



The Service for the Lord's Day
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services
November 17, 2024

"United in Christ's love, we glorify God through worship, nurture, and service to all people."

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

Prelude *My Lord, What a Mornin'* arr. Hobby

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission - Thornwell

Choral Introit (11:00) *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* (stanza 1) LOBE DEN HERREN
Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

* Call to Worship

ONE: Whether we are sure of God's work in the world or still waiting for a sign,

MANY: Let us worship the Lord, encouraging one another in hope.

ONE: Whether we are confident in what the future will bring or carry more questions than answers,

MANY: Let us worship the Lord, strengthening one another in faith.

ONE: Together, let us worship the living God.

* Hymn No. 629 *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* ST. AGNES

Prayer of Confession

MANY: God of grace, all around us are wars, and rumors of wars, and we are afraid for ourselves and our world. We follow after false leaders and grasp for whatever security we can find. Forgive us, Lord, for we are quick to forget that all of life is in your hands. Renew our hope, increase our courage, and keep us watchful for the signs of your just and peaceful reign that is to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

ONE: Hear the good news! Our guilty hearts have been sprinkled clean, our bodies washed with pure water.

Live in peace, forgiven and freed.

MANY: Hear and believe this good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

* Congregational Response No. 581 *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

WELCOME

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a long-time member, we are blessed to have you with us.

As a congregation, we seek to live as people united in Jesus Christ. Our church consists of people of all ages and stages on faith's journey, from those new to faith to those who have honed their faith for decades. We consider this one of Unity's greatest gifts. We see ourselves as an ever-widening family with room for everyone. We tend to worship in some pretty traditional ways. We study the scriptures and seek to understand the teachings and actions of Jesus. We sing many of the same hymns our grandparents sang. Yet, in our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world.

We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning - a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper connection with the God who loves you! After the service, stick around for a few minutes. Introduce yourself to one of the pastors. If you cannot stay or are worshipping with us online, please visit our website. See if this is a place and a people that God is calling you to be a part of, a place and a people where you might invest yourself in the amazing work God is doing, a place and a people you just might call home.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Mark 13:1-8

Time with Children

Congregational Blessing

Go Now in Peace

Sleeth

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,
may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:19-25

Sermon

"Encourage One Another"

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

MANY: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

MANY: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

As we worship both at home and in the sanctuary, we pause in gratitude to God to prayerfully reflect on the response we make to God's amazing grace in Jesus Christ. Financial gifts can be shared online at <https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/give/now> through the mail, as the plates are passed, or in the mailbox in front of the Historic Sanctuary.



Offertory Anthem (8:45)

How Great Thou Art
Jim Boyd, soloist

Hine

(11:00)

My Song in the Night
Chancel Choir

arr. Wilberg

O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night,
come to us with thy tender love, my soul's delight,
unto thee O Lord in affliction I call,
my comfort by day and my song in the night.

O why should I wander an alien from thee,
or cry in the desert thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

* The Doxology No. 606 OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

* Hymn No. 744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* FESTAL SONG

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response (11:00) LOBE DEN HERREN
Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty (stanza 3)
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly for aye we adore him.

* Postlude *Postlude on "Lobe den Herren"* Dixon

* As you are able in body or spirit, please stand.

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DEACONS SERVING TODAY at the 8:45 a.m. service are Janet Bassford, Cathey Miller, and Cathy Schaefer; at the 11:00 a.m. service are Isabella Cardozo, Elizabeth Bowers, and John Hoffman.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are available at the Deacons desk in the Narthex of the Sanctuary.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, WORSHIP, GROW, AND SERVE

Worship

SANCTUARY WORSHIP IS LIVESTREAMED - Please note that as you join us for worship in the Sanctuary, there is a possibility that you will be seen on the online livestream. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know by contacting Dr. Matt Rich at the church office at 803-547-5543.

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES are welcome in worship. If you find that you need to leave the service to care for your child, Room M201 is open, and is connected to the sanctuary sound system. Ask an usher in the Narthex if you need directions.

