

A MOMENT TO BE THANKFUL

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104

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UN MOMENTO DE DAR GRACIAS

November 28, 2021

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 28th, 2021 – 10:00am

First Sunday of Advent: Year C

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING:

Erica Kessler

Here We Come, A-Caroling
Traditional English; arr. by Anna Laura Page

ADVENT MEDITATION – LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

-The Day is Surely Coming-

A day, certain and on its way,
And we feel it approaching
Slowly first, then in a quickened pace
Like a promise on its way
To being fulfilled
A day when justice and righteousness
Is executed as surely as the day breaks
Sun shines, rain falls, fog gathers
At foothills
A day is certainly coming
Sure as breath
A day of safety
A name of a Holy One
On the lips: Branch
Righteous One
Hope
Certainly on its way.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (unison):

Righteous One, your glory shines brighter than the sun. We remember your compassion and your faithful love, as we come to worship this day. Lift up our souls to meet the challenges we face, as we seek to bear the fruit of your salvation. May your righteous branch grow within our hearts, that our lives may abound in mercy and steadfast love. And may we be found ready and waiting when the one drawing near comes with power and glory to bring us to you. AMEN.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Our promised salvation is at hand.

A righteous branch has sprung forth, bringing hope to our world.

Our eyes have beheld the goodness and mercy of the Lord.

A Son has been given to us, bringing justice and virtue to our land.

Our hearts have felt the stirrings of God's Presence.

The Spirit of truth is here to heal us, teaching transgressors God's ways.

Let us worship the God of our salvation.

AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN:**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

UMH 211 (vss.1,2,4)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):

Loving Creator, you call us to rejoice in your promise of the birth that is to come, but we are afraid.

You invite us into a world where justice and righteousness prevail, but we turn away in fear.

We long for an easy path into your promised world, but you warn us that there is no easy way.

Birth new life within us, that we may abide in your perfect love — the love that casts out fear.

AMEN.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

We worship a God of mercy, who abounds in steadfast love. The one who is God's righteous branch draws near to save us from our weakness, and to seal us in God's love. **AMEN.**

HYMN OF WORSHIP:

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

UMH 203 (vss.1,3,4),4)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

Baloo, Lammy (Hush, Little Lamb)
16th Cent. Scottish Christmas Song

Erica Kessler

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

LITANY FOR PLEDGE CARDS

L: Almighty and Everlasting God, we give You thanks this day as we gather the pledges of support for Your Church in the coming year. We bring them before You with eager anticipation and hope.

P: Hear us, O God, as we give You our thanks and praise.

L: For those whose lives have been touched by Your Spirit, who have increased their commitment,

P: We give You thanks and praise.

L: For those who are responding to Your creative grace by pledging for the first time,

P: We give You thanks and praise.

L: For those who are tithing, and even exceeding a tithe,

P: We give You thanks and praise.

L: For those whose lives are in transition or turmoil and who feel they cannot pledge, but who continue to be a vital part of our community,

P: We give You thanks and praise and we pray for calm in their lives.

L: For committee workers who have labored in this effort to enable Your people to make a pledge of support for Your Church,

P: We give You thanks and praise.

L: That each one of us, and Your whole Church, become more faithful to the call of service in Jesus Christ,

P: We ask Your continuing guidance and care.

L: That these pledges may emerge as real gifts, thereby enabling the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ to move forward through this congregation and the Church Universal,

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to this action.

PASTORAL PRAYER OVER PLEDGE CARDS

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving. These cards represent our sweat, they represent our lives, they represent our dreams. The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us and they are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become, in this place. May they be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over, so that we may live out as closely as possible how you give to us. May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy, filled with possibilities. May we hold this image in our hearts and minds so as we watch our offerings each week come to your table, we can see our very selves being part of this offering, it is us on the table, living sacrifices to you. **AMEN.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Dave Holland

(As the children come to the altar, please sing stanza 1 of Hymn 191, "Jesus Loves Me")

FIRST LESSON:

Jeremiah 33:14 – 16

A scripture from the Prophet Jeremiah. . .

