

Centennial Multicultural United Methodist Church

1503 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104

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April 6, 2025

CENTENNIAL MULTICULTURAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 6, 2025 – 10:00am
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - YEAR C

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING MUSIC:

Erica Kessler

Canon In D
by Johann Pachelbel

INTROIT:

How Great is Our God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS

God turns our tears to shouts of joy. Christ turns our weeping into laughter.

OPENING PRAYER (in Unison):

God of Love, you know our lives inside and out— the times of joy and laughter, and the times of loss and pain. You accompanied our ancestors of faith into exile and then journeyed with them back to the Promised Land. Jesus our sibling, you wept at the grave of Lazarus and then you celebrated at the dinner table with your resurrected friend. Be with us in times of plenty and times of want, and let us rejoice in your presence, for you see us and care for us. In the name of the Embracing Spirit, we pray. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

When we have been hurt and lost,

God brings us laughter and joy.

When our lives reach a dead end,

God opens a way forward.

When the rivers of our lives dry up,

God sends living water to quench our thirst.

God has done great things for us!

Let us rejoice!

*OPENING HYMN:

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

UMH 203 (vss 1,3,4)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in Unison):

Compassionate God, we do not always see the harvest of joy that we sow from our tears. Some losses take hold of us and we dwell in disappointment and grief. We don't always know what to think of you. We want to embrace new life, hope, and joy, but don't always know how. Bless us with your merciful help, that we might walk from our tombs like Lazarus, and sit by Jesus' side, eating and laughing. Help us kneel at Jesus' feet in love and commitment, as we celebrate our new lives. Come to us, healing God, and renew us and our love for you. Amen.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God promises to do great things for us. God comforts us and brings us with new life. Blessed are you, our God of compassion and hope. Amen.

HYMN OF WORSHIP

To God Be the Glory

UMH 98 (vss 1,2,3)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us share our gifts from our deep gratitude to Jesus, our savior, who answers our sorrow with joy and our tears with comfort. Let us share our gifts out of thanksgiving to God and out of love for the world.

OFFERTORY:

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)
by Matt Redman

Erica Kessler

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in Unison):

Dearest Friend, you chose a path of suffering to reach out to us in our suffering. Use us and our gifts to extend your love and comfort to reach people in places of loss and grief. Use us and our gifts this day to bring hope and compassion to those who weep, that they may know your miraculous power and your fullness of life. Use us and our gifts to bring shouts of joy to those who weep with bitter tears. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Dave Holland

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Psalm 126

A reading from Psalm...

- ¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.
- ² Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
- ³ The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.
- ⁴ Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev.
- ⁵ Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.
- ⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON:

"Fill Me With Laughter"

Rev. Audrey Rochet

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, UMH 13-15

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.

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:

Great is Thy Faithfulness

UMH 140 (vss 1,2,3)

*BENEDICTION:

Jesus left the house of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus on his way to Jerusalem.

Jesus left this house of comfort and friendship, knowing the deep love of his disciple Mary.

So let us leave this house of peace today, knowing we will meet Jesus in Jerusalem soon.

And while we travel from here to there, May we carry fragrant love for our brother, savior, and beloved friend. Amen.

GOING FORTH:

Erica Kessler

Cast Your Fate To The Wind
by Vince Guaraldi, 1960

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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

April 6, 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.

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 @ 12:15PM; **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.

We will meet for Bible Study on Tuesdays at noon (12:00pm) through ZOOM, as this seems to be the best day for everyone. Our first session will be on April 8th. We will study Embracing Life (Spring 2025), the Adult Bible Study book. It is available in Paperback or eBook format for \$15.99. You can order the book individually or all together. Pastor Audrey can place the order. Alternatively, Amazon and Christianbook.com offer the eBook version for \$9.99. The original group, now called Bible Explorers, will continue to meet on Wednesdays at noon. This class will be with Pastor Judith. Pastor Audrey will lead the Bible Study on Tuesdays.

Our Lenten Soup Lunch will be held on Sunday, April 13 (the second Sunday in April), immediately following the service. A sign-up sheet for soup or bread is available on the office counter.

We are invited to join with Beth Eden United Methodist Church for their Maundy Thursday Service on April 17 at 3:00pm. They will provide soup and salad. They ask that Centennial contribute desserts.

****PRAYER LIST****

At W. Willows: *Art Huenkemeier.*

At Cherryvale Place: *Carol Waxler.*

At Home: *Aida DeJesus.*

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

BIRTHDAYS

4/7 Benjamin Guerrero

4/7 Dougal Whitmer

4/9 Steven Enderle

4/9 Gabriel Ruiz

Joys and Concerns

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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