

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104

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May 14, 2023

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 14, 2023 – 10:00am

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Mothers Day - Year A

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING MUSIC:

Erica Kessler

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty
tune from the Stralsund Gesängbuch 1665
arr. by Cindy Berry

INTROIT:

Come, Now is the time to Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS

God is the creator of all, not just those who claim to be the people of God. God calls and welcomes all of humanity into community. We, who claim our love for Christ, are invited to extend extravagant welcome in both word and action to all of God's children everywhere.

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving God, we know your love because we have mothers. We thank you for the mothers who carried us in their wombs, nourishing, protecting, and bringing us into the world. We thank the mothers who did not give birth to us, yet loved us just the same. With gratitude we remember their words of encouragement when we have felt unsure or afraid; we thank you for their kindness when the world has treated us unkindly; we thank you for their soft, comforting arms and the gentle way they kissed away our tears; we thank you that they protected us with the fierceness of a lioness protecting her cubs; we thank you for the times when they corrected us rather than letting us continue down wrong paths. Help us to live so that their investment in us might not be in vain. We honor our mothers with lives of service to you in the name of the Risen Christ, for it is in his Name we pray. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Today we celebrate our mothers, grandmothers, aunties, and all the women who have loved us.

Thank you, God, for giving us mothers.

We remember with deep gratitude all the ways they demonstrated their love for us.

Sometimes we did not understand them, but we know that God understood.

We take time to remember our mothers because a mother's love is most like God's love.

For their tears, for their hugs, for their wisdom, for their unfailing trust in our abilities, we give thanks today.

*OPENING HYMN:

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

UMH 304

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Spirit of Truth, speak truth to us, even when we wish to hide from the truth of our mistaken ways. Unveil our sins and shortcomings, that we might be clothed with your mercy and covered with your grace. In gratitude and love, we pray. Amen.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Saved by love and covered in grace, we are forgiven and reconciled with God.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

On this day we gather with eager hearts, hungry for your Word, yearning for the joy you promise in love. O God, together we hold a vision of your kingdom, a people of prayer and open hearts, a loving Body of Christ eager to learn and eager to share. You bless us, O God, and shine upon us with the mercy of your salvation. And your Good Earth has yielded its increase through those who have brought us great blessing. On this day of celebrating your love, we lift to you those who have given us life, those who have loved us, those who have blessed us, and those who have taught us, our mothers. May your blessing pour out upon the woman who gave us birth, and those beautiful, strong women of faith who have been mothers to us along our journey.

We praise you, O God, for your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true. Where we have been so blessed, we give our grateful praise, for you have provided loving hands that have worked so hard in raising us, cared enough to correct us, blessed us in ways we cannot have fully known as children. We call forth your compassion upon every mother who has unknowingly caused pain and suffering. And so, we lift to you our mothers, so imperfect, also so wounded by this world.

We bless our mothers on this day, no matter what they have done or left undone. We do this because we believe in your healing, and we believe in your love and we believe that you love every mother, good or bad; and we stand together with all mothers in solidarity, for we all are in need of your grace. Where we have failed because we did not know better, help us to forgive ourselves. Where we have seen your face in any woman who has been to us a mother, in her face we have seen your light and your love and we give thanks -- for where they have loved, they have kept your word and blessed us.

We lift to you the heart of every mother who has watched her child die of hunger, every mother who had been a victim of abuse, every woman who stands in protest a world that massacres her children and renames them "collateral damage." We lift to you the prayer of every mother who has ever loved and lost. We lift to you our Mother Earth. We bring to you our Mother Church. We lift to you, O God, your mother's heart; and although we cannot fully express our gratitude, help each one of us to be your blessing of love, a blessing straight from your heart. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
CHIMES TRIO
Erica Kessler
Jan Rungren
Janie Kellermann

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in Unison):

God of all creation, you offer us so many blessings. For creating us in your image and entrusting us to reveal your presence throughout the world, we thank you. Create blessings, even miracles, through the gifts we now bring, that others may sense your abiding presence and know your extravagant love. In gratitude and hope, 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")

SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 17:22-31

A reading from Acts...

