

# The Service for the Lord's Day Second Sunday After Epiphany 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services January 19, 2025

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

#### WE CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

Prelude Andante Handel

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission - Health Ministry Team

Choral Introit (11:00)

O Come and Sing unto the Lord

**IRISH** 

O come and sing unto the Lord; to God our voices raise; let us in our most joyful songs the Lord, our Savior, praise.

\* Call to Worship

ONE: Come, all who hunger for a taste of God's power.

MANY: We gather here, for God is present.

ONE: Come, all who thirst for a taste of God's justice.

MANY: God fills our empty jars to the brim and lets us drink from the river of delights.

ONE: Come, the feast is prepared and there is more than enough for all.

MANY: Let us worship God together.

\* Hymn No. 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

**ELLACOMBE** 

#### Prayer of Confession

MANY: God of abundance, we confess that we have failed to see you. We have pursued the desires of our own hearts, foolishly pointing to our power, prestige, and success as evidence of your faithfulness. We have clung to our self-serving expectations while demanding that you play by our rules. We have chased instant gratification and extraordinary experiences, failing to see that you are present in all that is ordinary and unexpected. Lord, have mercy on us. Open our eyes to see your glory, that we may faithfully follow you forever.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

ONE: Christ's power is far greater than our failings and his grace is far more abundant than our sin. Hear

and believe the good news of the gospel:

MANY: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

\* 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 relevant this and 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 worshiping 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 Psalm 36:5-10

Children's Time

Congregational Blessing Go Now in Peace

ow 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 John 2:1-11

Sermon "Expect the Unexpected" Liz Corsig

#### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

\* Affirmation of Faith – from The Confession of 1967, 9.55-56

MANY: Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, we apply ourselves to present tasks and strive for a better world. We do not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor do we despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, we look beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. Now to him who by the power within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. 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 <a href="https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/give/now">https://onrealm.org/unityfortmill/give/now</a> through the mail, as the plates are passed, or in the mailbox in front of the Historic Sanctuary.

Offertory Anthem

The Call

(8:45) Scott Watson, soloist Vaughan Williams

(11:00) Chancel Choir Stroope

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way as gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast: Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart as joys in love.

\* 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. 409 God Is Here! ABBOT'S LEIGH

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Choral Response (11:00)

Amen

AMEN

\* Postlude Prelude on 'Ellacombe' Harmon

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**DEACONS SERVING** today at the 8:45 a.m. worship service are Lyn Evans, Steve Chase, and Jill Grossoehme; at the 11:00 a.m. worship service are Elizabeth Bowers, Judd Glasco, and Lauren Cole.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God and "in memory of Steve, my husband," by Jo Ann Cantrell.

**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:

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich Senior Pastor

Rev. Molly Spangler Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Mark Verdery Parish Associate

Liz Corsig Director of Youth Ministry

Katherine Weller Lay Worship Leader

Margaret Monroe Director of Music

> Acolytes: 8:45 a.m. Olivia Pascal

**11:00 a.m.** Vance Ernst Victor Ernst

# Children's Ministry Staff:

Kathryn McGregor Director of Christian Education

## **Nursery Caregivers:**

Angie Benjamin Carolyn Blair Sylvia Coleman

Unity Presbyterian Church 303 Tom Hall Street Fort Mill, SC 29715 803-547-5543 www.UnityFortMill.org

Facebook: <u>@UnityFortMill</u>

Instagram: <u>@UnityFortMill</u>

YouTube: <u>Unity Presbyterian Church</u> <u>Fort Mill</u>

<sup>\*</sup> As you are able in body or spirit, please stand.

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.

STAR WORDS - On Sunday, January 5, Unity continued the tradition of giving "star words" as we celebrate Epiphany. Everyone was encouraged to take a star, children, youth and adults. On the star is written a gospel word like delight, vision, hospitality, wonder, or zeal. Perhaps the word you received will guide your prayer or your spirit in the year ahead. Perhaps it will inspire you to set off on an unexpected journey. Perhaps it will help you focus in a new and unexpected way on the true star of the story, Jesus Christ. If you did not receive a star word after worship, you may pick up one from the church office or the narthex through TODAY, Sunday, January 19.

#### **Children's Ministry**

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2025 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUMMER CAMPS:

- VBS & Mission Camp June 9-12, Ages 4 Completed 3rd Grade (VBS), Completed 4th and 5th Grades (Mission Camp)
- Grands Camp July 23-25, Ages 4 -5th grade with a Grandparent or Surrogate Grandparent

**GROWING CHRISTIANS (GCs),** our 4th and 5th Grade fellowship group, **continues TODAY** and will meet each Sunday from 4:00-5:00 pm through February 9th. All 4th and 5th graders are welcome. No registration is required. GCs meets in Room M208, which can be accessed on Sunday afternoons by parking in the Fellowship Hall parking lot and walking between the Fellowship Hall and the labyrinth courtyard. Leaders will meet children at the door. For questions, contact Kathryn McGregor at <a href="McGregor@UnityFortMill.org">KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org</a>.

