



The Service for the Lord's Day
Easter Sunday
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services
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 *Toccata in F Major, Buxtehude* Buxtehude

Choral Introit *Easter Introit* Ferguson
*The introit serves as a choral introduction to the opening hymn.
Please rise in body or spirit as the choir sings the final Alleluia.*

Listen. Listen. Listen.
The One who bore God's heart, the One who spoke God's peace,
the One in whom God agonized is now the risen Lord.
Death was no prison for him. Jesus is raised and among us.
All that you see and hear comes from the One who was freed.
Listen. Listen. Listen.
Hear, O people of God, that Jesus Christ is Lord.
Alleluia!

* Hymn No. 232 *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 (from Psalm 118)
ONE: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!
MANY: **God's steadfast love endures forever!**
ONE: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
MANY: **Hear the hallelujahs as we declare to the world, "Christ is risen!"**
ONE: Christ is risen indeed!" Let us worship God!

Welcome and Announcements

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.

Special Music

Easter Fanfare
Keenan Harmon, trumpet

Bankson

Prayer of Confession

MANY: God of all hope and joy, we confess that we continue to live in fear. You walk with us in our sorrow, yet we fail to recognize you. You show us that Christ is risen, yet doubts persist in our hearts. We are not even sure what or who we are looking for! Forgive us, God of grace. Open our hearts and minds to understand and believe the good news of the resurrection. For it is the best news and we desperately need to hear it again.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

ONE: The tomb is empty. The stone is rolled away. There is no darkness now, only light. God continues to renew us and restore us.

MANY: We are forgiven, loved, and restored, receiving the gift and promise of new life and resurrection. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

* Congregational Response No. 240 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO. 1
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

Children's Time

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

John 20:1-18

Sermon

"Who Are You Looking For?"

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich

* Hymn No. 238

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.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

* Affirmation of Faith

1 Corinthians 15

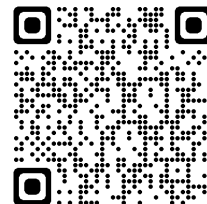
ONE: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
MANY: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
 ONE: This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:
MANY: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
 ONE: That Christ died for our sins, and was buried, and rose again on the third day.
MANY: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
 ONE: He appeared to Mary, Peter, the twelve, and 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!

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

Forth He Came at Easter
 Chancel Choir

Pote

Christ is risen, alleluia!
 Risen from the dead, risen as he said,
 Christ is risen alleluia!

In the grave they laid him, love whom men had slain;
 thinking that never he would wake again.
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
 love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain.
 Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen;
 love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Christ is risen, alleluia!
 Risen from the dead, risen as he said,
 Christ is risen alleluia!

Leading Worship this morning:

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich
 Senior Pastor

Rev. Molly Spangler
 Associate Pastor

Lay Worship Leader

8:45 a.m.

Mike Berens

11:00 a.m.

Larry Terrell

Margaret Monroe
 Director of Music

Acolytes:

8:45 a.m.

Michael Anderson

11:00 a.m.

Caroline Estes
 Tradd Estes

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

* 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

* Hymn No. 246

Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response

Hallelujah, from Messiah

Handel

* Postlude

Toccata on 'Thine Is the Glory'

Fey

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

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Easter Introit – Text: John Thornburg, © 2011 Birnamwood Publications.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks – Text: Donald Fishel, © 1973 International Liturgy Publications.

Go Now in Peace – Text: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Forth He Came at Easter – Text: John M.C. Crum, © 1958 Oxford University Press.

Christ Is Alive! – Text: Brian Wren, © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company.

DEACONS SERVING today at the 8:45 a.m. worship service are Kevin Pascal, Jennifer Smuth, and Norma Lester; at the 11:00 a.m. worship service are Judd Glasco and Riley Shaftner.

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, WORSHIP, GROW, AND SERVE

Worship

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.

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.

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's Ministry

SHEPHERDS ARE NEEDED FOR VBS AND MISSION CAMP. SIGN UP NOW TO SERVE - Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 9th - Thursday, June 12th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for children in Rising 4K-4th grade. Mission Camp will be held concurrently for children currently in Rising 5th and 6th grade. This year's theme is Road Trip: On the Go With God. Sign up now to volunteer and help us make this summer the best VBS ever! <https://unityfortmill.org/ministries/children/events/vbs-2/>.

VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING is scheduled for **Sunday, May 4th at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. If you are not currently Safe Place trained, please plan to stay for training from 3:00-4:00 pm. Mark your calendars now. Contact Kathryn McGregor at KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org for more information.