NURSERY IS AVAILABLE during today's worship services in Room S104 for infants-18 months and S103 for toddlers/ preschoolers up through age 3. Both rooms are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary building. Our nursery is run by trained, paid staff with assistance from trained church volunteers. Age-appropriate Bible stories and activities are offered throughout the morning. Children may be dropped off up to 15 minutes prior to a worship service or may attend worship with you until the Children's Time, and then will be taken to nursery by our volunteers and staff. *If your child plans to leave the service following Children's Time, please complete a bright yellow Child Identification Sticker, found in the pew rack. Place it on your child's back. Please check "nursery" on the sticker and add a cell phone number in case of an emergency.*

Leading Worship this morning:

Dr. Matt Rich
Senior Pastor

Rev. Molly Spangler
Associate Pastor

Katherine Weller
Lay Worship Leader

Margaret Monroe
Director of Music

Acolyte:
8:45 a.m.

Avery Cameron

11:00 a.m.

Josephine Ryan

Children's Ministry Staff:

Kathryn McGregor
Director of Christian
Education

Nursery Caregivers:

Angie Benjamin
Carolyn Blair
Sylvia Coleman

Unity Presbyterian
Church

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www.UnityFortMill.org

Facebook:
[@UnityFortMill](https://www.facebook.com/UnityFortMill)

Instagram:
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YouTube:
[Unity Presbyterian Church
Fort Mill](https://www.youtube.com/UnityPresbyterianChurchFortMill)

CIW IS AVAILABLE during today's worship services. "Children in Worship" is a Montessori-based worship program for young children (those who turned 4 before September 1st, 2024, those who are Rising Kindergarten and 1st graders as well as those who have just completed 1st grade). They learn to worship in a way that corresponds to corporate worship yet addresses their needs as young children. Please bring your child with you to worship in the sanctuary and ***complete a Child Identification Sticker, found in the pew rack, and place it on your child's back. Check "CIW" on the sticker and add a cell phone number in case of an emergency.*** After the Children's Time, your child will be escorted to the CIW Room (M206) on the children's Sunday school wing.

Advent Save the Date: "Surprised by Hope"

December 1st at 10:00 a.m. - All-Church Advent Workshop
December 2nd at 5:30 p.m. - Tony Dehler Christmas Auction
December 8th at 4:30-6:30 p.m. - Congregational Caroling and Chili
December 10th at 7:00 p.m. - Festival of Carols
December 14th at 10:00 a.m. - Birthday Party for Jesus
December 15th at both morning worship services – Lessons and Carols
December 18th at 6:30 p.m. - God With Us: A Blue Christmas Worship Service
December 24th Christmas Eve services:
 11:00 a.m. - Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service
 4:00 p.m. - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service With Communion
 6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service With Communion
 11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service With Communion

All-Church Caroling Event

HERE WE GO A CAROLING! Join us for an all-church evening of caroling, chili, bonfires, and s'mores on **Sunday, December 8th, from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.** All ages and singing abilities are invited to meet on the front lawn of the church at 4:00PM. We will divide into groups to go caroling at congregation members' homes in the Fort Mill area. Then we will meet back on the front lawn for chili and s'mores around fire pits. (We will be driving to caroling locations so please plan to drive your own family.) Bring your own lawn chairs, to sit for dinner, and blankets if you get cold easily. Wear your most festive seasonal gear, sweaters, bells, hats, etc. If you are able to bring a crock pot of chili, or any sides, please visit this link or scan the QR code to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CABAD28A0FECE8-46038806-chili>. We hope you will come caroling with us as we start the season of Advent together! If you have any questions please contact Rev. Molly Spangler at mspanglers@unityfortmill.org.



A Unity Yuletide!

LOOKING FOR AN ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SOUNDTRACK? Look no further! Our staff here at Unity have chosen their top favorite tunes for the season and we have put them together in one place so we can all enjoy them together. The playlist is called, "A Unity Yuletide," and it can be **found on Spotify at this link:** <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1XYmatk6Sw5QHpcixI49Av?si=T60vqoqyRpenCvllGWSQRg>, or by **scanning the QR code!** If you have never used Spotify, you can use it for free with ads. We hope you will join us as we listen to our favorite seasonal songs, and perhaps you can even figure out which songs each staff member chose. Happy Listening!



Christmas Memorials & Honorariums

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS - As part of their Christmas gift giving each year, many members of our congregation have developed a tradition of giving a financial gift to Unity in memory or honor of loved ones. If you would like to make such an offering, please complete the form found in the Pews/Narthex and return it to the church office with your payment (checks should be payable to Unity with "Christmas Memorial/Honorarium" on the memo line.) You can also complete the form online at <https://unityfortmill.org/give/christmas-memorials-honorariums/>. If you need additional assistance, contact Anissa Lee (alee@unityfortmill.org). **The deadline for receipt of these gifts is December 15th.** A booklet listing all gifts will be available in the Narthex on December 22nd.

