

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Ave.

Greensboro, NC 27403

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 7, 2021

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director

Announcements for Ministry and Missions

Choral Call to Worship *"Take Time to be Holy"*

Call to Worship (from Psalm 147:1, 3, 7)

Praise the LORD!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;

For God is gracious,

and a song of praise is fitting.

God heals the brokenhearted,

and binds up their wounds.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

make melody to our God!

Opening Prayer

O God, send your Spirit to move in us and among us. Focus our attention as we listen, so that we may absorb your Word more deeply, come to know you better, and serve you with greater purpose. Amen.

Hymn *"Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise"*

UMH 103 vs. 1&4

*Immortal, Invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.*

Joys and Concerns

Birthdays for the week: Betsy Wampler (7), Carry Mullins (9), Allison Skenes (9), David Baugh, David Sillmon, Barbara Wolfe (13)

Pastoral Prayer

Anthem *"He Touched Me"*

UMH 367 v. 1

*Shackled by a heavy burden, neath a load of
guilt and shame, then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.*

Refrain

*He touched me, O he touched me, and O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know, he touched me and made me whole.*

Scripture: Mark 1: 29-39

Sermon: The In's and Out's of Ministry

Invitation to the Table

This table does not belong to any denomination,
church or community.

It belongs to Jesus.

It was at table that he met people,
heard their stories and shared his.

It was at table that he deepened his friendship
with poor folk and prostitutes,
the business class and puzzled bystanders.

It was at table that he shared profound insights
into who God is and what God wants.

And it was at table, with bread and wine,
that he initiated the sacrament we now celebrate.

So come to this table.

Leave behind any baggage of arrogance or unworthiness.

Do not think, 'This is not for me.'

Think rather of Jesus saying, 'I am for you,'
and accept his invitation to be the friend
he cherishes and longs to see

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Let us pray:

Leader:

Creator God, Source of all life,
in you all creatures are connected
and all creation redeemed and made new.
Day by day you make yourself known to your people.
In the beauty of the heavens we see your glory.
In the bounty of the earth we know your generosity.
In strength for our bodies and minds we experience your energy.
Delighting in all that we have seen, known, and heard,
we worship you, one God, Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

People:

**Holy One, along with our praise, we offer you our confession.
At times we forget what we once knew of your love.
Consumed by worry, we forget to trust you.
Although we know you made us for a purpose, we choose our own ways.**

Discouragement seeps into our hearts in the cold of winter
and we do not serve you with eagerness.
We fail to speak out against injustice in our community.
Forgive us.
Renew our energy for your purposes.
Raise us up on wings of faith.
May we walk by your light and not grow weary.
May we run and not faint.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader:

Dear friends, while it is true that we have all sinned,
it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say,
in Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven.
Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

Hymn

"Let Us Break Together"

UMH 618 v. 1

*Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)*

We Worship with our Tithes and our Offering

Offertory

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (piano)

J.S. Bach

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them 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 our greatest joy, Gracious and Loving God,
to give you thanks and praise for your works are great and your ways are just and true.

At your loving word all things were made
and the beauty of creation was called from chaos .

Through your word, you formed us in your image and gave us life .
By your word, you called us to love and to serve you and to live in peace with you and all
that you have made.

Though we turn from you, you do not turn from us.
When we are captive, you liberate and give us freedom.
When we are confused and stray from you,
you give us faith to go in search of deeper understanding.
When we are tempted to find easy and false comfort in idols,
the challenging truth of your presence draws us into deeper relationship.

And so we join our voices with your people of every time and place
in joyful praise of you:

**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.**

We praise you and give you thanks for sending your loving and beloved son into the
world. Conceived by the Holy Spirit, he brings new life.
Born of Mary's flesh he knew joy, pain, love, and loss. Touching the sick, he heals us.
Breaking bread and sharing the cup with those on the margins,
he shows his love and welcome for all.
Dying on the cross, he is with us in our suffering.
Rising from the grave, he brings new life.

In him, you have reconciled us and you lead us
out of fantasy into truth, out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life. Remembering all these things, we gather at his invitation to break
bread and share the cup and to proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Gracious and giving God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered around your holy
table, and on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and the
blood of Christ, and that we, being nourished by them, may be for the world the body of
Christ, made strong, made new, and redeemed by his blood.