¹⁴“The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵“In those days and at that time

I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;

he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved

and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:

The Lord Our Righteous Savior.’

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God

***GOSPEL LESSON:**

Luke 21:25 – 36

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Luke the 21st chapter, beginning with the 25th verse. . .

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand Leader:

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ!

SERMON:

"The Advent of Hope"
Pastor Uziel Hernández Martínez

***HYMN;**

Come Thou Long-expected Jesus

UMH 196

***BENEDICTION:**

May your love for one another abound, just as Christ's love abounds for you. Go with God's love in your hearts and with the Spirit's fierce tenderness in your breast. Go with God. **AMEN.**

GOING FORTH:

Sing We Now Of Christmas
15th Cent. French Carol; arr. by Carolyn Setliff

Erica Kessler

CREDITS:

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Pastor: Rev. Uziel Hernández Martínez

Liturgists: CMUMC ministers

Pianist: Erica Kessler

Bulletin: Lora Doll

Social Media: Dulce Maciel

Announcements

November 28th 2021

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

Wednesdays

1st Bible Study: on the Book of Genesis

- with Pastor Judith in English, 12 pm. On ZOOM.

2nd Bible Study:

- Bible Study with Pastor Uziel at the church building, starting at 6pm.

MISSION PROJECT

Centennial will once again be donating socks, gloves, hats and mittens to the children at Constance Lane Elementary school. If you would like to participate, there is a basket at the church for your donation. If you prefer not to shop, you can make a monetary donation. Just write socks and mittens on the memo line and someone will shop for you. Please have donations in by Dec. 6th. Thank you for supporting the kids in the neighborhood.

CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

Our church food pantry is well stocked.. If you are in need of groceries see Pastor Uziel or Carol Risenhoover.

WE NEED MONTHLY READERS AND GREETERS: There will be a sign-up sheet in the front entrance for monthly liturgy readers and greeters. Please sign up as you are able. If you have any questions talk to Pastor Uziel.

WE NEED MONTHLY VOLUNTEER GREETERS FOR SECOND SERVICE: There will be a sign-up sheet in the front for monthly second service greeters. NO Spanish speaking needed.

NEW WEBSITE DOMAIN: We are transitioning to a new Website Domain next year. Beginning May 3rd, 2022, our church's website address will change from

centennialumcrockford.org

to

centennialumcrockford.com

If you have any questions, please call Pastor Uziel.

****PRAYER LIST****

At W. Willows: Mae Foster, Henrietta Day, Art Huenkemeier, Lee Magnuson.

At Home: Micaela Serrano, Cleo English, Carol Waxler.

Undergoing Treatment/Rehab: Keith Sodergren, Ken Dahlgren, John Paul, Maynard Wibom, Rev. Bettye Mixon, Tara & Ismael Arcenbia, Jerald Grady, Chuck & Kim Whitmore, Pat Nelson, Ellen Dean, David Russ, Reuben & Rosa Mendoza, Jennifer Martin, Forrest Nelson, Noreen Slade, Wayne Russ, Erica Kessler.

BIRTHDAYS

	12/3	Holly Brown	
11/28	Joseline John	12/3	Brenda Enderle
12/2	Cameron Kellermann		

Joys and Concerns

Forrest Nelson has been able to finally go home after several months. He has a long way to go, but it is so good to hear he is doing better. Please keep praying for him and his family.

Christ U Methodist Church has donated 23 Thanksgiving baskets for our Kid's Club and their families. They will be delivered this coming week. We thank them for their generous donation.

Heather McClandless (a former member of our church) is battling leukemia. Please keep her in your prayers.

Tara Arcenbia's daughter Dani is going into Chicago to see about getting help for her Crohn's disease. Hopefully there will be a medicine that will be able to control her problem. Please pray for her and her family.

We hope you will worship with us again.

You can call Pastor Uziel if you need any assistance, please contact him at 224.723.7003.

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