve people.
We know that the world in which we live
will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow.
We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.
We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.
But because we are an Advent people,
we know that none of these things will win in the end.
The Holy One is coming,
to make holy once again
all that was, is, and ever will be.
And in our waiting and our hoping,
we work and worship,
pray and play,
in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign
in our lives and in our world,
now and forever.

Submitted by Rev. Rebecca F. Harrison, Transitional Pastor, Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church, Sparks, NV

†Gloria Patri

We Worship with God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory Love Came Down at Christmas Choir

†Doxology

†Hymn The First Noel UMH 245

†Benediction

†Postlude Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy News Arr. Richard Hudson

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

As you engage your 'Prayer Life' this week, please remember these prayer concerns. If you have a prayer concern or praises, 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:

Barbara Wolfe, Ann Hennings. Joann Martin. Abbie Samuel. Margaret & Patrick Miller. Joann Martin. Martha Nell Rives. Chuck Farabee. Gretchen Crabtree. Dave & Barbara Blackman. Susan Carrick. Sheridian Wacker. Lee & Jane Norman. Scott Stanley. Al & Lori Eaton. Peggy Harris. Diane & Jim Stanley. Trudy Sillmon. Dan Rozelle. Barbara Wolfe. Toby Swindell (Suzy's grandson). Don & Clara Ellis. Aly Saunders. Hazel Perritt, Pat Glover. Anne Trumpler (Anita sister-in-law). Richard Fischer (Anita Trumpler's brother-in-law). Margey Sienkiewicz (Larry & Suzy Swindell's aunt). Dan Rozelle. Peace in the Middle East. Dixie Liggett (friend of Betty Durham in the passing of her husband, Larry)

December Birthdays - 24th Trudy Sillmon. 30th Mary Jo Baugh. 31st Travis John.

January Birthdays – 5th Brian Deuterma. 7th Barbara Singleton. 12th Reid Townsend.

16th Jane Norman, Aly Saunders. 17th Jimmy Stanley. 22nd Don Stowe. 24th Hannah Stout. 29th Bill Eller, Don Ellis.

Announcements and Calendar of events

Clothes Closet special requests: We need Men's pants and shirts ALL sizes, but especially 32, 34 & 36. Men's winter shirts. Men's shoes, especially athletic shoes. Men's belts 34, 36 & 38. Women's Small and Medium **winter** clothes. Women's Small and Medium underwear. Take-along style suitcases on wheels. Travel size shampoo, toothpaste, and body wash. One person tents. If you have any questions, please see Caryn Hull or Dona Pickett.

The D. R. Team needs prescription glasses and sturdy readers to take with them on their mission trip. If you have any old glasses lying around that you are willing to share they are much needed. Please, see David Sillmon if you have any questions.

The Blessed Table Food Pantry, food items needed for this month are cans of Black Eye Peas, Pinto Beans, Great Northern Beans, Pork & Beans, and Green Peas. There is a basket for cash if you prefer.

Attendance – December 17, 2023

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| Sunday School | 10 |
| Worship in-person | 37 |
| Worship - Facebook Live | 87 |
| Worship –YouTube | 29 |