And now through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
and with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven, we worship and adore you, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which 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 that 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.**

Breaking the Bread

Giving The Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion:

God of glory, you nourish us with bread from heaven. Fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit, that through us your light may shine in all the world. This we ask in the name of Jesus, your eternally living dream. Amen

Hymn

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

UMH 526 vs. 1&2

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our
sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often
forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because
we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there
trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so
faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus
knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Dismissal with Blessing

Leader:

May the bright star of Christ illumine your heart and mind so that you may be a light to the world. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. Amen

The Light of the Star, the light of God's love, shines before you as you leave this place. Go in peace, go in joy, go in love to meet God's people in the world and greet them with the good news of salvation. AMEN

Prayer Concerns

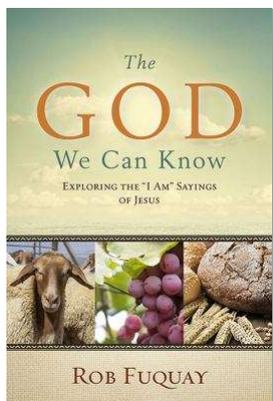
If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation or only with the pastoral staff.

Abbie Samuel surgery, detached retina. **Martha Isenberg**, Betty Durham's UMW sister, multiple health issues. **Meredith Groce**, bad knee sprain awaiting MRI on Saturday. **Sally Askew**, (Friend of Betty Durham) Sally's son passed away unexpectedly on January 29. **Suzy Swindell's uncle, Jack Tinkle 97 years old**, admitted to hospital ICU with sepsis. **Bev and Jeff Copley**, District Superintendent, both have Covid. . **Prayers for our sweet 100 year old Lucille Crawford**, she tested positive for Covid. . **Susan Carrick** with health issues. . **Nancy Carrick** upcoming medical tests. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Barbara Blackman's sister, Dorthey Wessels.** **Peggy Bowles.** **Don & Clara Ellis, Trudy Sillmon, Rachel Sheppard.**

Also, many are dealing with anxiety, stress, depression, and loneliness due to COVID-19. Please put it upon your heart to offer all people the grace which God offers all. Prayers for our country during this transition.

Continue to lift up Centenary UMC in prayer. The leadership of the church is working on creative ways to bring smaller groups in for study and worship.

Centenary Tithes and Offerings – Please continue to send in your weekly tithes and offerings to the church during this coronavirus pandemic. Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403. See our website www.centenaryumcGreensboro.org for other options.



New Bible Study: *The GOD We Can Know*

Exploring the "I am" sayings of Jesus

When: Tuesday Mornings @ 10:00 AM and

Tuesday Evenings @6:30 PM

Where: via zoom

Dates: February 23-March 30, 2021

(6 weeks)

Getting to know God means getting to know ourselves. The more we know who God is the more we know who we are. The Gospel of John records several declarations of Jesus known as

the "I Am" sayings. This 6-week study is designed for the entire congregation to explore each of those sayings and will help you find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, "Who do you say I am?"

One by one, Jesus' statements grab our imagination, reveal more about his identity and purpose, and connect us to the God of Moses, who spoke the first "I Am." These significant yet ordinary images (bread, light, shepherd, vine, and more) give us insightful ways to experience Jesus and point us to a God who wants to be known.



Quarantine Cooking-Cookbook

Share your favorite recipes and help with our DR fundraising and get the entire recipe booklet for your contribution! Suggested donation of \$5/recipe included or submit 5 for \$20. You can submit your recipes to Libby in the office along with your check. **Deadline extended to 2/15/2021.**



*Drive-Through
Ashes Wednesday
on the go*

February 17, 2021

8-10:00am, 12-1:00pm, and 5-6:30pm



The Clothes Closet is closed at this time and will not be accepting donations due to COVID-19. We will let you know when this changes.



February Birthdays: 1st Nelda King, Milton McFarland, 3rd Austin John, 7th Betsy Wampler, 8th Lori Johnson, 9th Carry Mullins, 11th Allison Skenes, 13th David Baugh, David Sillmon, Barbara Wolf, 14th Jim Kinard, 15th Katherine Holman, Bob Smith, 16th Ann Atchison, 17th Rob Hurin, Peggy Boles, 18th Libby Boggs, 21st Charles Wisekal, 23rd Peggy Harris, 25th Jim Turnage, 27th John Pugh, Noah Demmitt, Jennifer Slaine, 28th Susan Lee, Cynthia Michael