#### Congregational Care

**LUNCH BUNCH** - Our next meeting is on **January 22nd at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall**. We have a very interesting speaker, Kassidy Plyler, the Catawba Cultural Center Program Specialist, who will discuss the rich history of the Catawba Nation, including their many struggles. We will hear about their 6,000-year history and the many changes they have faced for centuries. Please bring your sandwich or salad and meet with your old and new friends for a great afternoon. Chips, drinks, and desserts are provided. We hope you will join us for this interesting discussion.

**ATTENTION GRANDPARENTS!** Are you a grandparent who treasures the privilege of holding your grandchildren in your heart and prayers - not just in times of trouble, but every single day? Join us as we come together to celebrate, uplift, and support the next generation through the power of prayer. The Grandparents' Prayer Group has a new meeting time and warmly welcomes new participants! Starting this month, we will meet on the **last Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Heritage Room**. Our next gathering will **be Thursday, January 30th**. Let's build a legacy of prayer together.

#### **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.

ALL-CHURCH READ REGISTRATION CLOSES TODAY - You are invited to participate in our All-Church Read for 2025. We will read Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana's book, *Hope: A User's Manual.* Small groups will begin the week of January 26th and meet once a week for 6 weeks through the week of March 2nd. On March 2nd, we will have the privilege of hosting Rev. McKibben Dana at Unity to preach and lead a conversation about what she hopes we got from the book during the Faith Formation hour that day. Small group registration opens on REALM January 1st. A limited number of books are available for purchase in the Narthex today. You can also order your own book through your favorite bookseller. Scan the QR code to register today!



\* ALL-CHURCH READ SMALL GROUP #3 FOR YOUTH & ADULTS: This Tuesday evening group is specifically designed to facilitate conversation between youth and adults of all ages. Youth, parents, grandparents, and other adults are invited to sign-up for group 3 to join in on the fun!

**BOTH MESSY MOTHERHOOD GROUPS WILL RESUME** the week of January 26th and will read the All-Church Read book, *Hope: A User's Manual* by Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Both groups meet on Zoom at 7:30 p.m., one group on Tuesdays and one group on Wednesdays. There are a couple of openings in each group. Please email Kathryn McGregor at <a href="mailto:KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org">KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org</a> if you are interested in joining one of the groups and let her know which day works for you.

**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): Fellowship Hall

High School: M108

Adults

As a Child: M312 Faith Connections: Historic Sanctuary

Fellowship: M201

Gospel of Matthew: M210

Unity: M102

#### **Health Ministries**

**BLOOD DRIVE** - Start out your new year with a donation of blood to the Red Cross. Unity will host a blood drive on **January 28th, 2025 from 2:30-7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. You can sign up for an appointment on the Red Cross website: <a href="https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive">https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive</a> and look for the date or the location. Donations of blood are needed in our area. Give the gift of life!

**UNITY FITNESS CLASSES** - Make a difference in your physical and mental well-being in 2025, and attend Unity's fitness classes. Gain strength and endurance while you enjoy the fellowship of your Unity friends. Unity offers a variety of classes that will improve your fitness. These include:

- **Fitness Class** 11:15 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays (bring a mat, a small weight < 5 lbs. (or, water bottle), and a stretch band (if you have one). Meets in the Fellowship Hall. Classes are led by Penny Pierce.
- Beginner Yoga 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays (Bring a mat), Meets in the Historic Sanctuary, classes are led by Carrie Stapleton.
- Dance: Rhythm and Moves 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Meets in the Historic Sanctuary, Classes are led by Susan Benfield.
- Dance: Line Dance 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Meets in the Historic Sanctuary, Classes are led by Susan Benfield.
- Yoga for Parkinson's 2:00 p.m. Mondays, Meets in Fellowship Hall, Classes are led by Aminta St Onge Free Class

Classes are \$5 per session. No need to register, just show up!!!

For further information and questions, contact: Beverly Tysinger - (803) 372-7988, Don Rice - (704) 743-8755, Dance Classes: Susan Benfield - (803) 984-6100

#### Hospitality & Evangelism

**CONNECTIONS CLASS** - If you are curious about membership or have decided that this is the time for a commitment to Unity Presbyterian Church, please come to our Connection Class **TODAY**, **Sunday January 19th.** Members of the Hospitality & Evangelism committee will welcome you in the **Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.** The class will give you a brief overview of the many opportunities to participate in the life of Unity, a little introduction to our history, and an opportunity to meet a few staff members and ask any questions you may have about the church and our beliefs. If you have questions, please contact Cathey Miller, Chair of Hospitality and Evangelism at <a href="mailto:cat6813@hotmail.com">cat6813@hotmail.com</a> or phone (704) 724-6813. We will be waiting to meet you with coffee!