REGISTER NOW FOR GRANDS CAMP! Grands Camp will be held Wednesday, July 23rd – Friday, 25th. Grands Camp provides a unique opportunity for intergenerational ministry. Grandparents and grandchildren, ages 4 – 5th grade will enjoy time together through games, crafts, stories, mission projects, LEGOS and more. Up to 2 grandchildren may attend with each grandparent. Have more grandchildren than that? Bring an additional grandparent, either related or surrogate, or contact Kathryn McGregor to find additional surrogate grandparents. Don't have grandparents or grandchildren who can participate with you? Email Kathryn McGregor at KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org to sign up to be a surrogate grandparent or grandchild for another member of our congregation. **Register using the QR code.**



Congregational Care

LUNCH BUNCH - Our speaker for April 23rd will be Chris Mitchell, CEO of Fort Mill Piedmont Hospital. He will update us on the services offered at this new facility located at Hwy 160 and Hwy 21 in Fort Mill. Please join us for this informative overview of the care available at this new facility! Bring your salad or sandwich and join your friends for an enjoyable afternoon. This will be our last speaker of the year since our annual picnic is in May at Allison Creek Park, York SC. We will have more information about the picnic. As always, we provide drinks, desserts, and chips.

Endowment

AS YOU CONTEMPLATE YOUR LEGACY, please consider including Unity in your estate planning.

Faith Formation

MONDAY MUSINGS WILL NOT MEET TOMORROW, April 21st, due to the Easter Monday holiday. We will meet again on Monday, April 28th. 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. All are invited to find a place to grow next Sunday morning.



Children

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

Youth

6th, 7th, & 8th Grades: M106
High School: M108

Adults

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

NEW ADULT STUDY *FINDING MY STORY IN THE PSALMS* BEGINS MAY 1ST. We often turn to the book of Psalms for spiritual encouragement, for assistance in worshiping God, or as model prayers. But do you see yourself in the Psalms? Do the Psalms tell your story? In this five-week class we'll explore five psalms that are rarely studied but that yield rich insights for answering questions like: *Who am I ... really? Where did I come from? How has God's hand been on my life? Can God ever forgive me for ...? How can I trust God more?* The class will be led by Steve Simon, who is a retired Presbyterian pastor and the author of the book *Holy Walks: Learning and Praying the Psalms*. We will meet on **Thursday evenings, May 1-29, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Room M204.** "Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the Lord" (Ps. 107:43). **Scan the QR code to register.**



Health Ministry

SAVE THE DATE FOR CPR! Innovative Solutions will return to our campus on **Saturday, May 3rd**, to offer certification in Heartsaver CPR through the American Heart Association. The class will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and last approximately 2-1/2 hours. Participants will learn CPR and choking first aid for infants, children and adults. Use of the campus AEDs will also be included. The class fee is \$50.00. Sign-up is required to ensure the correct number of instructors. However, no payment is due until the day of class. Innovative Solutions requests payment in cash. **To register, call the church office at 803-547-5543 or Susan Benfield at 803-984-6100.** Increase your knowledge and ability to respond with confidence! Join us for a few hours. Your knowledge could save a life.

Officer Nominations

UNITY'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE was elected on March 30th and will soon begin prayerfully considering those who might be called to serve as deacons and elders beginning in January 2026 for a three-year term, and a youth deacon and youth elder to each serve a one-year term. The committee requests that you prayerfully submit names for consideration to serve as deacons and elders. These officers will serve as loving ministers and spiritual leaders for our congregation. In addition to their names, please describe the spiritual gifts and other characteristics that led you to nominate these individuals to serve. Names for consideration can be shared with Peter Olinger, chair or sent by email to Nominations@UnityFortMill.org and **will be received until Tuesday, April 29th.**

Lost & Found

HAVE YOU MISPLACED AN ITEM? It may be in our LOST & FOUND located in the hallway adjacent to the Sanctuary. We will be collecting items soon to donate to Goodwill.

Outreach

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING RECEIVED TODAY - This offering began following World War II when Protestant churches in the United States made appeals for the relief and reconstruction of devastated areas, primarily in Europe and Asia. With the devastation occurring in Ukraine and other countries abroad, as well as the destruction occurring in the United States from severe storms, hurricanes, flooding, and blizzards, assistance continues to be needed. 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. Unity will receive the **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering TODAY, EASTER SUNDAY, April 20th.** For more information or to give, visit: <https://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.** All ages are invited to come participate! Please come and help distribute food by parceling and loading food into grocery carts, and placing the food into our guest's cars. Bring any paper or plastic grocery bags that you have available. Volunteers to transport any remaining foods to the Fort Mill Care Center is appreciated, and to help recycle cardboard and shipping pallets. Please call or text Jim Boyd if you have questions (803.984.2277).

