

A photograph of a shepherd on a donkey herding a large flock of sheep in a dusty, hazy landscape. The shepherd is silhouetted against the bright, hazy background, holding a long staff. The sheep are densely packed and moving in a line, creating a sense of movement and direction. The overall tone is warm and atmospheric, with a golden-brown color palette.

Good Shepherd Sunday

May 3, 2020

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, North Carolina

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

381, verse 1 UMH

Call to Worship

Leader: Come to the gate and find the Good Shepherd within.

People: We need a shepherd – round us up and bring us through your Gate, O Lord.

Leader: If you're hungry or thirsty, the Good Shepherd will provide for your needs.

People: That is just what we need. Our souls thirst for God's word.

Leader: Come, the Gate and the Shepherd await.

People: God of all the sheep, those who remain close to you and those who stray, those who are always faithful and those who are lost: be with us today! Help us take a look at our lives and our relationship to you. Bring us close, draw us in, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Song *Bless His Holy Name*

2015 TFWS

Unison Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Gospel Lesson John 10:1-10

Sermon “Good Shepherd Sunday” Rev. Kelley Groce

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostle’s Creed (Traditional version)

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Confession and Pardon

Patient God, you know how easy it is for us to stray. We wander off so easily. Forgive us, we pray. Heal our brokenness and our fears. Remind us again that you lead us in gentle paths and by quiet waters – when the paths are stony and the waves tumultuous, help us to remember your protection and your care. Help us to extend that same love and care to others, for we ask this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Just when we think we can go no further, Jesus the Good Shepherd calls to us, bringing us safely into the fold of Grace and Mercy. Rejoice! You are loved completely and forgiven!

We Worship with our Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory *Gentle Shepherd* 3096 WS

The Great Thanksgiving

Lift up your heads

We lift them up to God

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Lift up your hands

We dedicate our heads, our hearts, and our hands to the worship of God.

We offer our entire being to the God of Creation, who made the sun and the moon to govern by day and by night and hung the stars in the sky. We offer our entire being to the great God

who hollowed out the valleys and bulged up the mountains, who spat out the seven seas, and populated the world with glorious creatures. Blessed be the name of the Lord who created us and fashioned us from the dust and breathed into us the breath of life.

Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who came to us in spite of our destructive ways. He healed the sick, raised the dead and cast out demons. In the brief time that he was with us, Jesus sided with the oppressed, had compassion for those who suffer, and gave dignity to women and children. He taught us in word and deed about a God we had been unable to understand.

In spite of his glory-revealing presence among us, we turned him into a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. Jesus was persecuted by certain religious leaders and betrayed by one of his own. He was lied about, tortured, and hung on a cross to die.

Yet, even on the day of his crucifixion, Jesus continued to teach those who would listen. When evil people came with his betrayer, Jesus did not respond with violence, choosing instead to remind us that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. When he was falsely accused and condemned to death, Jesus refused to do harm. And while hanging on the cross, he prayed: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

But we give you thanks that nothing ever was, or ever will be, able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Early on the morning of the third day Jesus laughed at death, shed his grave clothes, and walked among us alive! Forty days later, he ascended into heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of the God of our ancestors. Our eyes are turned toward the skies looking for the day when Jesus shall return to a kingdom without end, where the lion will lie down peaceably with the lamb, where sickness and disease are not known where the wicked will cease from troubling and we will study war no more!

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, He shared a meal with his disciples. He took bread from the table, gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was over he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying: "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."

Today, Jesus, we remember the bread and the cup. Today, we remember your life and your death. We remember your resurrection; we remember eternal life. As we receive these gifts in praise and thanksgiving, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!

Holy God pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine; make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. Wonder-working God pour out your Spirit upon us; as we offer ourselves to be God's presence in the world until Jesus returns in glory.

Almighty God, we your people cry out to you on behalf of our community: Have mercy upon all who suffer from the evils of poverty.

Have mercy, Lord!

Have mercy upon all who have lost their way.

Have mercy, Lord!

Have mercy upon all who have been offended by the church.

Have mercy, Lord!

Have mercy upon all who feel forgotten and neglected.

Have mercy, Lord!

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Song *Come, Share the Lord* 2269 verses 1-3 TFWS

Prayer following Communion

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament, you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So, strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Song *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

2173 verse 1 TFWS

Dismissal

Leader: Receive the good news:

People: Christ is risen from the dead.

Leader: Tell the good news

People: The power of death shall no more oppress us.

Leader: Live the good news

People: We are free to love as he has loved us.

All: Amen and amen

Choral Postlude *God Be With You till We Meet Again* 673 verse 1 UMH

Music – UMH = *United Methodist Hymnal*, TFWS = *The Faith We Sing*, and WS = *Worship and Song*

Tithes & Offerings to the Church – Many thanks to all who have remained faithful in giving their tithes and offerings to the church during this difficult time. You may mail your check to the church office: Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403. You may also give through your bank's online bill pay option. Consult your bank for directions. Or, you may give online through our SubSplash platform using a credit or debit card. Follow the directions on the Centenary UMC website under [Tithes & Offerings](#)

Bible Study – Tuesdays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM using Zoom to meet together virtually, until such time that we may meet together at the church. Send an email to kgroce@wnccumc.net to receive an email invitation to Zoom. You may also listen in by phone. Contact the church if

you would like to participate 336-299-9643. You may purchase the book [Interpretation Bible Studies: Psalms](#) through [ChristianBooks.com](#) or follow along in your Bible. We hope that many of you will join us to gain courage, strength, and inspiration from the Psalms.

The *Centenarian*, our monthly newsletter, will include a member directory and should be arriving in your mailbox soon! If you see something in the directory that needs to be corrected or added, please contact Business Manager, Lisa Bunch, by email Lisa@CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org or call 336-299-9643 and leave a message for extension 304. Please note that Centenary UMC sent out “update your records” letters in the fall of 2019. Some people, who no longer attend Centenary UMC, want to remain members. There are others that either did not return the questionnaire or their letters were undeliverable. We must try for two years to reach members who no longer attend, before we can remove them from our membership rolls. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Lisa Bunch.