

UNITY

Presbyterian Church (USA)

**The Service for the Lord's Day
Third Sunday of Easter
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services
April 19, 2026**

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

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

Prelude	(8:45)	<i>Chorale and Aria on 'O Perfect Love'</i>	Burkhardt
	(11:00)	<i>Jerusalem Ridge</i> Eli Hutson, violin	Monroe

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit (11:00) *Called to Gather as God's People* (stanza 1) WEISSE FLAGGEN
 Called to gather as God's people, we assemble in this place
 to unite our hearts and voices in thanksgiving for God's grace:
 for the birthing of creation, for Christ's rising from death's hold,
 for the coming of the Spirit, week by week claimed and retold.

* Call to Worship - Matthew 5:43-48

ONE: We've heard it said, to love our neighbors and hate our enemies,
MANY: but God says, "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."
 ONE: God makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good,
MANY: we are all children of our Father in heaven.
 ONE: The love of God is perfect,
MANY: therefore we too shall try to live with perfect love.
 ONE: Let us worship the Triune God.

* Hymn *Joined Together as One Body* NETTLETON

**Joined together as one body, knit together, we are one.
 We the Church, God's chosen body, live our faith in Christ, the Son.
 We are called to be disciples! We are called to live in love!
 Bring your hearts and minds, disciples, dedicate your lives to love.**

**Joined together by the Spirit, every person brings a gift.
 Every life is full of merit; hearts of gratitude we lift.
 We are called to be the faithful! We are called to live in love!
 Such an honor to be faithful, full of life and full of love.**

**Joined together, all-embracing, yet our separate selves we bring;
 On our hearts our God is tracing words of love that make us sing.
 We are called to be God's servants! We are called to live in love!
 Such an honor to be servants, ever faithful in God's love.**

**Joined together as one body, knit together, we are one.
 Still, each person in Christ's body will remain a separate one.
 We are called to be God's people! We are called to live in love!
 Always longing, as God's people, for God's gracious, healing love.**

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.

Prayer of Confession

MANY: God of love, we confess that we have not loved this world well.
We struggle to love people we like,
And we completely fail to love people we've labeled as the enemy.
We even struggle to love ourselves.
We dismiss concepts of love as frivolous and naïve,
failing to recognize your divine command to choose tenderness
and compassion.
Forgive us.
Have mercy on our half-hearted attempts.
Renew your call to love within each of us,
so that we might be a part of building your beloved community.
May we love the way you continue to love us.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

ONE: Beloved children of God, be assured that despite your deepest doubts, you are loveable. God delights in you and offers you grace and mercy again and again.
MANY: By the love of God through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.

* Congregational Response No. 251

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia (stanza 5)

**Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly King.
Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

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

Matthew 5:43-48

Sermon - "Becoming the Beloved Community" Rev. Molly Spangler and Summersby Okey

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

* Affirmation of Faith – *(From a Brief Statement of Faith, PC (USA))*

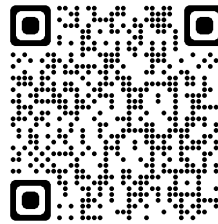
MANY: We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

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/nor> through the mail, as the plates are passed, or in the mailbox in front of the Historic Sanctuary.



Offertory	(8:45)	<i>Jerusalem Ridge</i>	Monroe
		Eli Hutson, violin	
	(11:00)	<i>How Lovely and How Pleasant</i>	Burkhardt
		Chancel Choir	

How lovely and how pleasant when people dwell in peace,
and love is ever present to bind them each to each,
and love is ever present to bind them each to each.

As dew upon the mountain refreshes every flower,
so love springs like a fountain for those who know its power,
so love springs like a fountain for those who know its power.

Like sweetest oil pervading this temple where we meet,
so flows a joy unfading o'er those at Jesus' feet,
so flows a joy unfading o'er those at Jesus' feet.

* 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

Leading Worship this morning:

Rev. Molly Spangler
Associate Pastor

Liz Corsig
Director of Youth
Ministry

Margaret Monroe
Director of Music

Summersby Okey
Director of
Development &
Advocacy
Habitat for Humanity
of York County

Acolytes:

Rose Berens (8:45)
Olivia Pascal (8:45)

Emily Evans (11:00)
Charlotte Davis (11:00)

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

* Hymn No. 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response (11:00)

Called to Gather as God's People (stanza 4)

WEISSE FLAGGEN

Sent to share the Spirit's blessing, we go forth renewed, restored,
humbled by the task before us, strengthened by the Love outpoured.
Finding faith confirmed in action, led by hope through each new day,
we are called to be God's people, living what we sing and pray.

* Postlude

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

arr. Burkhardt

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

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

How Lovely and How Pleasant – Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda © 1987 Concordia Publishing House.

