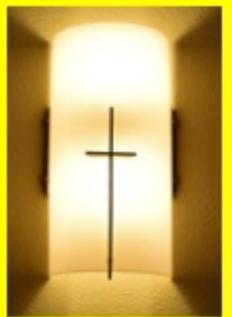




WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church

Actively Engaged in the World



December 29, 2020

*Responses to messages left at the church office will be delayed, please use email or text, where possible.
office@cpcwaco.org; pastorjudith@cpcwaco.org/7792002247; drodgers@cpcwaco.org*

Invitation to Inreach (Fellowship/Care)!



Click above to attend!

This Week:

Sanctuary Music

Reconvening Wednesday, January 6th--Epiphany!

Wednesday Morning Conversations and Prayers

in the Activity Center

8-9:15am

Chairs and distancing provided. Bring your own beverage and mask (required).

**As you spend time looking for an Epiphany, seek the Spirit's guiding.
How might we reach out to Christ in 2021?**

From the Finance Committee

To date, we have received Estimate of Giving cards from 23 families totaling \$216,280 which is about equal to last year's giving for those same families. This includes 11 families who increased their estimate of giving, 1 new family and the loss of 3 families who have moved from the Waco area. Based on prior year giving, we have estimated that we should receive approximately \$243,000 from congregational giving in 2021.

Of some concern though is, that in addition to the families who typically give to our Church without completing an Estimate of Giving card, we have 7 families who have not submitted a 2021 Estimate card who submitted a 2020 estimated card and those outstanding cards totaled \$13,620 in 2020. This raises the risk of budgeting our estimated congregational giving in 2021.

We will submit a budget to the Session asking for any adjustments and their final approval of the 2021 budget and the Session will present that approved budget at the Congregational meeting at the end of January. We would ask that if you plan to give to Central in 2021 and you have not submitted an Estimate of Giving card that you submit a card as soon as possible. Please remember that if you don't have a card that you can now submit the information online by going to the church's website and submitting it there, as some have done, or leave a phone message at the church office requesting a card.

We are grateful for everyone who has given in the past and also those who plan to give in the future and those who share their time and talents with our church.

Invitation to Upreach!

Creating Sacred Community Online

(Buttons for Zoom and Facebook can take you to our Sunday services

from the church webpage at www.cpcwaco.org)

Sunday Morning

9:10 AM Gathering/Fellowship

9:35 Genesis Class meets on Zoom; Check with Matt/Jay to see where the Men's Class will meet

10:25 Fellowship, Gathering of Joys and Concerns

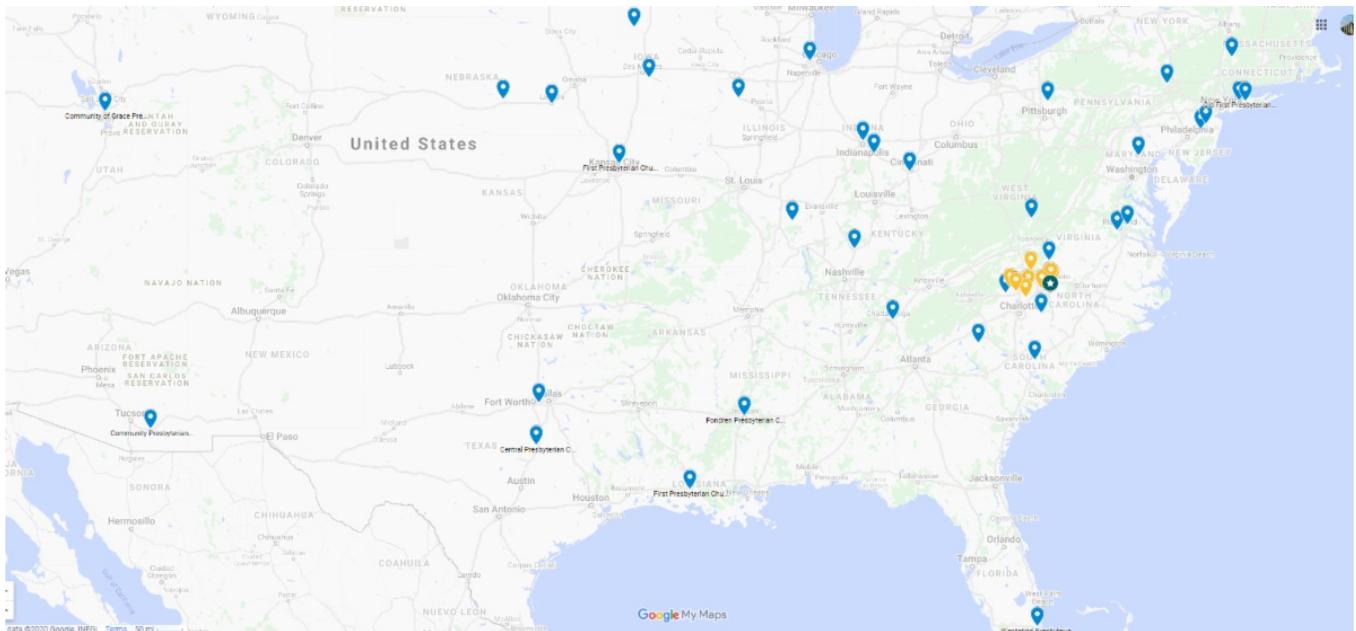
10:40 AM Prayer and Worship *with Communion (have your elements ready)*