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. ²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' ²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON:

"What Is My Purpose?"

Pastor Audrey Rochet

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, UMH 13-15

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING IN UNISON

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN:

Rejoice, the Lord is King

UMH 715 (vss.1,2,3)

*BENEDICTION:

Bring God's loving presence to the world. Be companions of kindness to everyone you meet. Go forth, trusting that our companion God goes with us, now and forevermore.

GOING FORTH:

Erica Kessler

The Lord's Prayer
music by Arnold Strals
arr. by Les Sands
as performed by Sister Janet Mead

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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

May 14, 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

Celebrating the Prairie North District ministry of DS Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer! The event will start on Sunday, May 21, at 3:00 pm with a worship service at Freeport: First UMC, 503 N. Lily Creek Road in Freeport, IL 61032. The service will be followed by a receiving line and refreshments.

Sunday June 25th we will have a special acknowledgment prayers for all graduates. Please complete a form for each graduate. The form copies will be in the church office. Please send photos to the church office email: Centennialumc.rockford@gmail.com. Forms and pictures are due by June 18th.

Anyone who has not been baptized and would like to be baptized please speak to Pastor Audrey.

184th Northern IL Annual Conference is Tuesday June 6 - Thursday June 8, 2023. Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 N Thoreau Dr, Schaumburg IL. Registration closes May 28. No on-site registration.

If you would like to share any of our ministry event photos on our social media page please send the pictures to our church email: Centennialumc.rockford@gmail.com.

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

5/15 Marjorie Doll

5/15 Isabella Doll Jaycox

5/15 Brian Harrington

5/15 Laura Johnson

5/15 Peter Orlando

5/18 Margaret Green

5/18 Jonathon Saucedo

5/20 Dalton Williams

Joys and Concerns

- 1. Lori Doll's cousin Trisha** is suffering from pancreatitis, gallstones, a possible heart attack plus other illness. Please keep her and her family in your prayers as she is suffering so much pain.
- 2. June 1, 2023 Ismael Arencibia** will be receiving his first SSI check from the government. It has been a long time coming so we are very happy for him and Tara.
- 3. Jesus, Ruben's brother in law and Rosa's brother** (from the second service), has been suffering from cancer for quite some time. He has now entered the hospital and is waiting to go home and be with his savior. Even though it is very sad there is also peace for him and his family.
- 4. Jolena (one of Dave's kids and a Sunday School teacher for the church's kids)** is getting a 95% scholarship for track and field with Western University. We are so proud of her and what she has accomplished. Way to go Jolena.
- 5. Amanda Gustafson (Bev Dahlgren's granddaughter)** is going down state for shot putt and discus throwing. Congratulations Amanda.
- 6. Chuck Whitmore shared that Kim** is back home after being in the hospital due to a stroke. Paige (her daughter) saw that Kim was not looking well and thankfully they were able to get her to the hospital on time. Kim is home recovering. She has a long way to go and will need to go for therapy but she is home. We will pray for Kim's recovery. Please send her good thoughts and wishes. Prayers for Chuck and Paige as well.
- 7. Laquisha, Terrica's mom,** shared that Julian was officially adopted on Wednesday. He is very happy and the family is excited about it. Prayers are requested for the family since they have had a couple of tragedies. Bret Fielder's family is still struggling with his passing. Also, Tonisha is about to have a baby and has been stressing. Prayers for her and baby are requested. Prayers are also requested for her great-grandmother Bonara who had to be hospitalized for some unusual bleeding and had surgery done. She is home recovering. Laquisha's other grandmother Darlene also had to go to the hospital for unusual bleeding also. Laquisha requests prayers for all her family during this hard time.

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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