

Joy all around  
Alegria por todos los lados

**Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church**

1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104

Rev. Uziel Hernandez Martinez, Pastor

815-397-2771

[centennialumc.rockford@gmail.com](mailto:centennialumc.rockford@gmail.com)

[www.centennialumcrockford.org](http://www.centennialumcrockford.org)

**December 12, 2021**

# CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 12th, 2021 – 10:00am

Third Sunday of Advent: Year C

\*Please stand as you are able.

## GATHERING:

Erica Kessler

### Three Old Carols

Pat-a-Pan, *French 18th Cent.*

Sing We Now Of Christmas, *French 15th Cent.*

Fum Fum Fum, *Spanish 16th Cent.*

## ADVENT MEDITATION - LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival. (Zephaniah 3:17-18)

Yet ours is an upside-down victory.

In those days and at that time

I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;  
and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jeremiah 33:15)

Ours is a story of power in humility.

For God has ordered that every high mountain  
and the everlasting hills be made low  
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. (Baruch 5:7)

Ours is a story of strength in vulnerability.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure,

for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace. (Micah 5:4-5)

Ours is a story of a baby deemed king,  
of a carpenter's son praying alone,  
of a Roman execution.

The Lord, our God, is in our midst.

May we have eyes to see and ears to hear.

Amen.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING PRAYER (unison):

**God of our salvation, you bring victory to the righteous and comfort to the outcast. As we come before you this day, lighten our hearts with laughter and loosen our tongues to sing your praise. For you alone are the source of our hope; you alone are the fountain of our joy. Be with us now and always. AMEN.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Let all who love God rejoice.

**Let all who thirst for justice draw water from the well of God's salvation.**

Let all who long for Christ sing for joy.

**Let all who hunger for righteousness return home to the living God.**

Let all who seek the Spirit shout aloud.

**Let all who yearn for mercy fall on their knees before the throne of grace.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:**

Sanctuary

TFWS 2164 (x2)

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):**

**It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

*Moment of Silence*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

The messenger has been sent to you, proclaiming that there is One who is Coming who will heal and lead you. Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you. **AMEN.**

**HYMN OF WORSHIP:**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

UMH 185 (vss.1,2,3)

**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:**

Erica Kessler

In The Bleak Midwinter  
*By Christina Rossetti and Gustav Holst*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER (in Unison):**

**Generous God, the bounty of your love overflows into every aspect of our lives. May the gifts we bring before you this day be a sign of our commitment to share our love with those in need. May the offerings we place upon your Lord’s table symbolize our trust in your power to heal the world through the works of our hands and the ministries of your church. In Christ’s name, we pray. 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 4:4 – 7

*A scripture from Apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippians. . .*

**4** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Leader: The Word of God

**People: Thanks be to God**

**\*GOSPEL LESSON:**

LUKE 3:7 – 18

*Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter, beginning with the 7th verse. . .*

**7** John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **8** Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. **9** The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

**10** “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. **11** John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” **12** Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” **13** “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. **14** Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

**15** The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

**16** John answered them all, “I baptize you with[a] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. **17** His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” **18** And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

**People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ!**

**SERMON:**

“The Lord’s Bright Blessing”  
Pastor Uziel Hernández Martínez

**\*CLOSING HYMN;**

To God Be the Glory

UMH 98

**\*BENEDICTION:**

Go with the joy of the Lord on your lips.  
Go with the peace of Christ in your hearts.  
Go with the strength of the Holy Spirit  
in every step you take.  
Go with God.

**AMEN.**

**GOING FORTH:**

Pastorale, from The Christmas Concerto  
*By Arcangelo Corelli, arr. by Denes Agay*

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

December 12, 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.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING** Monday December 13th 7:00 pm via ZOOM

## **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**

	12/14	Reuben Mendoza	
12/13	Cleo English	12/15	Julie John
12/13	Jane Hobblitt Stein	12/15	Debbie Kobishka

## **Joys and Concerns**

**Terrica (one of Dave's kids)** was not feeling good and was taken to the ER. Please keep her in your prayers.

**Dave Holland's son's father-in-law Tim** passed away. Please keep their families in your prayers.

**Connie Brown's brother, Tim** is in the hospital and was diagnosed with 4th stage lung cancer. Please keep Connie, her brother and their families in your prayers.

**Pam Sanders niece Katie is going to be having a bone marrow biopsy this coming Thursday. She needs our prayers.**

**Keith Sodergren** has a hospital bed that was placed in the living room so it will be easier for him to be helped into the sunroom. He is also on oxygen which is helping him. Please continue to keep Keith and his family in your prayers.

**Rueben Mendoza** had his second surgery a couple of weeks ago and had a checkup. He is doing very well. What a blessing as this problem has been going on for a year. Please keep Rueben and Rosa in your prayers.

**Cami Reese** (a friend and co-worker of Bev & Sharon) asked for prayers for 14 year old **Aiden Doner**. He is in the hospital fighting for his life. He has been back on chemo for many months and is now bleeding from his lungs. Please pray for him for comfort and also for healing.

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](mailto:centennial.pastor@gmail.com)



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