

MAKING THE CHANGE

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104

Rev. Uziel Hernandez Martinez, Pastor

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The Altar flowers are presented today by
Carol Byers in memory of Jim Hesselberth
and other loved ones

December 5, 2021

HACIENDO EL CAMBIO

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 5th, 2021 – 10:00am

Second Sunday of Advent: Year C

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING:

Erica Kessler

Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow
African-American Spiritual; arr. by Anna Laura Page

ADVENT MEDITATION – LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

-When Power Is Under Negotiation-

(Luke 3:1-6)

In the fifteenth year
During the reign
When he was governor
And he was ruler of that region

And he was in charge of that place
During the priesthood
Under the leadership

The Word of the Lord came

The word of God always comes in the year
During the reign
Under the leadership
During the priesthood
When that one ruled there
And this one was in charge here

It always comes in particular places,
When power is under negotiation –
When we don't know whether to trust
The people with power, or the power itself

In the fifteenth or twelfth or second year or month or season

Repentance is the order of the day, and we all need to repent

Because the word of the Lord comes to call us to repentance,
To make the crooked straight
The mountains low
The valleys high
And all of us look
For God's salvation

In the fifteenth year

The second month
The third day
This very moment

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (unison):

Redeeming Keeper of Promises, your messengers remind us that you are the source of peace, justice, mercy, and loving kindness. As we prepare for your coming in your Son Jesus, help us shine as the radiant body of Christ, that we may be light for a gloomy, broken world. AMEN.

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

A messenger calls, "Prepare the way of the Holy One. Make a pathway for God straight into your hearts."

Blessed be the Holy One, who brings light into the deepest shadows.

A prophet proclaims, "Make way in the desert for the coming of God to live in our midst."

Blessed be the Holy One, who comes to live among us in peace.

Are you ready for the coming Day of God?

Let us worship the one who calls us into light.

***OPENING HYMN:**

He Has Made Me Glad

TFWS 2270 (x2)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):

God of light and love, your prophets call us to prepare for your coming, and to open our hearts to all who seek compassion and relief.

Too often, we close our ears to cries of pain, closing ourselves off from the healing power of kindness and love.

Your messengers call us to straighten the paths of all who might stumble, and to make a way in the wilderness, where there seems to be no way at all.

Too often, we close our eyes to the sight of those in need, fearing that justice for others will bring loss to ourselves.

You call us to bring light into the shadowy places, and to be messengers of your coming into a world of death and despair.

Forgive us when we are unwilling to bear your light, when we close off the pathways of our hearts to those who are in need of your good news.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the good news:

When we cannot find our way through the gloom, God gives light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. AMEN.

HYMN OF WORSHIP:

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

OFFERING PRAYER (in Unison):

Immanuel, God with us, in gratitude for the mercy you showed our ancestors in faith, and in thanksgiving for your holy covenant with all your people, we offer you these gifts and offerings. 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:

PHILIPPIANS 1:3 – 11

A scripture from Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians. . .

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Leader: The Word of God
People: Thanks be to God

*GOSPEL LESSON:

LUKE 3:1 – 6

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter, beginning with the 1st verse. . .

³ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God's salvation."

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

SERMON:

"Begin with the End in Mind"
Pastor Uziel Hernández Martínez

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good, and joyful thing
always and everywhere to give our thanks to you,
who sent the prophet Malachi
to announce your coming reign,
the priest Zechariah
to remind us of your tender mercy,
and John the Baptist
to proclaim your coming among us in Jesus.
You promise to give light to all who are in despair,
and to guide our feet on the way of peace.

And so, with your creatures on earth
and all the heavenly chorus,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ,
whose birth in our hearts we prepare
with hope and anticipation,
and for whose life, passion, death, and resurrection
we give thanks beyond measure.

On the night in which he gave himself up,
Jesus took bread, broke it, saying:
"Take, eat, all of you.
This is my body, broken for you.
Whenever you eat it,
do so in remembrance of me."
After supper, he took the cup, saying:
"This is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for the healing of the world.

Whenever you drink it,
do so in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts
in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be the body of Christ
to a world that sits too often in gloom and fear.
Creator of all, Light of the world, Spirit of truth,
you are the one God to whom we offer our praise
and our thanks.

AMEN.

***HYMN;** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling UMH 384 (vss,1,2,4)

***BENEDICTION:**

As we await the coming of the Promised One, may your love and knowledge and insight overflow,
that you may live in peace and harmony with all beings for the glory and praise of God. **AMEN.**

GOING FORTH:

Erica Kessler

Joseph, O Dear Joseph, Mine
14th Century German Carol

CREDITS:

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Pastor: Rev. Uziel Hernández Martínez

Liturgists: CMUMC ministers

Pianist: Erica Kessler

Bulletin: Lora Doll

Social Media: Dulce Maciel

Announcements

December 5th 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.

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 Arencibia, 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

12/5 Carol Byers

12/10 Mario Solis

Joys and Concerns

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.

centennial.pastor@gmail.com



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