Congregational Care

OUR NEXT LUNCH BUNCH ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH - 12:00 P.M. Lindsay Lendyak will be our speaker this month. She is the Location Leader for the Isaiah 117 House in York County. She will be speaking on the crisis for childcare when a child is removed from their home and waiting for foster care placement. Her message is important and a much-needed service in our area. Please bring your sandwich or salad for lunch. Drinks, chips, and desserts are provided. Hope to see you on the 20th!

Faith Formation

MONDAY MUSINGS meets each Monday from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. with the pastors in Room M201 for conversation about and study of Sunday's sermon and scripture texts.

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION meets each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. There is a place for everyone! A list of all classes and room numbers are below. **Scan the QR code** to learn more about each adult offering and find the place that is right for you. **Note that the Faith Connections and the Fellowship classes have switched rooms.**



Children

Birth - 3 years: S103 & S104
4K – Kindergarten: M203
1st-2nd Grades: M205
3rd - 5th Grades: M208

Youth

6th - 7th Grades: M106
Confirmation (8th Grade): M107
High School: M108

Adults

As a Child: M312
Faith Connections: Historic Sanctuary
Fellowship: M201
Gospel of Matthew: M210
Unity: M102

THE BIBLE AS IF FOR THE FIRST TIME, a Sunday elective, **continues TODAY** and will meet each Sunday morning through November 24th at **10:00 am in Room M204**. Do you feel this way: You want to know the Bible better, but you don't know where to begin. Or: You've tried reading the Bible, but you've found it overwhelming and hard to understand. Or: You hold back from attending Bible studies or classes because you think you'll be embarrassed by your lack of Bible knowledge. If you feel at all like that, this is the perfect class for you! No prior Bible knowledge required. No embarrassing questions (although you can ask all the questions you wish). Just a solid introduction to how we got the Bible, the message of the Bible, and how to study the Bible on your own. Led by retired pastor Steve Simon, who once had to use the table of contents to find the Gospel of John (true story!). If you have not yet found a home on Sunday mornings, this class may be for you! No registration is necessary.

JOIN US FOR AN ALL-CHURCH ADVENT WORKSHOP on **Sunday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall in lieu of regular Faith Formation classes**. We will be making Advent Wreaths. Each household will also receive weekly Advent devotions to use with their Advent wreath. No registration is needed. Come prepare yourself for Advent. All ages welcome. Nursery will be provided for any who chose to use it.

LOOKING FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS FOR OUR NEXT ALL-CHURCH READ which will be in January/February 2025. We will be reading *Hope: A User's Manual* by Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana. This book of short essays on different themes related to hope will provide much fodder for conversation during 6 week small groups. If you would be willing to facilitate a small group or want to know more about what that might entail, please reach out to Kathryn McGregor at KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org. All leader materials will be provided. Small group leaders can choose the day, time of day and place that suit them best for their group.

Hospitality & Evangelism

TOUR OF UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CAMPUS TODAY! You might be a new member, a visitor, or a member who needs a refresher, but you are all welcome to join a few members of the Hospitality and Evangelism committee on **November 17th at 10:00 AM** for a tour of our buildings. We will meet in Fellowship Hall and proceed from there throughout our campus. Cannot make this date? Please give Janet Bassford a call at 336-508-0440 to arrange another time that is convenient for you. Hope to see you **THIS MORNING!**

Outreach

HURRICANE RESPONSE: ACT - In addition to monetary donations, hands on action makes a difference:

- We will be organizing work trips, both day long and overnight, to Augusta, GA; Spruce Pine, NC, and potentially additional locations as we learn of needs and projects. For those interested in participating, let us know using the **Google Form at the QR Code** or <https://forms.gle/WaavqzPLB1P5VDBR7>

With questions, ideas, suggestions, or other thoughts, please reach out to Dr. Matt, Pastor Molly, or a member of the Outreach Ministry Team.



THORNWELL - November is the month each year that Unity Presbyterian highlights its partnership and mission support for Thornwell, which provides schooling and other assistance to struggling children and families. Thornwell's mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect, to build up and reunite families, and to support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ. Having successfully endured the challenges presented to the covid pandemic two years ago, Thornwell is back operating on all cylinders for those in need of their assistance. This month, Unity will provide a special opportunity for members to become more acquainted with the great work provided by Thornwell. **TODAY, Rachel Crescibene, the Advancement Officer for South Carolina (Upstate) at Thornwell will be here** to provide a minute for mission detailing the work done at Thornwell, and available to answer members' questions about this great ministry partner. Also on **November 24th, we will collect our annual special offering for Thornwell** during both services to assist them in the performance of this wonderful ministry. We encourage all members to participate in learning more about Thornwell during November of this year.