#### Outreach

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP: INFORMATIONAL MEETING TODAY - On January 19th at 4:00 p.m. in Room M210, an informational meeting about Unity's mission trip to Honduras will be held. Dates are July 9-18, 2025. The project includes a 15 home building project in the community of San Juan Planes, Trinidad, in the department of Copan, Honduras. For more information or questions, please email <a href="mailto:jsullivan@comporium.net">jsullivan@comporium.net</a>. We will be accompanied by Gloria Wheeler, retired PCUSA mission co-worker. Gloria is a native of Honduras and has been with us on previous trips.

CRISIS RELIEF FOR CALIFORNIA FIRES - We continue to pray for families and individuals being affected by the fires in California, as well as the first responders who are working around the clock to put out fires and give medical care. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been meeting with leaders from the Pacific, San Fernando and San Gabriel presbyteries to gather information and begin their response. As we pray and listen for more ways to help support those communities, we can also help by giving a financial gift. If you are interested in supporting this crisis response, you can use the QR code and make a donation on PDA's website.



#### 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!

#### **Unity Preschool**

**REGISTRATION:** Unity Preschool registration for the 2025-26 school year is now open. Please visit the Unity Preschool website (www.unitypreschool.org) for important dates, forms, tour information, and details. Registration forms for new students are due Monday, January 27th. Please e-mail Linda Bunge (preschoolatunity@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

SUPPORT: Unity Preschool is grateful for your financial support. Monetary donations in January will be divided between our Playground Fund and our Scholarship Fund. The Playground Fund is used to purchase items to refresh our two outside playground areas. The Scholarship Fund was established for current preschool families to use for tuition when they face unexpected financial hardships. Please donate online to "Preschool" (include "Fundraiser" in the Notes) or make checks payable to "Unity Preschool" with "Fundraiser" on the memo line. You may mail checks or drop them in the church mailbox, church office, or Sunday offering plate. You can also help by purchasing an item on the Unity Preschool Amazon Wish List found on our website (www.unitypreschool.org). These are craft and supply items that Unity Preschool uses many times throughout the school year.

## 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.

SAVE THE DATE: MOTHER DAUGHTER SISTER FRIEND LUNCHEON - Women of Unity will host our annual Mother Daughter Sister Friend Luncheon on March 23, 2025. Our theme this year is "Learning to Share Our Stories" with Rev. Julie Hester. We are people formed by stories the stories we've heard and lived through, the stories we tell ourselves, and the stories we tell together. Join us as we explore how the spiritual practice of writing can help us understand and share our stories as part of God's beloved community. We'll listen, learn, write, and share around our small group tables. No writing experience is needed, and grammar and spelling don't count! If you can talk, you can write. We'll do some of both together. More details coming soon! Event Co-Chairs are Karen Compton Fuqua (kfuqua@comporium.net) and Stephanie Faherty. Scan the QR code to view all special events hosted by Women of Unity.



#### Worship & Music

**UNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIRS** - The next session of Children's Choir begins on February 2nd. Cherub Choir (children who turned 4 by September 1, 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 school 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!



2025 FLOWER CALENDAR - Would you like to honor a family member, friend, or a special group of people? Placing fresh flowers in the sanctuary to the glory of God is a perfect way to remember and celebrate a special person/s or occasion in your life. You may order flowers from a local florist or provide your own arrangement with flowers from your vard or another place of business that sells fresh-cut flowers. Your name along with the name or occasion being honored will be printed in the church bulletin. Dates for 2025 have now been added to a sign-up genius for reserving a Sunday to place flowers in the sanctuary. You may visit <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA5A729A0FCC25-53403724-">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA5A729A0FCC25-53403724-</a> unity#/ and complete the steps for selecting your choice of Sunday(s). All instructions are included. If you have questions, please contact Michaela Braswell at mbraswell@UnityFortMill.org or 803-547-5543 ext. 130). Early sign-up is recommended to ensure the Sunday of your choice.

#### Youth Ministry

ALL YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT TODAY FROM 3-4:30PM! All youth are invited to join us for an outreach project at Defend the Fatherless this afternoon from 3-4:30pm. Defend the Fatherless is a non-profit organization that seeks to reduce the burdens of foster and adoptive families in our community. All youth should meet at Defend the Fatherless (230 Flint Hill Rd., Fort Mill, SC, 29715). This will be in place of regular youth group.

ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS INVITED TO JOIN FOR PRAYER BREAKFAST this Wednesday, January 22nd! Start your day off right with breakfast, fellowship, and devotion at 7:30am in the Youth Wing!

**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!

# SIGN-UP FOR UNITY YOUTH HOMEBOUND VISITS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND!

We will break up into small groups to visit with homebound members of our church community during youth group. Registration for this event is required. Scan the QR code for more details and to sign-up!



Hymn I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day. The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food. God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye, if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known. And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne, while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care, and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

Hymn God Is Here! ABBOT'S LEIGH

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are the symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive: we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

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