



The Service for the Lord's Day  
Third Sunday of Easter  
8:45 a.m. Worship Service  
May 4, 2025

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

**WE CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE**

Prelude

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

arr. Larson

Welcome and Announcements

**\* Call to Worship - Psalm 30**

ONE: We glorify you, O Lord, for you have lifted us up.

**MANY: O Lord, our God, we cried out to you and you healed us.**

ONE: Sing praises to the Lord, O faithful ones, and praise God's holy name.

**MANY: For God's anger is but for a moment; God's favor is for a lifetime.**

ONE: Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**MANY: O God, you have turned our mourning into dancing!**

ONE: Let us worship the living God.

**\* Hymn No. 240**

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Prayer of Confession

**MANY: Lord God, you show us salvation and who is worthy of our praise, but we cast our eyes and put our trust in the princes and powers of this world. In the light of your glory, we see the evil we have done, the suffering we have caused, the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied. Heal us of our sin, wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace, so that we may follow your way and lift our hearts, minds, and voices in a new song of praise.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon - Psalm 30:11

ONE: Rise up from the dust! Cast off the shroud of sorrow and put on the joy of the Lord.

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

ONE: As we are reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, let us share the welcome and peace of Christ with one another.

**\* Passing of the Peace**

**\* 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

## 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.

## Profession of Faith and Question to the Congregation

### \* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**MANY: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### Thanksgiving over the Water

**... Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon Evan, 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 you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

### Hymn

*Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;  
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,  
Faithfully now, God's praises we sing.**

### Gifts from the Congregation

### First Reading

Acts 9:1-6

### 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 5:1-14

### Sermon

"Worthy Is the Lamb"

Rev. Matt Rich

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

### 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

*Sheep May Safely Graze*

J.S. Bach

\* 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

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving and 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

*We celebrate by serving one another in the pews today. As the plates are passed, please take a piece of bread or a cup of juice. Then hold the bread or juice until all have been served and we will partake together. Gluten free wafers are found by the steps at the back of the sanctuary.*

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

\* Hymn No. 305 *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* DARWALL'S 148th

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude *Worthy Is the Lamb, from Messiah* Handel, arr. Leatherman

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

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

*Baptized in Water* – Text: Michael J. Saward, © 1982 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company).

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

**WE REJOICE IN THE BAPTISM** this morning of Evan Benjamin Hutson.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Annie Case by her daughters Blye Case, Christine Case, and Mitzi Case.

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

## Leading Worship this morning:

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Molly Spangler  
Associate Pastor

Margaret Monroe  
Director of Music

### Acolytes:

Victor Ernst  
Vance Ernst

### Deacons:

Tori Hickerson  
Chris Routh  
Jill Grossoehme

## Children's Ministry Staff:

Kathryn McGregor  
Director of Christian Education

## Nursery Caregivers:

Angie Benjamin  
Carolyn Blair  
Sylvia Coleman

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[www.UnityFortMill.org](http://www.UnityFortMill.org)

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

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

### Worship

**TODAY IN WORSHIP**, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper, also known as Communion. Communion is one of two sacraments in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each time the Lord's Supper is celebrated, we remember the meals Jesus shared with his disciples, we give thanks for the gifts God has given us, we receive hope for the future, and we commit ourselves to share God's love with the world. In the PC(USA), "The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding." The Lord's Supper is a 'heavenly mystery'; none of us can ever fully understand it. It is the decision of each parent/guardian when they want their child(ren) to begin participating in Communion. Parents are encouraged to have ongoing conversations with their child(ren) and consider welcoming their child(ren) to participate in the Sacrament as soon as the child(ren) express a desire.

**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

**VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING** is **TODAY at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. If you are not currently Safe Place trained, please plan to stay for training from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Contact Kathryn McGregor at [KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto: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.

**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. ***Regular classes will conclude for the program year next Sunday, May 11th. Watch for more information about All-Church Faith Formation for June coming soon.***



#### **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

### 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.

### 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!

### Outreach

**TODAY 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 boxed meals (Banquet Homestyle Bakes, Chicken/Tuna Helper, Rice-a-Roni, Taco Kits, Suddenly Pasta Salad), vegetable oil, sugar & brown sugar, ketchup, and mayonnaise. 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. Please have them weigh the donation and please send an Email with the total weight to Larry Terrell at [larry.terrell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:larry.terrell@sbcglobal.net). Last month we collected 487 lbs., bringing our year-to-date total to 1,855 lbs. Thank you for generously supporting our neighbors in need.

### 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/>. **There will be a brief meeting for anyone wanting to ask questions on Sunday, May 4th, after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.** 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** - 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 is **TODAY 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](mailto: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](mailto:mbraswell@UnityFortMill.org) or 803-547-5543 ext. 130). Early sign-up is recommended to ensure the Sunday of your choice.

### Youth Ministry

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:lcorsig@unityfortmill.org)). Address provided upon RSVP.

Hymns for May 4, 2025

8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Hymn

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

ALLELUIA NO. 1

***Refrain:*** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Praise to his name.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation. (*Refrain*)

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen. (*Refrain*)

We have been crucified with Christ.  
Now we shall live forever. (*Refrain*)

Come let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Savior. (*Refrain*)

Hymn

*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

DARWALL'S 148th

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,  
as we in mission magnify the Crucified!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

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