Stephen Ministry

UNITY PRESBYTERIAN IS A STEPHEN MINISTER CHURCH - If you feel you need a Stephen Minister to help through a difficult time, or know someone who does, please contact one of our referral coordinators, Susan Mobley or Dave Johnson via email at Stephenministryreferrals@unityfortmill.org, or call a pastor at the church office (803-547-5543). Our Stephen Ministers are here to help you!

Women of Unity

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH with all things happening with the Women of Unity by sending an email to wouministry@gmail.com. We would love to add you to our communications! Follow us on Instagram: [@woufortmill](https://www.instagram.com/woufortmill).

TONY DEHLER CHRISTMAS AUCTION - The Tony Dehler Circle will be holding their annual Christmas Auction on **Monday, December 2nd**. We are in need of items to auction. We love having home baked items, craft items and home canned items! We would also like to have a boat ride for a group, a beach or mountain house for a period of time or a home prepared meal for a group. If you have any of those items or have any questions, please contact Beverly Tysinger (cyclistmom@comporium.net) or Joan Thomasson (thomassonjg@gmail.com). The auction begins at 5:30 with a hot dog supper, sale table and silent auction. The live auction, with Auctioneer Ken Bickett, begins at 6:00. All proceeds will be divided equally between the Fort Mill Care Center and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Helene recovery. Cash, checks and QR options for payment are accepted.

Worship

UNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIRS – It's not too late to join us! Rehearsals continue this afternoon. Cherub Choir (children who turned 4 by September 1st, 2024 through first grade) will meet from 2:00-2:45 in the handbell room, and the Covenant Choir (grades 2-5) meets from 3:00-3:45 in the choir room. Parents, please register any children singing for the first time this year using the **QR code** (returning singers do not need to register again). Contact Margaret Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org or 547-5543 with any questions. Come make a joyful noise!



CHILDREN AND YOUTH INSTRUMENTALISTS - Our young instrumentalists are invited to share their gifts in worship during the seasons of Advent and Christmas! Piano, band, and strings students are all invited to participate by playing a short sacred Christmas solo. Opportunities are available during Sunday morning worship at each service, or for one of our Christmas Eve services. Please contact Margaret Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org if you are interested, have any questions, or need help finding a piece to learn.

YOUTH CHOIR - All Youth grades 6-12 are invited to sing in Youth Choir! We will rehearse in the choir room after 11:00 worship on the following Sundays: November 24th, December 1st, and December 8th. We will be singing in worship on Sunday, December 15th at both services as part of Lessons and Carols. There's no need to sign up, just come! Contact Margaret Monroe at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org with any questions or for more information.

Youth Ministry

JOIN US FOR CONVERSATIONS & COCOA AT YOUTH GROUP! Join us this evening for the final session of our series focused on navigating disagreement in the body of Christ, modeling grace and reconciliation during this time of increased polarization. Middle School youth meet from 4-5pm and High School youth meet from 5:15-6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.

SAVE THE DATE FOR UNITY YOUTH FRIENDSGIVING! All youth are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to serve 8-10 people and join for an evening of gratitude, games, and reflection on **Sunday, November 24th from 4-5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

NOVEMBER TEEN CLOTHING DRIVE FOR ISAIAH 117 HOUSE! During the month of November, help Unity Youth collect **NEW** teen clothing to support teens who are awaiting foster care placement. The greatest needs at this time are for teen joggers, teen socks, and teen athletic shoes. Bring items with you to youth group in November or drop-off in Liz's office. Youth will organize and sort items during youth group on Sunday, November 24th.

HELP DECORATE FOR ADVENT! All youth are invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, November 26th from 4-5pm** to help decorate for Advent!

SPRING RETREAT AND SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! There are countless opportunities for middle and high school youth to engage in meaningful outreach and faith formation trips this Spring and Summer. Youth are headed to Asheville, St. Simons, Montreat, Massanetta Springs, and more! Save your spot by registering now on Realm!

Hymns for November 17, 2024
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

Hymn

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

ST. AGNES

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast.
But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of us all.

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those you seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show.
The love of Jesus, what it is none but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be.
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

Hymn

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

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