WESTERN, NC HURRICANE RECOVERY TRIPS THIS MAY - We are taking some small groups to Black Mountain to help with the ongoing hurricane recovery there. We will stay in the South Carolina Inn in Montreat and coordinate our projects with Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. **The two trip dates are: May 1-4, and May 15-18.** The cost for either trip is \$150 per person. Even if you need to arrive late or leave early, you are welcome to come. If you are interested and able to go on either trip, please contact Rev. Molly Spangler at mbspangler@unityfortmill.org. Please **RSVP by TODAY, April 20th.**

Spiritual Pilgrimage to Scotland - April 17-25, 2026

RETREAT, RENEWAL, & PILGRIMAGE are spiritual practices at the heart of the Christian community. We invite you to participate in a travel pilgrimage to Scotland in the Spring of 2026. Such a journey encourages us to be more than tourists, intentionally engaging with what we see and do in holy places, with people we are bound to in this community of faith, while also learning about the faith of those who have gone before us. A few details for our trip:



- Trip leaders will be Matt Rich, Kathryn McGregor, and Jim Wallace (a native Scot and minister of the Church of Scotland who has led trips full-time for the last 10 years).
- The trip itinerary will include Edinburgh, Sterling, St. Andrews, the Scottish Highlands, Loch Ness, the Isle of Mull, and Iona with a combination of religious and historical sites.
- **Cost (not including airfare):**
 - \$4495 per/person if reserved by May 21st for double occupancy
 - \$4595 per/person if reserved by July 2nd for double occupancy
 - Single room accommodations are available at an additional \$1165/person
- Early Bird Registration nonrefundable deposit of \$200 is due by May 21st.

To register for the trip, scan the QR code. To view the complete trip brochure, the payment schedule and more information, visit our website at <https://unityfortmill.org/ministries/adults/spiritual-pilgrimage-to-scotland/>. Additional questions, please speak with Dr. Matt or Kathryn McGregor. We look forward to walking with you as we explore Unity's spiritual roots in Scotland as pilgrims together.

Stephen Ministry

UNITY PRESBYTERIAN IS A STEPHEN MINISTER CHURCH - Stephen Ministers are members of Unity Presbyterian Church who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver once a week for around an hour to listen, care, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. To find out more about how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Susan Mobley or Dave Johnson, via email at Stephenministryreferrals@unityfortmill.org or call Rev. Molly Spangler at (803) 547-5543.

Stewardship

THANK YOU to everyone who returned their Pledges of Time, Talents, and Treasures on Commitment Sunday, March 30th! It was truly a wonderful Sunday of joy, gratitude, generosity, and celebration. If you missed Commitment Sunday or have not had a chance to turn in your pledges, **it is not too late!** Please bring your forms to the church office, log into REALM and choosing "Giving" or visit <https://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. We would love to add you to our communications! Follow us on Instagram: [@woufortmill](https://www.instagram.com/woufortmill).

Worship & Music

TAIZÉ - Our next Taizé service will be **Sunday, May 4th at 5:30 p.m. in the Historic Sanctuary (please note the different time)**. A Taizé service is composed of candlelight, Scripture readings, prayer, intervals of silence, and contemplative chants. Join us for a time of quiet centering and meditation.

MEN'S CHORUS - All men and young men of the church are invited to participate in a special Men's Chorus at both services on Mother's Day, May 11th. You can choose to sing at the service you normally attend – you don't have to commit to singing at both! We will sing a simple familiar hymn, and we will rehearse the morning of in the choir room: 8:15 for the early service, and 10:30 for the 11:00 service. Please contact Margaret Monroe, Director of Music at mmonroe@UnityFortMill.org with any questions.

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 yard 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. You may visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA5A729A0FCC25-53403724-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

THERE IS NO YOUTH GROUP TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH! Enjoy your Easter and Spring Break. Youth group will resume on April 27th!

JOIN FOR WATER BALLOON GAMES AT YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH! Middle schoolers will meet from 4-5 p.m. and high schoolers will meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Meet in the Fellowship Hall and wear something that can get wet!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE END OF YEAR PARTY on **Sunday, May 4th from 3:30-5:00 p.m.** on the Front Lawn! All current 5th-12th graders are invited for a foam party, Kona Ice, and games! Current 5th graders will be officially welcomed to youth group!

JOIN FOR A HIGH SCHOOL HONDURAS TRIP INTEREST MEETING on **Sunday, May 18th at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!** Are you interested in learning more about the possibility of a high school youth trip to visit our partners in Honduras in 2026? 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 to RSVP (lcorsig@unityfortmill.org).