DEACONS serving today at the 8:45 a.m. worship service are Lauren Cole, Sarah Egnor, and Corey Cameron; at the 11:00 a.m. worship service are Karen Compton Fuqua, Matthew Hubis, and Lauren Cole.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God and “to the glorious God's Girls, when words do not say enough”, by Tom Thomasson.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES & LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available at the Deacons desk in the Narthex of the Sanctuary.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, WORSHIP, GROW, AND SERVE

Worship

JOINING US IN WORSHIP TODAY IS SUMMERSBY OKEY. Summersby is the Director of Development & Advocacy at Habitat for Humanity of York County. Yesterday, during our annual day of service, Go Make-A-Difference Day, we helped work on Habitat's Re-Store in Rock Hill. Summersby joins us this morning to share more about Habitat's mission and vision as they serve with partners here in York County. If you would like to learn more about Habitat, or how you can get involved, you can **visit their website using the QR code** provided.



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.

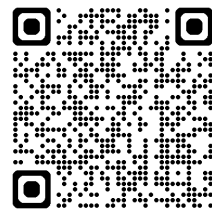
NURSERY IS AVAILABLE during today's worship services in Room S104 for infants-18 months and S103 for toddlers/preschoolers up through age 3. Both rooms are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary building. Our nursery is run by trained, paid staff with assistance from trained church volunteers. 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, 2025 and those who are in Kindergarten and 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

A FEW MORE ADULTS AND YOUTH ARE NEEDED TO SERVE AT VBS. CAN YOU HELP? Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 15th - Thursday, June 18th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We are in need of a few more adults: 2 more Adult Shepherds and a few adult substitutes, and 10 more youth: 4 Shepherds, 1 Art Assistant and 5 Recreation Assistants. This is a great opportunity for our Middle Schoolers, but High Schoolers are also welcome, if available. **Scan the QR code** to sign up to serve and help us make this summer the best VBS ever!



WAX MUSEUM PREPARATION CONTINUES TODAY FOR ANY AND ALL 3RD-5TH GRADERS - It's not too late to join the Wax Museum! Children in 3rd-5th grades are invited to **Room M208 today and the following two weeks** while we prepare for our third annual wax museum. This is a fun, and interactive opportunity to learn more about someone in the Bible as you prepare to share their story during the Wax Museum for the congregation on May 10th at 10:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR GRANDS CAMP! Grands Camp will be held this summer from **Tuesday, July 21st – Thursday, July 23rd**. 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. **Scan the QR to register.**



CIW OPEN HOUSE TO BE HELD MAY 3RD AND MAY 17TH. Parents of Rising 4K children are invited to attend "Children in Worship" Open House for Parents **during either service on May 3rd or May 17th**. Your children can begin attending CIW on June 7th. Parent Orientation is your opportunity to come see what CIW is all about before your children begin attending. Questions? Contact Kathryn McGregor at KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org.

Congregational Care

THE GRANDMOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP meets at 10:00 a.m. on the last Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is **April 30th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Heritage Room**. All grandmothers are warmly welcome to join us as we set aside a special time of prayer for our grandchildren.

Endowment

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

Faith Formation

REGISTRATION OPENS TOMORROW, APRIL 20TH FOR FAITH@250 JUNE SMALL GROUPS. On July 4th, 2026, the United States of America will celebrate its 250th Anniversary. There will be parades and fireworks; times to remember and times to dream; moments that draw us together and moments that expose the deep divisions that plague our national experiment. Drawing on resources from Faith 250, an interfaith collection of clergy and religious leaders, Dr. Matt invites members of our congregation and community to come together in fellowship and meaningful conversation around the common core and values that undergird our life as people of faith in this moment of national celebration. After beginning with an examination of the biblical and theological roots for civic engagement, we will then spend four weeks studying and discussing four key American texts: "The Declaration of Independence;" Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus;" Frederick Douglass's keynote address, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?;" and the beloved hymn "America the Beautiful." If you are tired of political and partisan sound bites that overwhelm and divide; if you have a hunger for an experience of deeper and inspiring conversation about our shared American story; I hope you will join one of the groups for this five-week series in June. Registration begins tomorrow, April 20th, on REALM. Choose from either Monday nights from 6:30 – 8:00 PM or Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 – 4:00 PM. Contact Dr. Matt with any questions.

MONDAY MUSINGS meets **each Monday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** with the pastors in Room M201 for conversation about and study of Sunday's sermon and scripture texts.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR SCOTLAND PILGRIMAGE PARTICIPANTS - Our long awaited pilgrimage to Scotland began on Friday, April 17th. We have 42 adult participants, including Matt Rich and Kathryn McGregor from the staff. Please continue to pray for safe travels for all, new learnings, new friendships, and glimpses of where God has been and is currently at work in this part of our world.

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION for all ages continues today at 10:00 a.m. 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. Find a place to grow in your faith this year.

Children

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

Youth

Middle School: M106
High School: M108

Adults

As a Child: M312
Faith Connections: Historic Sanctuary
Fellowship: M201
The Bereans: M210 (and on Zoom*)
Unity: M102



* Contact Kathryn McGregor at KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org for the Zoom link.

