



The Service for the Lord's Day  
Easter Sunday  
7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service  
April 20, 2025

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

**WE CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE**

Prelude *Were You There* arr. Berry

\* Hymn *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

\* Call to Worship

ONE: In darkness, the world begins to wake;

**MANY: A new day is coming, a day of celebration and joy.**

ONE: A sliver of light across the horizon – the miracle of a new day.

**MANY: The stone is rolled away, and the angel calls from within.**

ONE: Feel the freedom of our souls and the wonder of new life.

**MANY: Hear the hallelujahs as we declare to the world, "Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"**

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of the Day

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

First Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

## 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.

\* Hymn

*Thine Is the Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.  
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.  
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.  
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

Second Reading

John 20:1-18

Easter Homily

"I Come to the Garden"

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

\* Affirmation of Faith

1 Corinthians 15

ONE: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**MANY: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

ONE: This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**MANY: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

ONE: That Christ died for our sins, and was buried, and rose again on the third day.

**MANY: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

ONE: He appeared to Mary, to Peter, and to the twelve, and to many faithful witnesses.

**MANY: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

ONE: At last he came to us, that we might come to believe and proclaim this good news to the world.

**MANY: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

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

*Rise Up, My Heart, with Gladness*  
Lynne Rayl, soloist

J.S. Bach

Rise up, my heart, with gladness, the Lord has won the fight.  
Sing out with no more sadness, proclaim the Lord of light.  
They laid him in the tomb, gone is the day of gloom,  
now praise the Lord on high, he lives, no more to die.

Sing praise in jubilation, my Savior's pain is done.  
He brought the world salvation, and came as God's own Son.  
My Savior died for me, he reigns in victory,  
give glory to the Lord, the King of all adored.

\* The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**  
**Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Praise God above, ye heavenly host.**  
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.**

\* Hymn

*The Day of Resurrection*

LANCASHIRE

*As we begin to sing, please join the procession outside,  
as the service will conclude on the front steps.*

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,  
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,  
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,  
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;  
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.**

\* Charge and Benediction

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

**Leading Worship  
this morning:**

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Molly Spangler  
Associate Pastor

Margaret Monroe  
Director of Music

**Deacons:**

Jean Nicholson  
Cathey Miller

Unity Presbyterian  
Church  
303 Tom Hall Street  
Fort Mill, SC 29715  
803-547-5543  
[www.UnityFortMill.org](http://www.UnityFortMill.org)

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

Instagram:  
[@UnityFortMill](https://www.instagram.com/UnityFortMill)

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, WORSHIP, GROW, AND SERVE

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL and MISSION CAMP** will be held Monday, June 9th - Thursday, June 12th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Shepherds are needed to assist with all ages, so sign up now to volunteer and help us make this summer the best VBS ever! [unityfortmill.org/ministries/children/events/vbs-2/](http://unityfortmill.org/ministries/children/events/vbs-2/)

**REGISTER NOW FOR GRANDS CAMP!** Grands Camp will be held Wednesday, July 23rd – Friday, 25th. [unityfortmill.org/ministries/children/events/grandscamp/](http://unityfortmill.org/ministries/children/events/grandscamp/)

**LUNCH BUNCH** - Will meet on April 23 at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Chris Mitchell, CEO of Fort Mill Piedmont Hospital. Bring your own sandwich or salad—as always, we provide drinks, desserts, and chips.

**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.

**REGULAR FAITH FORMATION CLASSES WILL NOT MEET TODAY**, Sunday, April 20th due to Easter worship services. Classes will resume on April 27th. For a complete list of Faith Formation Classes and Opportunities visit: [unityfortmill.org/ministries/](http://unityfortmill.org/ministries/)

**NEW ADULT STUDY FINDING MY STORY IN THE PSALMS BEGINS MAY 1ST at 6:30 PM** with Rev. Steve Simon. Sign up on REALM or contact the church office for more information.

**SIGN UP FOR CPR CLASS**—Saturday, May 3rd in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM. Contact the church office to register.

**UNITY'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE** asks you to submit names of potential deacons and elders by April 29 to [Nominations@unityfortmill.org](mailto:Nominations@unityfortmill.org)

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING RECEIVED TODAY** - Each gift to OGHS supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: [unityfortmill.org/give/special-offering/](http://unityfortmill.org/give/special-offering/)

**SECOND HARVEST FOOD DISTRIBUTION EVENT** - The Unity Outreach Team is sponsoring a Second Harvest Food Distribution event on Friday morning, April 25th, 2025 from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. Please call or text Jim Boyd or Rev. Molly Spangler if you have questions.

**WESTERN, NC HURRICANE RECOVERY TRIPS THIS MAY** - May 1-4 and May 15-18. The cost for either trip is \$150 per person. Please contact Rev. Molly Spangler to RSVP by TODAY, April 20th.

**SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND** - April 17-25, 2026 - To register, view the complete trip brochure, the payment schedule and more information, visit [unityfortmill.org/ministries/adults/spiritual-pilgrimage-to-scotland/](http://unityfortmill.org/ministries/adults/spiritual-pilgrimage-to-scotland/)

**UNITY PRESBYTERIAN IS A STEPHEN MINISTER CHURCH** - To find out more about how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Susan Mobley, Dave Johnson, or Rev. Molly Spangler.

**STEWARDSHIP** - If you've not yet made your commitment of time, talents, or pledges for the 2025-2026 program year, please visit [unityfortmill.org/give/stewardship/](http://unityfortmill.org/give/stewardship/)

**WOMEN OF UNITY** - Please keep in touch with all things happening with the Women of Unity by sending an email to: [wouministry@gmail.com](mailto:wouministry@gmail.com).

**TAIZÉ** - Our next Taizé service will be Sunday, May 4th at 5:30 p.m. in the Historic Sanctuary.

**THERE IS NO YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH!** Enjoy your Easter and Spring Break. Youth group will resume on April 27th with Water Balloon Games (Middle School: 4-5 p.m. and High School: 5:15-6:15 p.m.)

**HIGH SCHOOL 2026 HONDURAS TRIP INTEREST MEETING** - Sunday, May 18th at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! All parents & high schoolers are invited to attend this information session to learn & discern a possible call to engage in God's work in Honduras. Text or email Liz Corsig to RSVP .