



# **Centenary United Methodist Church**

**2300 W. Friendly Ave.**

**Greensboro, NC 27403**

**January 3, 2021**

**Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor**

**Anita Trumpler-Rich, Music Director**

Announcements for Ministry and Missions

Choral Call to Worship.....*Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

**People: We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.**

**Leader:** The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

**People: The darkness what surrounds us is gone!**

**Leader:** Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

**People: Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others. AMEN.**

Opening Prayer

Hymn.....*Angels From the Realms of Glory #220 v. 1&3*

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er  
all the earth; ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth.*

*Refrain*

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new born King.*

*Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions  
beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations,  
ye have seen his natal star:*

*(Refrain)*

Joys and Concerns of Congregation and Community

**Birthdays of the week** Courtney Luebke (27), Brookelyn McPherson (29), Mary Jo Baugh (30), Travis John (31)

Pastoral Prayer

Anthem.....*On This Day, Earth Shall Ring #248 v. 3*

Scripture: Romans 8: 38-39

Sermon: Christmas Vacation: Unraveled Plans

**Invitation to the Table**

**Leader:** Friends, God prepares a feast for all people; a feast of good things, a feast of peace. It is the longing of God expressed fully when we gather here, for while all of us in this room receive that open invitation of Christ, there are many who are not among us, whose places are set and who have not heard or have not answered “Yes” to God’s call to eat and drink with Jesus. So, we come and taste. We eat and are filled. We drink deeply, and yet we thirst for others to come join us. And we are nourished in Christ’s spirit to go forth to embrace them, to welcome them, and sit and dine with them at the feast of God which is intended not only for us, but for all.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**All:** God of starlight,  
shine your love  
into the darkness of our lives.  
Preoccupied with ourselves,  
we forget the needs of others;  
we participate in systems that oppress;  
we accept violence as a way of life;  
we fail to respond to the cry of others.  
May your love fall upon us  
like rain on the mown grass.  
May your love wash away our indifference  
and water the tender shoots  
of our care and compassion.  
Nourished in the sunlight of your love,  
may we grow into people  
who live in righteousness  
and who work for justice  
for all your children. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance**

**Leader:** In Jesus Christ, God has revealed the mystery that brings grace and forgiveness. The light of God’s love transforms us so that we may act with boldness and confidence.

**All:** Amen

Hymn.....*The First Noel* #245 v. 2&3

*They looked up and saw a star shining in the  
east, beyond them far; and to the earth it  
gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.*

*Refrain*

*Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.*

*And by the light of that same star three Wise Men  
came from country far; to seek for a king was  
their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.*

*(Refrain)*

**We Worship with our Tithes and our Offering**

Offertory.....*Into My Heart*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

We give you thanks, O God, for making your love evident  
since the very beginning of time when you spoke the word  
which replaced the darkness of chaos with life-giving light.

A light which has nurtured generations of people,  
and plants and creatures, great and small.

A light which also reveals the fear and powerlessness  
caused by selfishness and greed.

As you sent the star to guide the magi,

So you walked among us to show us how to live in your light,

That by word and deed we might proclaim your boundless love,

Saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you who sent Jesus  
Blessed with the Spirit of the Lord and anointed  
To bring good news to the poor,  
To proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set free the oppressed,  
To declare the year of the Lord's favor  
And who sends us still to continue Jesus' work in the world.

For Jesus has taught us how to love,  
That we may go and do likewise,  
Answering hate with love,  
Injury with forgiveness,  
Oppression with justice and peace,  
and apathy with mercy.

And on that night, when his radical love cost him his freedom and eventually his life,  
When he refused to answer violence with violence,  
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
Gave it to his disciples, his friends, his family, and said:  
"Take, eat, this is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was over, he likewise took the cup,  
Gave thanks to you, gave it to those with him, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you.

This is the cup of the new covenant,  
Do this, as often as you drink of it,  
In remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of your acts of love:  
In Creation, in Christ, in our own lives,

We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

As a holy and living sacrifice of light in this world which you love

In union with Christ

As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With your Son, Jesus Christ,

And the aid of your Holy Spirit,

Make us, the church, here and in every place,

To be your voice of compassion and your hands of mercy.

All glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Giving The Bread and Cup**

**Prayer following Communion:**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory Amen.

Hymn.....*We Three Kings #254 1&5*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing  
gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain,  
moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise; King and  
God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies.

