

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

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*A moment of
reflection
Un momento de Reflexion*

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December 26, 2021

The Beautiful Poinsettias are presented by:

(listed on back of bulletin)

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
December 26th, 2021 – 10:00am – In-Person and on ZOOM, Facebook & YouTube
Service of Lessons and Carols: Year C

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING MUSIC:

Erica Kessler

A Virgin Unspotted
Traditional English Carol

CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING:

Reader 1:

We light the first Advent Candle: the candle of watching and waiting for we have searched and waited for our Savior to come to us.

Reader 2:

We light the second Advent Candle: the candle of preparation as we have prepared our hearts to receive the Savior.

Reader 3:

We light the third Advent Candle: the candle of beholding and believing because we have seen the mighty power and love of God in our lives.

Reader 4:

We light the fourth Advent Candle: the candle of rejoicing because we have been blessed with the good news of God's love for all God's people!

ALL:

Now the time is near! The One who will save us, brings God's light into our world. We light this Christ Candle in celebration of God's most precious gift to us - our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison):

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, For ever and ever. AMEN.

***CAROL:**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 40:1 –8

*To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news:
God is coming back, and bringing the exiles home!...*

⁴⁰ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her

that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

CAROL:

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

SECOND LESSON:

JEREMIAH 23:5 –6

*The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch,
a just king who is yet to come. . .*

⁵ "The days are coming," declares the Lord,
"when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.

⁶ In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:
The Lord Our Righteous Savior.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

CAROL:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH 211, stanzas 1–4

THIRD LESSON:

ZECHARIAH 9:9 –10

To a nation grown weary of war and weapons, God promises a king who will establish a reign of peace.

⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,
and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL:

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218

FOURTH LESSON:

LUKE 1:26 –35

*The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary
that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end. . .*

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: Joy to the World UMH 246 (1,2,4)

FIFTH LESSON:

LUKE 2:1-7

The Holy Family receives the coming of the Saviour. He is wrapped in clothes and placed in away in manger. . .

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: Away in a Manger UMH 217

SIXTH LESSON:

LUKE 2:15-20

Shepherds in the field hear the angelic announcement. Amid a dark night, they hurried off to find the infant Christ and the Holy Family. The Eternal Light has come to the world. . .

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the LORD has told us about." ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CAROL: What Child is This UMH 219

REFLECTION: Dave Holland

CAROL: Go, tell it on the Mountain UMH 251

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC: Erica Kessler

The Virgin's Lullaby
by Dudley Buck

DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow UMH 94

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison):**

God of miracles, when Jesus was born, angels, shepherds, sages, and even animals rejoiced and gave thanks. Today, we delight in our chance to join the Christmas party of gratitude. Thank you for naming us your beloved children. We offer you our hearts, our deeds, and our entire lives in thanksgiving for the gift of Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray.

AMEN.

SEVENTH LESSON:

JOHN 1:1-5

The Word has become Flesh and lives among humanity. . .

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

***CANDLELIGHT HYMN:**

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239

***BENEDICTION:**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always.

AMEN

GOING FORTH:

Erica Kessler

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

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Pastor: Rev. Uziel Hernández Martínez

Liturgists: CMUMC ministers

Pianist: Erica Kessler

Social Media: Dulce Maciel

Bulletin: Lora Doll

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 or -
centennialumc.pastor@gmail.com

****PRAYER LIST****

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

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

Undergoing Treatment/Rehab: 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

12/30 Jeanine Homan

12/31 Drake Brown

12/31 Marissa Saucedo

12/31 Melissa Saucedo

1/1 Matthew Gomez

Announcements

December 26, 2021

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: on break until January 5th, 2022.

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 5pm.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 26TH, 2021: Pastor Uziel is on vacation. Dave Holland is the guest preacher.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY CHIMES: Chimes items due December 26th

AD COUNCIL MEETING: Thursday, January 6th, 2022. On ZOOM at 7pm.

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.

Joys and Concerns

Maggie Berkheimer (Joyce Russ' sister in law) had a stroke that affected her arm. She had returned home. Please keep her and her family and Joyce in your prayers.

Pastor Keith Kelsey Powell lost a friend Kan Prasseher to covid-19. Please pray for Kan's family and Pastor Keith.

Jennifer Berry (Carol Risenhoover's daughter) has contracted covid-19. Please keep Jennifer and her family and Carol in your prayers.

Linda Gentry's sister Pam had a stroke a few weeks ago that has paralyzed her right side. Pam and her family and Jim and Linda need our prayers.

Connie Brown's son Bob has contracted covid-19. Please pray for their families.



Poinsettias presented by

Lori Doll	Remenbering Grandparents Allen & Margaret Robb Henry & Viola Doll	Art Huenkenmeier	In appreciation of family & Centennial
Marje Doll	Remembering Harry & Linda	Carol Risenhoover	In memory of parents
Linda & Jim Gentry	In celebration of Brenda & Rob	Sharon Sodergren & Bev Dahlgren	In memory of parents
Pastor Judith Kelsey-Powell	In memory of parents & in celebration of daughter Ana's graduation from Yale Divinity School	Dougal & Cindy Whitmer	In celebration of Harvie Lee
Pastor Uziel Hernandez Martinez	In appreciation of my mother, Francisca Martinez Miguel & of my mother-in-law, Janet Cabrera Barahona	Chuck & Kim Whitmore	In memory of loved ones
		Maynard & Marlene Wibom	In appreciation of Centennial