

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104

Rev. Uziel Hernandez Martinez, Pastor

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**IT TAKES
TIME TO
BLOOM.**

**SE TOMA TIEMPO
PARA FLORECER.**

March 27, 2022

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 27th, 2022 – 10:00am - Fourth Sunday in Lent - Year C

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING MUSIC:

Erica Kessler

I Will Arise And Go To Jesus
from William Walker's Southern Harmony
arr. by Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER(Unison)

Merciful God, you seek the lost sheep of your pasture; you call out to all who have strayed. As the father welcomed the prodigal son home, receive us back into your loving arms. Your steadfast love, O God, knows no bounds. Your loving embrace is always there for us. Be with us in our time of worship, that we may feel your presence and know that you are our true home. AMEN

CALL TO WORSHIP

Like a loving Father, God offers us freedom to choose our own path.

In God's freedom, we are a new creation.

Like a merciful Mother, God offers us compassion when we lose our way.

In God's mercy, we are a new creation.

Like a forgiving Parent, God welcomes us home with open arms.

In God's embrace, we are a new creation.

Come! Let us worship the one who makes all things new.

*OPENING HYMN:

We Gather Here in Jesus Name

TFWS 2269

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In your love, O God, we are never lost. In your care, O Christ, we are ever found. Help us feel this truth in our very bones, for we are often far from home, unsure of how to return. Teach our shut-up hearts to embrace your hope. Teach our shriveled souls to cry out to you. For we long to taste the glory of your heavenly banquet, and we yearn to be held in your arms as beloved children. AMEN.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hold fast to these words of assurance: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away!"
In Christ, we are reconciled indeed, for we have found our true home.

HYMN OF WORSHIP:

Now Thank We All Our God

UMH 102

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 MUSIC:

Erica Kessler

He Shall Feed His Flock
George Frederic Handel
arr. by Denes Agay

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (UNISON):

God of overflowing abundance, you bless the earth and it brings forth food. We, who have been given so much, rejoice in our ability to aid those who are in need. As we present our offerings this day, bless these gifts, the bounty of this good land, that they may reach those who need it most. May we, who call ourselves Christ's disciples, continue to give freely of our worldly riches, just as Christ gave freely of his heavenly riches. 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

Psalm 32

A reading from Psalm...

- ¹ Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
- ² Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- ³ When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.[b]

- 5** Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the Lord."
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.
- 6** Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.
- 7** You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.
- 8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
- 9** Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.
- 10** Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the Lord's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.
- 11** Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse...

- 15** Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."
- 3** Then Jesus told them this parable:
- 11** Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.
- 13** "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. **14** After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. **16** He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.
- 17** "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18** I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' **20** So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.
- 21** "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- 22** "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

"Rolling Away Our Disgrace"

Pastor Uziel Hernández Martínez

*CLOSING HYMN:

All Who Hunger

TFWS 2126

*BENEDICTION:

In Christ, we are a new creation.

In Christ, we are made anew.

In Christ, the lost are found,

In Christ, we find our true home.

In Christ, those who were dead find new life.

In Christ, those who drank bitter dregs are invited to God's heavenly banquet.

In Christ, we reside with the saints.

GOING FORTH:

Once To Every Man and Nation

Welsh Hymn Tune

arr. by Mark Ellsworth

Erica Kessler

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Liturgists: CMUMC ministers

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Announcements March 27th, 2022

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

Wednesdays

1st Bible Study:

- with Pastor Judith in English, 12pm. On ZOOM.
- Studying the Book of Exodus.

2nd Bible Study:

- Wednesdays
- With Pastor Uziel in Spanish, 7pm. On ZOOM and Facebook.

GUEST PREACHER: Next Week, April 3rd, 2022. We will have Pastor Auderine Rochet with us. She will be visiting and preaching in both services. We will have a greet and meet after both services. This is part of our pastoral transition process. Please come and greet Pastor Auderine.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please send any new announcements to the church office email centennialumc.rockford@gmail.com to have it posted on our Sunday bulletin. Preferable two weeks prior or the Thursday before Sunday.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday April, 28th at 7:00pm by Zoom. We will be talking about Easter season.

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.

Get to Know Me

*This is a new feature highlighting some of our older members
that may or may not be able to attend services.*



Ellen Dean and her husband, Dudley, had just moved to Rockford and were looking for a church to join. After visiting several Methodist churches that they didn't feel were right for them, they were invited to visit Centennial. At Centennial they were warmly welcomed and asked to join choir and other activities.

Ellen has been active and served in many capacities at Centennial. Rev. Shepard got her involved in Annual Conference, in which she has participated in for many years. Ellen feels Conference committees have great value. When participating in these committees she was able to bring back ideas for new programs for Centennial members. She also recalls teaching Sunday school to young adults. A highlight for her was when 6th and 7th graders went out and interviewed senior citizens. The kids made connections that benefited both groups. Ellen also originated the Chimes, Centennial's newsletter.

Ellen has served on many committees over the years, and was for a long time, part of the Joyful Noise class. She now resides at Evergreen Independent Living. She stays busy with making calls for church, crocheting baby bonnets for Swedish American, and gloves and hats for kids at Constance Lane. Ellen says visitors are welcome, just call first.

We are very grateful for Ellen and her many years of service to Centennial. We wish her well.

****PRAYER LIST****

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

At Home: Micaela Serrano, Cleo English, Carol Waxler, Ellen Dean, Pat Nelson.

Undergoing Treatment/Rehab: Ken Dahlgren, John Paul, Maynard Wibom, Rev. Bettye Mixon, Tara & Ismael Arencibia, Jerald & Sheila Grady, Chuck & Kim Whitmore, David Russ, Reuben & Rosa Mendoza, Jennifer Martin, Forrest Nelson, Noreen Slade, Wayne Russ, Brian Clinkenbeard.

BIRTHDAYS

3/27 Ellen M Dean

3/27 Cynthia Garza

3/30 Matthew Slade

3/31 Tia Pody

4/1 Drew Brown

4/1 Douglas Herriott

Joys and Concerns

Dave Holland is asking for prayers for his grandson Isiahs as he is fighting his fourth virus infection.

Mickey Wibom needs our prayers as he is going though therapy after he had a fall.

Pastor Uziel thanked everyone that has been working with him to get the internet and sound system updated for our church services.

Ellen Dean is asking for prayers for the family of Tom Blade as he has passed away. He is the uncle of Tammy Clinkenbeard. Brian Clinkenbeard, the father of two of Ellen's grandchildren is in the hospital again. His cancer has spread to his brain. Please keep Brian and his family in your prayers.

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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