(Refrain)

Dismissal with Blessing

Choral Benediction.....*Star Child*

## Prayer Concerns

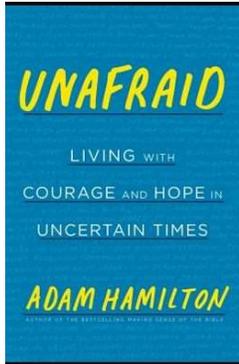
If you have a prayer concern or praise, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643, or call Kelley at the parsonage. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation or only with the pastoral staff.

### **The Prayer Chain has received requests to pray for the following people:**

**Ann Hennings** had surgery on December 24 and remains at Wesley Long. **Dan Rozelle, former member**, has a mild case of Covid. **Connie Smith & husband, Jennifer Slaine's** sister and brother-in-law has tested positive for Covid. **Corey Marion**, esophageal cancer. **Chris Bagwell's nephew's wife and their 5 year old son and other members of the family**, tested positive for Covid; nephew had some kind of seizure last week running test to see what caused that. **Sally Goins daughter, Madonna Stamey** has tested positive for Covid also **Andy's grandfather Vic** has been put on hospice care. **Lee & Gail Eggers**, Ministers. **Libby Boggs' nephew's family** has tested positive for Covid. **Landa Wallace's mother Frances Faust passed away yesterday, December 16.** **Diane Stanley's friend-Betsy Gaines's granddaughter - Caroline Pope** (21 weeks) with heart valve situation. **Hailey Saunders**, tested positive for Covid. **Peggy Smith. Nina Stowe Aunt**, declining dementia. **Donald Stowe**, health. **Abbie Samuels**, eye surgery. **Peggy Harris**, eye surgery. **Jean Farabee**, Cone Hospital. **Friend of Kelley Groces, Karen Dolbear** palliative care. **Barbara Blackman's sister, Dorthey Wessels. Buddy Durham father of Mandy and Jessica Durham. Dean Saunders**, collapsed lung. **Mary Louise Woods**, tested positive for the Covid-19 virus. **Dwight Adams, Coak and Nancy May's niece's husband** who is hospitalized and on a ventilator with Covid-19. **Bonnie Travis' sister, Peggy Mayo** having chemo. **Bonnie Travis' granddaughter** needs prayer. **Paul Long's younger brother and sister-in-law, Dan and Sharon Long**, both have the Covid-19 virus. **Joann Martin** fell and broke her left hip. **Peggy Bowles. Mike Crabtree. Amy Coffee and her grandmother-Ruby Foland . Sally Goin's friend Janice Osborne. Jackie Thompson's mom-Lucille Crawford. Friend of Betty Durham-Julia Willis. Judy Milligan, Noah Demmitt, Don & Clara Ellis, Chuck Farabee, Trudy Sillmon, Rachel Sheppard, and Pat Stevenson.** Please, keep all in your prayers as so many who are dealing with many anxieties over the coronavirus.

**Our sympathies to the family of Janet Wall, Kelley Groce's cousin, in her death on December 24, 2020.**

**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.



**New Bible Study: *Unafraid* by Adam Hamilton**  
**Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times**

When: Tuesday Mornings @ 10:00 AM and Tuesday Evenings @ 6:30 PM

Where: via zoom

Dates: January 5 – February 2 (5 weeks)

A widely admired mainstream pastor shows how people and communities can flourish as beacons of hope and serenity in an anxious age. For anyone struggling with fear, worry, or anxiety, or who wonders how families and communities can live as peacemakers in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions. Trusted pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton draws on the latest research, therapeutic insights, biblical principles, and personal experience to untangle the knots of fear and truly embrace Jesus's recurring counsel to his followers: Do not be afraid. As a leading voice in the progressive tradition, Hamilton communicates with grace and understanding to a wide and inclusive audience in accessible language that will ring true regardless of one's religious conviction. Today, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm there will be a blessing of the Animals on the front lawn with the manger. Socially distanced, mask required, and lovable animals requested.

⇒ **Dominican Republic** -Each year for over 20 years , Centenary UMC has helped sponsor a medical mission team that goes to the Dominican Republic (usually in January). Unfortunately, we will not be able to go to the Dominican Republic in January due to the coronavirus. Please consider giving what you can to this mission project. We will send the donation in January 2021. A check payable to CUMC with "The Dominican Project 2021" on the memo line may be sent to CUMC, 2300 W. Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27403.

⇒ **Quarantine Cooking-Cookbook**

Share you 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 1/31/2021.



⇒ **Rice and Bean Luncheon Sunday, January 17**

On Sunday, January 17 we will have our rice and bean luncheon. Due to the Covid virus it will be pickup only. Email Pastor Kelley or call Libby in the office to reserve you meals.

