

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104

Rev. Auderine Rochet, Pastor

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April 30, 2023

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 30, 2023 – 10:00am
Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year A

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING MUSIC:

Erica Kessler

Waymaker
by Osinachi Okoro

INTROIT:

He is Exalted

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS

God of goodness and mercy, follow me all my days! Source of grace and compassion, flow from me all my days!

OPENING PRAYER:

Risen Savior, Reliable Shepherd, we hear your voice calling us to follow.

We remember our ancient brothers and sisters who gathered in prayer and praise. Today, we too gather in prayer and praise. Enliven us with your resurrection power—a power that frees us from despair. Enliven us with your abundant life. May your living power flow through us in all we are and do! Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Hear Jesus's great truth: I am the gate for the sheep!

We recognize this voice. We've heard these words before.

Come in! You belong here! You are safe and cared for here!

We recognize the voice of our shepherd.

Follow and find green pastures and still waters!

We hear his voice.

I come to give life and give it abundantly.

Come one, come all!

*OPENING HYMN:

I Come With Joy

UMH 617 (vss. 1,2,5)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Loving Savior, Shepherd with the voice we know, be with us when we stray. For we often hear the voices of strangers and follow them to dry pastures and dark valleys. We forget your voice of love and begin to feel small and lost. We fear that we will not have enough to go on, much less have a surplus to offer others. And yet you know us by heart and by name. Call us once again. Restore our souls. Walk ahead of us on the right paths, and we will follow you. Remembering your voice, we pray. Amen.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus is our gate.

We will enter and be saved.

Jesus is our shepherd.

We will walk upon his paths.

Jesus restores our souls,

and makes us whole.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

HYMN OF WORSHIP

Together We Serve

TFWS 2175 (vss. 1,2,4)

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

Some of the earliest memories of the church record acts of generosity, of meeting the needs of any and all. The church earned the goodwill of everyone who witnessed and experienced this gladness. Let us give with open hearts, as our ancient brothers and sisters did.

OFFERTORY:

Erica Kessler

Poor Little Jesus
African-American Spiritual
arr. by The Weavers

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in Unison):

God of Abundant Life, Host of our Table, we devote ourselves and these gifts to your vision of a community that meets the needs of any and all. We give our gifts of money and work, of prayer and praise, of presence and purpose to our friends and neighbors. Bless our offering, that it may meet the needs, both small and large, of your great and generous blessings. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Dave Holland

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

BIBLE LESSON:

Acts 2:42-47 and 1 Peter 2:19-25

A reading from the book of Acts and the First Epistle of Peter...

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL SPEAKER - SERMON TIME:

"The Gift of Glad and Generous Hearts"
David Jones, CROP Hunger Walk coordinator

*CLOSING HYMN:

Walk With Me

TFWS 2242 (vss. 1,3,4)

*BENEDICTION:

Everyone was struck with awe by the signs and wonders of the early church.

This week, let's show signs and wonders of our church.

The resurrection power of Jesus Christ, Shepherd of the Church, is upon us.

Jesus came that all may have life and have it abundantly!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives!

May goodness and mercy flow from us all the days of our lives! Amen.

GOING FORTH:

Erica Kessler

Because He Lives
by Bill and Gloria Gaither

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Pastor: Rev. Auderine Rochet

Liturgists: CMUMC ministers

Pianist: Erica Kessler

Bulletin: Lora Doll

Social Media: Dulce Maciel

Power Point: Janie Kellermann

Announcements

April 30, 2023

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

Wednesdays

1st Bible Study:

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

2nd Bible Study: will resume on Wednesdays at 6:00pm date to be announced.

- Wednesdays
- With Pastor Audrey in Spanish, 6:00 pm. In person at the church.

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.

ALTAR FLOWER CHART: We have a new flower chart, please select a date to provide flowers if you would like to. The arrangements will be between \$25-30 make your check to Centennial UMC and put flowers in the memo line.

Good Samaritan Fund. Our Good Samaritan Fund is low. Money in this fund is used to help church members with financial assistance for housing, food and medical bills. If you would like to donate to boost this fund, please put your check in the collection plate. Make sure you put Good Samaritan Fund on the memo line. Your consideration to contribute to this fund is very much appreciated.

Pentecost Sunday is May 28, 2023. Please wear red on that Sunday in celebration of Pentecost.

Taste of Centennial

One of the things that was lost in the Pandemic was the Taste of Centennial. We are exploring the feasibility of bringing the event back. Members sharing their varied ethnic and cultural backgrounds through food is an important part of this event but there are more roles to fill to make this possible. In order to bring this back we would need commitments from other groups to help with set up, clean up, assistance to those attending with directions, seating and beverages for example.

Without the additional support the Taste of Centennial will not be possible. There are sign-up sheets at the church office counter. If you are interested in the possibility of the event returning and helping with any of the tasks needed to be successful, contact: Milka Rivera at 1(815)397-2771

The worship team for the Spanish service has practice Saturdays at 1:00pm.

Volunteers needed to help with the children's ministry. Assist Dave during Sunday School. We need volunteers for Sundays.

****PRAYER LIST****

At W. Willows: Art Huenkemeier.

At Home: Carol Risenhoover, Carol Waxler, Pat Nelson, Aida DeJesus.

Undergoing Treatment/Rehab: Ken Dahlgren, John Paul, Tara & Ismael Arencibia, Chuck & Kim Whitmore, Pat Nelson, David Russ, Reuben & Rosa Mendoza, Jennifer Martin, Forrest Nelson, Jeff Palmer, Pastor Judith, Milka Rivera, Linda Gentry.

BIRTHDAYS

5/2 Mark Dean

5/2 David Jacobson

5/2 Leslie LeBeau

5/4 Audrey Brown

Joys and Concerns

- **Dave Holland** requests prayers for the family of Bret Fielder. Bret was killed on Friday in Houston. He was 26 years old. Let us pray for this family asking the Lord to bring comfort and peace during this difficult time.
- **Chuck Whitmore announced that Kim Whitmore** had to go back to Madison UMW because she developed a pocket of fluid where she had her surgery and it needed to be opened up to drain it away. Please keep Kim and Chuck in your prayers during this time.
- **Grace Palmer** requests prayers for her family in Sudan. Her country is facing many problems and they are fighting which brings a lot of uncertainty as to what will happen. She also requested prayers because her uncle has passed.
- **Pam Sanders** requested we lift up in prayer four of her colleagues who are going through very difficult situations for which they need prayers.
- **Nathaniel Rivera** gives thanks to God for passing his math test which was very hard for him.
- **Ruben Mendoza** requests prayers for his wife Rosa who is has a lot of pain and is not feeling well.
- **Milka Rivera** gives thanks for her job.
- **Pastor Audrey** announced that it is no longer mandatory to wear a mask to join us for our church services. It is up to your discretion as to whether or not one is worn.

We hope you will worship with us again.

You can call Pastor Audrey if you need any assistance, please contact her at 630.670.3580.

Pastor.audrey@ymail.com



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