Watch live from [Zoom](#) Or [Facebook](#)

(Links above will open our Zoom Tabernacle or the Facebook recording)

Order of Worship--January 3, 2021

Worship with these congregations all over the USA!



Virtual UKIRK Sunday
with UKIRK Greensboro, NC
Order of Worship with Communion
January 3, 2021

Welcome & Introduction to UKIRK Greensboro, NC

Prelude O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Prayer of the Day

Triune God of love and light, dwell among us as we gather to worship you. Shine your light into our life. Fill our hearts with your overflowing love. Accept our offering of prayer and praise. May we truly see you in this place. Amen.

Call to Worship

One: Praise God, the Creator, who made the heavens and the earth!

All: We celebrate in awe of God's beautiful creation.

One: Praise God, the Redeemer, who came in flesh to live among us!

All: We gather in awe of God's coming to us.

One: Praise God, the Spirit, who fills us with hope!

All: We follow in awe, sustained for the journey.

One: Praise God, one in three, and three in one!

All: We worship in awe of God's merciful love.

Opening Hymn "Joy to the World"

CONFESSION & RECONCILIATION

Invitation to Confession

Because we know that, unlike anyone else, God will not turn us away, we gather together to admit where we could do better. Let us now confess our sins together using the unison prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession (in UNISON) **Merciful God, through your child we have become your children. Too often we reject this identity; we turn away from the guidance you offer and the unconditional love you have for us. Rather than trusting you, we follow our ideas and plans. Instead of caring for all of your children, we seek our advancement instead. Forgive us, O God. Help us to trust and to return to your loving arms. Amen.**

A Promise of Forgiveness & Peace

The peace of Christ will also be shared in American Sign Language.

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

A Message for All Ages

"All the Colors of Christmas" by Matthew Paul Turner

Song of Praise "Love Has Come"

WORD & SACRAMENT

Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:2 CEB

10 I surely rejoice in the Lord; my heart is joyful because of my God, because he has clothed me with clothes of victory, wrapped me in a robe of righteousness like a bridegroom in a priestly crown, and like a bride adorned in jewelry 11As the earth puts out its growth, and as a garden grows its seeds, so the Lord God will grow righteousness and praise before all the nations 62 For Zion's sake I won't keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I won't sit still until her righteousness shines out like a light, and her salvation blazes like a torch. 2 Nations will see your righteousness, all kings your glory. You will be called by a new name, which the Lord's own mouth will determine.

One: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading Luke 2:22-38 CEB

22 When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (23 It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.") 24 They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. 25 A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. 28 Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, 29 "Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, 30 because my eyes have seen your salvation. 31 You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. 32 It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel." 33 His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. 34 Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too." 36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. 37 She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

One: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading John 1:1-18 CEB

1 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with GoD and the Word was God. 2 The Word was with God in the beginning. 3 Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being 4 through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light. 6 A man named John was sent from

God. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. 8 He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. 9 The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. 10 The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. 11 The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. 12 But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'" 16 From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; 17 as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

One: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Recognize, Re-engage, Respond" Rev. Katie Barrett Todd

Reflection "Choose That Which Is Choosing You" written by Renee Roederer

Affirmation of Faith adapted from The Scots Confession

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, Creator, Redeemer, and the Sustainer. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Spirit. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true humanity, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

COMMUNION LITURGY

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

Sharing the Meal (Prayer After Thanksgiving will be the Lord's Prayer)

THANKSGIVING & OFFERING

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debt as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Offertory The First Nowell

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, you love abundantly and provide generously. In gratitude, we give our gifts back to you. May these offerings - our time, money, energy, and prayers - nurture and support your children, and represent to all what a joy it is to be counted among your family. Use us, and these gifts, to your glory. Amen.

