



The Service for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday of Easter
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
May 11, 2025

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

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

Prelude

New Day
Youth Handbells

Austin

Welcome and Announcements

*** Call to Worship - from John 10**

ONE: Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."

MANY: May we have ears to hear so that we might follow him.

ONE: Jesus says, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish."

MANY: May we have the life abundant that begins here and now.

ONE: Jesus says, "No one will snatch them out of my hand."

MANY: May we trust and praise the Lord who cares for us.

ONE: Let us worship the living God!

*** Hymn No. 619**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

Prayer of Confession

MANY: You have shown us love, O God. In Jesus, you have shown us a love that seeks, love that suffers, love that survives all things. You call us, even command us, to show that love in our lives. Yet, we would rather avoid the great ordeal. We look to others for our salvation. We cannot even imagine a day when hunger and thirst will be no more. Have mercy on us. Wash us and make us clean. Help us to receive your love in a manner that allows us to share love with others. Help us to receive your love in a manner that allows us to love ourselves.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon - adapted from Hymn 803 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

ONE: Our shepherd shall supply our needs. Christ brings our wandering spirit back. He leads us, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*** Congregational Response No. 240** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* (refrain)

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

The Sacrament of Baptism

Presentation

Questions to Parents and Congregation

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.

* Affirmation of Faith - *from A Declaration of Faith*

MANY: We believe God acts by the Spirit in baptism: calling us by name to be his, cleansing us from corruption, giving us new life, setting us in the fellowship of believers. Baptism reminds us that God loves us long before we can love God and that faith and repentance are necessary as our response to God's love. Though we are baptized but once our response should continue and deepen throughout life. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

... Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon Delaney and Layla, upon us, and upon this water, that this font may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Strengthen us all to serve you with joy until that day when you make all things new. Amen.

The Baptism

Laying on of Hands

Welcome

... With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Delaney and Layla into Christ's church, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you, Emily and Adam, and we promise to share the good news of the gospel with Delaney and Layla.

Hymn

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,

Taking children on his knee, saying "Let them come to me."

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Gifts from the Congregation

First Reading

Psalm 23

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

Revelation 7:9-17

Sermon

"Robed in White"

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich

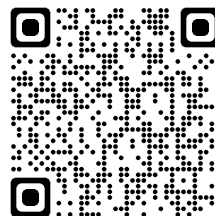
WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

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

Lamb of God
Men's Chorus

Paris

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But you have sent him from your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love, they crucified;
They laughed and scorned him as he died;
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was so lost, I should have died,
But you have brought me to your side
To be led by your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain*

* 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. 326

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

arr. Diemer

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

Copyright permissions - CCLI License #20674929, One License #A-727534
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks – Text: Donald Fishel, © 1973 International Liturgy Publications.
Go Now in Peace – Text: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.
Lamb of God – Text: Twila Paris, © 1985 Mountain Spring Music and Straightway Music
(admin EMICMGPublishing.com)

Leading Worship this morning:

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich
Senior Pastor

Rev. Molly Spangler
Associate Pastor

Craig Evans
Lay Worship Leader

Margaret Monroe
Director of Music

Acolytes:

Bristol Miller
London Coker

Deacons:

Jim McMullen
Cathey Miller
Judd Glasco

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:

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

Instagram:

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

YouTube:

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

TODAY AT THE 8:45 AM SERVICE WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISMS of Megan Jae Hannon, Beau Alexander Hannon (son of Lex and Megan Hannon), and Scottlyn James Regan (daughter of Kalei and James Regan).

TODAY AT THE 11 AM SERVICE WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISMS of Delaney Mae Newman and Layla Jane Newman (daughters Emily and Adam Newman).

SANCTUARY FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Joan Thomasson, and in honor of all the ladies in God's Girls Bible study group, by Theresa Higgins.

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. *Over the last several weeks we have experienced technical difficulties with livestreaming our worship services. The Communications Team is actively working to resolve these issues and hopes to have everything resolved as soon as possible.*

Children's Ministry

GRANDS CAMP REGISTRATION ENDS MAY 15TH. REGISTER NOW! 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 through May 15th.**



Congregational Breakfast

CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST ON GRADUATE SUNDAY, MAY 18TH - Unity will honor our high school graduates on Sunday, May 18th. There will be a **Congregational Breakfast for the whole church at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and the graduates will be recognized during the 11:00 a.m. service.** There is a table in the hall near the narthex, with booklets for members of the congregation to write words of encouragement, congratulations and maybe a favorite Bible verse. Please stop by and write to our students and join us for breakfast on that special day.

