



The Service for the Lord's Day
Sixth Sunday of Easter
8:45 a.m. Worship Service
May 25, 2025

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

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

Prelude *Deep River* arr. Hobby

Welcome and Announcements

*** Call to Worship**

ONE: God is making all things new.

MANY: These words are trustworthy and true.

ONE: Nations will exult and shout for joy.

MANY: The people will praise you, O God; all people will praise you.

ONE: Let us worship the living God!

*** Hymn No. 8** *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* MELITA

Prayer of Confession

MANY: God of everlasting life, we confess that we continue in the ways of death. You show your love for us in Jesus, but we fail to love one another. You give us freedom in the Spirit, but we deny the freedom of others. You give us a vision of all things made new, but we hold tight to a broken and sinful world. Forgive us, God of grace. Give us eyes to see and a spirit to live into the vision you have for a new heaven and new earth, when all will be well and all will be set right.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

ONE: God's promises are trustworthy and true; your sins are forgiven. Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may you always be known by your love.

MANY: Hallelujah! Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** 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

First Reading John 14:25-29

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.**

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.

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6 & Revelation 22:1-5

Sermon

"All Things New"

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

* Affirmation of Faith - A New Creed, The United Church of Canada

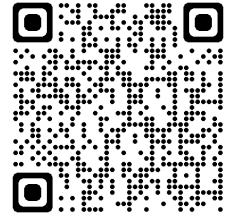
MANY: We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

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

At the River

Johnson

Katherine Weller, soloist

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver, with the melody of peace. *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

For the Healing of the Nations

CWM RHONDDA



1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
4. You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing of the
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred, all may
earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing, dog - mas
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness, bring the

things that earth af - fords; to a life of love in ac - tion
come and go in peace. Show us how through care and good - ness
that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon quest for jus - tice
life of Christ to mind, that by our re - sponse and ser - vice

help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.
fear will die and hope in - crease, fear will die and hope in - crease.
may we hal - low life's brief span, may we hal - low life's brief span.
earth its des - ti - ny may find, earth its des - ti - ny may find.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

arr. Hobby

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

Leading Worship this morning:

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich
Senior Pastor

Liz Corsig
Director of Youth
Ministry

Margaret Monroe
Director of Music

Deacons:

Kevin Pascal
Whitney Norman
Chris Routh

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

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

For the Healing of the Nations – Text: Fred Kaan, © 1968 Hope Publishing Company.

TODAY AT THE 11:00 AM SERVICE, WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM of Hutson Sheets Nelson, son of Mills and Joe Nelson.

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. ***Please note that CIW will be offered at the 8:45 A.M. SERVICE ONLY beginning next Sunday for the month of June and during the 10:00 a.m. service during the month of July. CIW will resume at both services in August.***

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.***

DO YOU KNOW THAT IT TAKES 6 NURSERY VOLUNTEERS each Sunday in addition to our 3 paid staff to provide a safe and loving place for our youngest children? That is 312 slots for someone to serve by rocking a baby, reading a story, or shepherding children from the sanctuary to the nursery and greeting new families. Would you consider serving in our infant nursery or as a nursery greeter? We also would love to have additional youth serve in our toddler/preschool nursery. Volunteers can choose their service. Contact Kathryn McGregor at KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org or sign up on REALM today!

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 WILL NOT MEET this Monday, May 26th due to Memorial Day. We will start back up on Monday, June 2nd. 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.

COFFEE, COLORING AND CONVERSATION is **TODAY at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. Join us as we kick-off All-Church Faith Formation with this laid back, holiday weekend opportunity for table conversation around our Annual Vision of God's Story and Our Story. All ages are welcome. No registration needed.

JOIN US FOR OUR ALL-CHURCH FAITH FORMATION, ROAD TRIP: ON THE GO WITH GOD each **Sunday in June at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** All ages are invited 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!

Health Ministry Team

WEDNESDAY DANCE FITNESS CLASSES: MODIFIED SUMMER SCHEDULE - The Dance Fitness classes will meet every other week in the summer. Both classes (Rhythm-n-Moves at 9:30 a.m. and Line Dance at 10:30 a.m.) will meet on May 21st, June 4th, June 18th, July 2nd, July 16th, and July 30th. We will return to meeting every week beginning in August.

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

UNITY MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM - Did you know that Unity Presbyterian Church has a men's softball team in the Fort Mill Parks & Recreation Church Softball League? Yes we do! Our team plays both for fun and to make a run at the championship at the end of the season. We are recruiting both returning and new players for this year's team. All abilities are welcome (in emergency situations they even let the senior pastor play!), plus players get a cool Unity shirt. Games begin in June. Contact Sammy Pecarro (samrpecarro21@yahoo.com or 803.571.2401) if you're interested in being a part of this year's team.

Outreach

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SUNDAY - Next Sunday, **June 1st**, is Peanut Butter & Jelly Sunday. Please bring your donations of food and supplies for the Fort Mill Care Center and deposit them in the collection box in the Narthex on Sunday or any time you are at church. Current needs at the Care Center include pasta sauce, canned chicken & pork, canned fruit, boxed meals (Banquet Homestyle Bakes, Chicken/Tuna Helper, Suddenly Pasta Salad), BBQ sauce, sugar, hygiene and cleaning supplies. You can also drop off donations, including any refrigerated items, directly at the Fort Mill Care Center. They are open MWF 9:00 AM to noon and Tuesday from 5 to 7 PM. (**NOTE: The Care Center will be closed on Fridays during June, July, and August.**) Please have them weigh the donation and please send an Email with the total weight to Larry Terrell at larry.terrell@sbcglobal.net. Last month we collected 458 lbs., bringing our year-to-date total to 2,313 lbs. Thank you for generously supporting our neighbors in need.

Spiritual Pilgrimage to Scotland: April 17 - 25, 2026

UNITY'S SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND with Matt Rich, Kathryn McGregor and Jim Wallace from SCOTUS Tours is full with 40 registered participants. For more information and if you are interested in being added to the wait list, **scan the QR code** or visit our website at <https://unityfortmill.org/ministries/adults/spiritual-pilgrimage-to-scotland/>.



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.

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

WOMEN'S CHORUS - All women, young women, and girls (who are readers) of the church are invited to participate in a **special Women's Chorus on Father's Day, June 15th**. We will sing at both services, so you can choose which service you would like to attend. The rehearsal schedule is as follows: June 8th - brief rehearsal in the sanctuary following each service, June 15th - 8:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. in the choir room. The anthem is simple and easily learned—come make a joyful noise! Please contact Margaret Monroe 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#/#](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

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 QR code** for more information and to register.



ALL YOUTH INVITED TO SIGN-UP FOR MID-WEEK MISSION as we engage in outreach projects with our partners throughout the summer! Our first project will be on **Wednesday, June 4th**, at Defend the Fatherless from **10:00-11:30 a.m.** **Scan the QR code for more details & to sign-up!**

RSVP FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL POOL PARTY on **Sunday, June 8th, from 2-4 p.m.!** All rising 6th-8th graders are invited for a pool party hosted by Madelyn Mikulsky. **Scan the QR code for more details & to RSVP!**



Hymns for May 25, 2025
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Hymn

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

MELITA

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood upon the chaos wild and rude,
and bade its angry tumult cease, and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power, all travelers guard in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect the wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.