Fellowship Ministry

LUNCH BUNCH - Dr. Josh Morris will be our speaker this month on **Wednesday, April 22nd at 12:00 noon**. His topic of discussion will be his experience, working with people with moral injury and trauma. Dr. Morris is an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ and a Board-Certified Chaplain through the Association of Board-Certified Chaplains. He has served as Assistant Director of Spiritual Services at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. Currently, Dr. Morris serves as the Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. He also has 15 years of experience as an Army chaplain in the United States Army Reserves. Please join us for this insightful presentation. Don’t forget your sandwich or salad! As always, drinks, chips, and desserts are provided. See you there!

Health Ministry

SAVE THE DATE FOR HEARTSAVER CPR! - The spring class will be held on **Saturday, May 2nd**. Taught by instructors from Innovative Solutions, this American Heart Association class covers hands-on compressions, use of the AEDs on our campus, and choking in infants, children and adults. We will begin at **9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**, and finish around noon. Cost for the class is \$50.00 (cash) at the door per Innovative Solutions. Come join us for this life-saving class.

Hospitality and Evangelism

CONNECTIONS CLASS - If you are curious about membership or have decided this is the time to join Unity, please join us for a Connections Class, beginning **TODAY, Sunday, April 19th, and continuing next Sunday, April 26th**. Members of the H&E team will welcome you to the **Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.** The class will give you a brief overview of the many opportunities to participate in the life of Unity, a little introduction to our history, an opportunity to meet a few staff members, and ask any questions you may have about the church and our beliefs.

CAMPUS TOUR - Regardless of how long you’ve been attending Unity, members of the H&E team will be guiding a tour of the church buildings on **Sunday, May 3rd**. The tour will start in the **Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.**

Human Resources

JOIN OUR MINISTRY TEAM - Do you love the church? Do you enjoy helping others find places to learn, grow, delight, and serve? Are you organized and dedicated? Is God calling you or someone you know to join the ministry team at Unity Presbyterian Church? In response to our growing congregation and new Strategic Mission Pathway to “Cultivate Belonging and Commitment,” Unity Presbyterian Church is seeking a Coordinator for **Congregational Life and Engagement**. This will be a **part-time, 20 hour per week position**, working with ministry teams and other staff members to oversee Unity’s ministries of helping those seeking a church home become new members and faithful followers of Jesus Christ; congregational fellowship and joy; nurturing health and wholeness in body and spirit; and other ways to deepen relationships and connections with Christ and one another. For more information and/or to apply visit <https://unityfortmill.org/about-us/careers/> or contact Dr. Matt.

Officer Nominations

UNITY’S NOMINATING COMMITTEE was elected on March 29th and will soon begin prayerfully considering those who might be called to serve as deacons and elders beginning in January 2027 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 Krista Renken, chair or sent by email to Nominations@UnityFortMill.org and will be **received until Thursday, April 30th**.

Outreach

AN OPPORTUNITY TO AID IN ONGOING RECOVERY EFFORTS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA- Western North Carolina continues to face unmet needs nearly two years after Hurricane Helene. Nearly \$45 billion of \$60 billion in damages remain unfunded, leaving critical gaps in housing, infrastructure, and small business stability. Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church invites you to join in helping with long-term recovery efforts in Asheville, NC, May 3–9. This is hosted by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) at New Hope Presbyterian Church. Those unable to attend the full week are still encouraged to reach out. An informational meeting will be held soon, either in person or via Zoom. For questions or to sign up, please contact Sue Williams at Sewilliams919@gmail.com or 803.981.3450.

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 22nd! It was truly a wonderful Sunday full 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 drop your forms in the offering plate, send them to the church office, log into REALM and choosing "Serving" and "Giving", or visit our website at <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 and Music

SAVE THE DATE - Please join us for a special dedicatory concert celebrating our beautiful new sanctuary piano on **Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00 p.m.** This free concert is open to all. The gift of our new Steinway Model B grand piano has already enriched our worship services and music ministry in meaningful ways. We invite you to gather with us as we dedicate this instrument to the glory of God through a concert by concert-pianist Dr. Lawrence Quinnett.

2026 FLOWER CALENDAR SIGN UP - 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. Dates for 2026 are now added to a Sign-Up Genius for reserving a Sunday to place flowers in the sanctuary. You may visit <https://bit.ly/4qE41tj> 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

JOIN US FOR WATER BALLOONS AT YOUTH GROUP TODAY! Middle schoolers meet from 4:00-5:00 p.m. and high schoolers meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in the Youth Wing. Wear clothes that can get wet!

SIGN-UP FOR UNITY YOUTH HOMEBOUND VISITS ON SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH! All youth will meet in the Youth Wing and visit with homebound members of our faith family from 4:00-5:30 p.m. **Scan the code and RSVP** so we can get a headcount for transportation.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE UNITY YOUTH END-OF-YEAR PARTY on **Sunday, May 3rd!** Join us on the front lawn from 4-5:30 p.m. for a waterslide, Kona Ice, and games to celebrate the end of a great year together! Current 5th graders are also invited and will be welcomed into the youth group!

Hymns for April 19, 2026
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Hymn

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

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