Congregational Care

LUNCH BUNCH END OF YEAR PICNIC: MAY 21ST - It is hard to believe that the year has flown by so quickly, but here we are in May and looking forward to our end of year picnic! We will meet again this year at Allison Creek Park, 2499 Viesta Road, York, SC, on **Wednesday, May 21st**. The shelter is very close to the parking lot and convenient to restrooms. If you have questions or need to sign up for a side, please call Joyce White at 803-548-4135. If you are driving to the park, plan on 20-25 minutes from the church. **There is a \$1.00 fee, per person, at the entrance.** The plans are to eat at 12:00 noon. Hot dogs and condiments are included. Potato salad, beans, desserts, and desserts will be the sides. No need to bring anything, other than a chair so you can enjoy the sunshine and nice views. See you on the 21st!

Design Team

UNITY'S DESIGN TEAM, a sub-committee of Building and Grounds, is seeking the skills of electricians, artists, carpenters, seamstresses, upholsterers and designers, to periodically assist with enhancement projects around our campus. Whether these skills are professional or novice level, your expertise is welcomed. If you would like to learn more or lend a hand in these areas, please reach out to Krista Renken, at renkenkrista@gmail.com.

Endowment

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

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.

TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY OF OUR REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION CLASSES.

A list of classes for today and room numbers for today are listed below. All-Church special offerings begin during the 10:00 a.m. Faith Formation hour next week with our Graduate Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. See below for more information on upcoming All-Church Faith Formation opportunities.

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

JOIN US FOR ALL-CHURCH FAITH FORMATION BEGINNING SUNDAY, MAY 25TH. All ages are invited for **Coffee, Coloring, and Conversation on Sunday, May 25th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** We will have opportunities for table conversations as we close out our Annual Vision of God's Story and Our Story. Then, join us for **Road Trip: On the Go with God, our All-Church Faith Formation series for the five Sundays in June.** All ages will join in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday for an interactive Bible story about the people of God from Abraham and Sarah, the Israelite people, Mary and Elizabeth, Jesus and Zacchaeus, and Paul as they remind us that "The Lord our God is with us wherever we go." We'll then explore a variety of responsive activities that help us connect these stories to our own journeys with God. Come any Sunday you are in town for a trip through the Bible you won't want to miss!

Hospitality and Evangelism (H&E)

WELCOME TO UNITY COFFEE - Anyone interested in learning more about Unity is invited to join us on **Sunday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** This is an informal get-together during which we will share basic information about the congregation, our beliefs, answer any questions you may have and enjoy a cup of coffee. Children are welcome to join their parents, or they may attend Sunday school.

Men's Ministry

MEN'S BREAKFAST - The Unity Men's Ministry will have its monthly breakfast meeting on **Tuesday, May 13th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Please join us for a delicious breakfast, fellowship, and a devotion. Invite another to come along!

Spiritual Pilgrimage to Scotland: April 17 - 25, 2026 (Early-bird Pricing Ends May 21st!)



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/>. We look forward to walking with you as we explore Unity's spiritual roots in Scotland as pilgrims together.

Special Offering

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING RECEIVED TODAY - On **Sunday, May 11th**, Unity will receive the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina Mother's Day Offering. Since 1954, South Carolina Presbyterians have developed a long tradition of generously supporting this offering as a special way of remembering and caring for older adults. Presbyterian Communities operates six retirement communities across the state of SC. Donations received are used exclusively for those residents who, through no fault of their own, have outlived their financial resources and need assistance to remain in Presbyterian Communities. For more information or to donate, visit: <https://unityfortmill.org/give/special-offering/>.

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

THE SANCTUARY DEBT HAS BEEN PAID - We announced on Easter Sunday that an anonymous donor provided a \$350,000 gift for the final payment. We rejoice in God's grace and the generosity of everyone in our congregation who made gifts, small and large, over the last 17 years. Thank you and Thanks be to God!

Women of Unity

WOMEN OF UNITY SALAD SUPPER AND MISSION PROJECT - All women of the church are invited to a salad supper and mission project on **Tuesday, May 13th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. Please bring a salad ingredient to share, such as tomatoes, cucumbers, cheese, croutons, etc., or a dessert. Lettuce, salad dressings, and drinks will be provided. Also, we will be assembling period packs/menstrual hygiene kits as a mission project. Please go to our link to see what is needed! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094EA5A82DA3F85-56320828-period>

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

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

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).

SAVE THE DATE FOR COLLEGE DESSERT ON TUESDAY, MAY 20TH AT 7:00 PM! All current high school seniors & college-aged young adults are invited to join for dessert & fellowship at the Sharpless home. RSVP to Liz (lcorsig@unityfortmill.org). Address provided upon RSVP.

REGISTER FOR HIGH SCHOOL LAKE DAY! All current 8th-12th graders are invited to join for an afternoon on Lake Wylie on **June 1st from 1:30-5:30pm**. Scan the code for more information and to register.



Hymns for May 11, 2025
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Hymn

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!

Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Hymn

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!