

# **Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church**

**1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104**

**Rev. Auderine Rochet, Pastor**

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**February 23, 2025**

# CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 23, 2025 – 10:00am  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY - YEAR C

\*Please stand as you are able.

## GATHERING MUSIC:

Erica Kessler

Morning Mood, from Peer Gynt Suite No. 1  
*by Edvard Grieg*

## INTROIT:

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CENTERING WORDS

Come into this place with a quiet heart. Be still before God and wait patiently, for the Lord is merciful.

## OPENING PRAYER (in Unison):

**Holy One, we come together to pause, pray, and praise. Be with us in this place, that we may touch your mercy. You provide for us; help us claim the power of your love for our lives. Help us to measure out grace, shaking it together with forgiveness and give them to others as you would have us do. Amen.**

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

In these uncertain times, we come together, searching for peace.

**We will be still before the Lord and wait patiently.**

We will open our hearts and minds, so that the Lord may show us mercy.

**When we trust the Lord, we can do good things and live with one another in peace and security.**

The Lord is our refuge in times of trouble. In God, we find forgiveness, mercy, and love.

**We will be still before the Lord and wait patiently.**

## \*OPENING HYMN:

Freely, Freely

UMH 389

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in Unison):

**Lord God, we come to you as imperfect creatures. Like Joseph's brothers, we're afraid of the past and are wary of the future. Yet, we yearn to feel your warm embrace. We long to touch your love and forgiveness, despite our shortcomings. Ease our journey toward mercy, as we grow in faith and love. Help us bless those who curse us and to pray for those who mistreat us. This is your direction for our lives and we will follow as we are able. Amen.**

*Moment of Silence*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's love and mercy are freely available to all. When we trust and delight in God's mercy, we are better able to show this mercy to those around us. Because God can do this, you can do it. We can do it together!

## HYMN OF WORSHIP

Pass It On

UMH 527

## 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

Holy God invites us to share in the work of mercy and love. As we bring our gifts of money, prayer, and labor, let us celebrate God's generosity by sharing our abundance with the church, our community, and the world. May these offerings go forth to do good without judgment or prejudice. Let us give with joy and gratitude.

## OFFERTORY:

Erica Kessler

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

CHIMES TRIO

Erica Kessler

Jan Rungren

Janie Kellermann

## \*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

## OFFERTORY PRAYER (in Unison):

**Holy God, we bring this offering of our money, prayer, and labor to advance your work of mercy. We willingly and joyfully celebrate your generosity, by sharing our abundance with the church, our community, and the world. Bless these gifts, as they go forth to do good in your world without judgment or prejudice. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Dave Holland

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

**\*GOSPEL LESSON:**

Luke 6:27-38

***Hear the Word of God in the Gospel according to Luke the 6th chapter, beginning with the 27th verse...***

**27** "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **29** If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. **30** Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. **31** Do to others as you would have them do to you. **32** "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. **34** And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. **35** But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. **37** "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. **38** Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

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

**SERMON:**

"The Harvest of Our Choices"  
Rev. Audrey Rochet

**\*CLOSING HYMN:**

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

UMH 427 (vss 1,3,5)

**\*BENEDICTION:**

May the peace of Christ follow you from this place. Remember the grace of Joseph, the mercy of God, and the love of Christ. Go beyond the Golden Rule and forgive first, love first, and give first. Measure out a good amount of grace, for you and others, and prepare a recipe for a merciful life.

**GOING FORTH:**

Erica Kessler

Bridge Over Troubled Waters  
by Paul Simon

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**Pastor:** Rev. Auderine Rochet

**Liturgists:** CMUMC ministers

**Worship Assistant:** Jose Gustavo Lopez Rodriguez

**Pianist:** Erica Kessler

**Bulletin:** Lora Doll

**Social Media:** Dulce Maciel

**Power Point:** Janie Kellermann



# Announcements

February 23, 2025

## **ADULT FAITH FORMATION:**

Wednesdays Bible Study:

- with Pastor Judith in English, 12pm. On ZOOM.

For information about the **Spanish Bible Study** day and time call Pastor Audrey at (630) 670-3580

**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.

If you are able, please consider donating to our Good Samaritan Fund this Christmas.

**Saturday Kids Club.** Every Saturday from 10:30am to 12:45 pm.

**Ash Wednesday** service March 5, 2025 at 12:15PM.

Holy Week 2025 service dates and times: **Palm Sunday**, April 13, 2025 @ 10AM; **Maundy Thursday Service**, April 17, 2025 @ 12:15PM; **Good Friday Service**, April 18, 2025 @ 12:115PM; **Easter Sunday** April 20, 2025 @10AM.

**Lent Soup Lunch Sundays** will be March 9 and April 13 (second Sunday of each month). The Lent Soup Lunch will be right after service.

Under the theme "Grace is Sufficient," clergy and elected lay members will gather for **Northern Illinois Conference's 186th session**, June 9-11, at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, IL.

**PRAIRIE NORTH MISSION TRIP TO TANZANIA**, DATES: AUGUST 11-25 Cost: \$2000 plus airfare (airfare will be about \$2000) Location: Global Mission Secondary School (Rev. Young-Seon Kim's site) in Tanzania. Activities: One week at the school leading a weeklong summer school (VBS style). Several days of travel (potentially including a safari trip). Ages: Those entering high school in 2025 and up (for youth, a parent must register together) Group size: 25 people. Team Leaders: District Lay Leader Kris Aves, Rev. T.K. Lee, and Rev. Dr. Hwa-Young Chong. Orientation meeting: Thursday, January 30, 7 p.m., via Zoom. Register for the Orientation meeting.

## **\*\*PRAYER LIST\*\***

**At W. Willows:** *Art Huenkemeier.*

**At Cherryvale Place:** *Carol Waxler.*

**At Home:** *Aida DeJesus, Marlene Wibom*

**Undergoing Treatment/Rehab:** *Ken Dahlgren, John Paul, Chuck & Kim Whitmore, Jennifer Martin, Pastor Judith, Milka Rivera, Connie Kim.*

### **BIRTHDAYS**

2/23	Ava Brown	2/25	Lindsey Jacobson Kinsey
2/23	Kim Whitmore	2/28	Kyle Brown
2/23	Paige Whitmore		
2/24	Mark Renfro		
2/24	Cindy Whitmer		

### **Joys and Concerns**

2/16/2025

**Carol Risenhoover** requests prayers for her family as they travel to Jamaica for her daughter's wedding. We pray for their safe travels and for Carol's peace of mind while they are away.

**Art Huenkemeier** is doing good but requests prayers for his health.

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](mailto:Pastor.audrey@ymail.com)



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