Sending Hymn "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

SERVICE NOTES

- * Liturgy adapted from Seasons of the Spriti, SeasonsFusion ACE Year B, published by Wood Lake Publishing
- * Prelude music is O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arranged by Marilyn Thompson, performed by Olivia Carratello
- * Postlude music is God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, arranged by Marilyn Thompson, performed by Olivia Carratello
- * All hymns performed by UKIRK Greensboro students and found in Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal
- * Scripture texts are from the CEB Bible
- * Children's message book All the Colors of Christmans by Matthew Paul Turner, used by permission
- * Reflection poem is Choose That Which is Choosing You by Renee Roederer

UKIRK Liturgists:

Emily Ann Wright
High Point, North Carolina UNCG, BFA Acting
First Presbyterian Church

Connor Button
Fayetteville, Arkansas Guilford College, Computer Science/Math
First United Presbyterian Church

Olivia Carratello
Greensboro, North Carolina UNCG, Exploratory/Music
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Ashley Wilkie
Greensboro, North Carolina UNCG, Elementary Education
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Ivice Kotangonda
Greensboro, North Carolina GTCC
Starmount Presbyterian Church

Grace Moffitt
Greensboro, North Carolina RCC, Photography
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Katilyn Watkins
Greensboro, North Carolina UNCG, Birth to Kindergarten Education,
Faith Presbyterian Church

Charlie Taylor
Whispering Pines, North Carolina SCC, Computer Engineering,
Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church

Cooper Creech
Greensboro, North Carolina UNCG, Kinesiology,
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Lane Wilson
Huntersville, North Carolina UNCG, Kinesiology,
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Matthew Allred
Whitsett, North Carolina UNCG, Business Finance,
Lamb's Chapel

Sara Feggeler
Pinehurst, North Carolina
UKIRK Resident Coordinator UNCG Alum, Mathematics & Chemistry,
Community Presbyterian Church

Rev. Katie Barrett Todd
Executive Director & Campus Minister
M.Div /MACE, Union Presbyterian Seminary

Rev. Katie Barrett Todd is the Executive Director and Campus Minister at UKIRK Greensboro, and an ordained Teaching Elder in the PC(USA). She holds an MDiv/MACE from Union Presbyterian Seminary. Katie enjoys writing and adapting curriculum resources for use in local congregations, and some of her work is regularly published on Storypath through Union Presbyterian Seminary. She has also been published with Chalice Press

for InsideOut, a camp/conference resource, as the writer for the younger youth age group; twice with Montreat Conference Center for the Small Group Leader Manual for Montreat Youth Conferences; and four times with Seasons of the Spirit: SeasonsFusion from Wood Lake Publishing. Katie has two young children, and her husband serves as a transitional pastor in Burlington, NC.

Prayer Concerns

- for Martha, who had a fall and hip surgery last week, to heal and recover (she is at Baylor Scott & White Rehab Center);
- David J., recovering from eye surgery
- for James and Josh, friends of Pastor Judith's, whose mother died by suicide this month;
- for family with COVID: Allison's sister in ICU in Temple, Groman's grandson recently diagnosed, Judith's uncle David, and for those recently exposed;
- for the family of Rosemary Alexander, who lost a long battle with Cancer last week;
- for the joy of celebrating God-with-us, Emmanuel at Christmas (and throughout the year);
- for our meal deliveries, deliverers, and other angels of God among us;
- for all our members, friends and family to stay safe, healthy and connected;
- for everyone born, a place at the table!



Celebrating Birthdays

Meghan Franks - January 15
David Fleuriet - January 17
Phil Oliver - January 17
Nancy Cagle - January 18
Wren Williams - January 18
Anne Stewart - January 18
Gwynn Range - January 19
Margaret Pauling - January 20
Rita Smotherman - January 28



**(We are missing many birthdays in our database; please let us know yours!
We need the year to enter the date in the database, but will never print it!)**

**The Weekly News is published each Tuesday and sent to members via email.
It is also mailed to members who do not have email or desire a printed copy.**