



**Sunday, February 15, 2026  
10:00 am Worship Service  
LAST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

**Mission Statement: Compelled by God's love and our faith in Jesus Christ, Unity Church, a diverse people of faith, seeks to realize God's dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.**

**Core Values: We love children. Serve Christ with courage. Embrace diversity. Nurture community. Be an advocate for justice and peace.**

**Vision Statement: We are called to Reach Up, Reach In and Reach Out**

**(302) 658-5288 [UnityChurchELCA@gmail.com](mailto:UnityChurchELCA@gmail.com)  
2101 Lancaster Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19805  
[www.unitywilmington.org](http://www.unitywilmington.org)**

**We invite you to contact Unity's staff members:**

**The Rev. Brian K. Sanders, Lead Pastor  
443-676-2239; [bks0808@aol.com](mailto:bks0808@aol.com)**

**The Rev. Dr. Melissa P. Lemons, Pastor for Community Ministry  
[melissalemons@gmail.com](mailto:melissalemons@gmail.com); 302-803-8866  
Office hours: by appointment**

**Norwood Coleman, Jr., PhD, Music Director  
Mrs. Sharlene Drummond, Choir Director**

**YOU CAN ACCESS US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:00AM ON YOUTUBE, UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILMINGTON, DE WITH THE CURRENT SUNDAY DATE. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, USE LINK BELOW.**

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4vkddPnbKEzTKIFg-Lkvg>**

**“Enter to Worship”**

\*Those who are able are invited to stand **\*\* Please, no walking or standing during this time. BOLD PRINT:** Congregation responds, P: Presider, A: Assisting Minister/Worship Leader. Where you see a <sup>+</sup>, you are invited to make the sign of the cross.

**THE GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**PRAISE & WORSHIP**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**Introduction**

A: Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

**OPENING HYMN- “SHINE, JESUS, SHINE” TFF 64 Please Stand**

*Refrain:*

***SHINE, JESUS, SHINE, FILL THIS LAND WITH THE FATHER'S GLORY;  
BLAZE, SPIRIT, BLAZE, SET OUT HEARTS ON FIRE.  
FLOW, RIVER, FLOW, FLOOD THE NATIONS WITH GRACE AND MERCY;  
SEND FOR YOUR WORD, LORD, AND LET THERE BE LIGHT.***

**VERSE 1 -**

**LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE IS SHINING, IN THE MIDST OF THE DARKNESS, SHINING; JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD, SHINE UPON US, SET US FREE BY THE TRUTH YOU NOW BRING US. SHINE ON ME, SHINE ON ME.** *Refrain*

**VERSE 2 -**

**AS WE GAZE ON YOUR KINGLY BRIGHTNESS, SO OUR FACES DISPLAY YOUR LIKENESS, EVER CHANGING GLORY TO GLORY, MIRRORED HERE, MAY OUR LIES TELL YOUR STORY. SHINE ON ME, SHINE ON ME.** *Refrain*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (Please Stand)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, <sup>☩</sup> one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.** Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in <sup>☩</sup> Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A or P: O God, **in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD (Please be seated)

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

### First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## Psalm: Psalm 2 (READ RESPONSIVELY)

<sup>1</sup> Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

<sup>2</sup> **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**

<sup>3</sup> "Let us break their yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us."

<sup>4</sup> **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the LORD holds them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup> Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

<sup>6</sup> **"As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

<sup>7</sup> Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you."

<sup>8</sup> **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

<sup>9</sup> You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

<sup>10</sup> **And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup> Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

<sup>12</sup> **lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

## Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

<sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please Stand)

**P:** Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to: **Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his

clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY – "MY GOD IS AWESOME"**

**My God is awesome, He can move mountains  
Keep me in the valley, hide me from the rain  
My God is awesome, heals me when I'm broken  
Strength where I've been weakened, forever He will reign**

**My God is awesome, He can move mountains  
Keep me in the valley, hide me from the rain  
My God is awesome, heals me when I'm broken  
Strength where I've been weakened, forever He will reign**

**My God is awesome, awesome, awesome, awesome  
My God is awesome, awesome, awesome, awesome  
My God is awesome, Savior of the whole world  
Giver of salvation, by His stripes I am healed**

**My God is awesome, today I am forgiven**

**His grace is why I'm living, praise His holy name  
My God is awesome, awesome, awesome, awesome**

**My God is awesome, awesome, awesome, awesome  
He's mighty, He's mighty, He's mighty, He's mighty, Awesome,  
awesome  
He's Holy... Awesome...  
He's Great... Awesome...  
He's mighty... Awesome...  
Deliverer... Awesome...  
He's holy... Awesome...  
Provider... Awesome...  
Protector... Awesome...**

**My God is awesome, He can move mountains  
Keep me in the valley, hide me from the rain  
My God is awesome, heals me when I'm broken  
Strength where I've been weakened, praise His holy name**

**SERMON  
Notes...**

**Pastor Brian Sanders**

**APOSTLES CREED (Please Stand)**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the commun-**

**ion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Or, “he descended to the dead,” another translation of this text in widespread use. From sundaysandseasons.com.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Please sit, stand or kneel)**

A: As God’s beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *A brief silence.*

Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict (*regions at war may be named*). Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered*

Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always

C: **And also with you.** Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

## OFFERING (God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7, 8)

*(During the offering, the ushers will pass the offering plates moving from back to front while a musical selection is played. Then the congregation will sing the Offertory hymn printed below.)*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me.

Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your

Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -

hold me with your free Spir - it.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of majesty, **no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**PLEASE BE SEATED.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you

P: Lift up your hearts.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*All are welcome to communion*

**C: And also with you.**

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. We remember and proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection. We look with hope for the Lord's coming and ask... **Come, Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Amen**

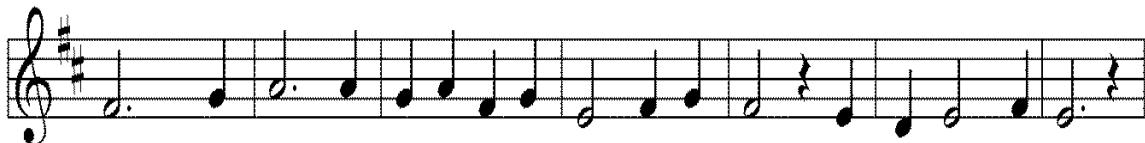
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P:** Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:  
(*Alternate/modern versions of prayer in This Far by Faith p. 3, WOV p. 39*)

**C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P:** Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.



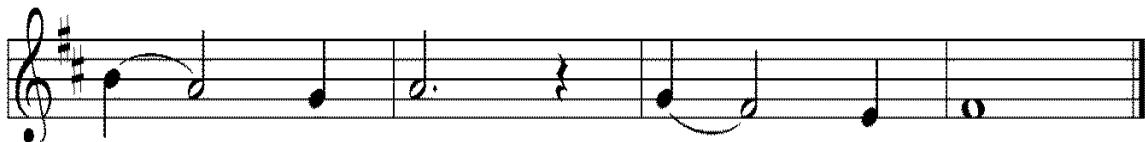
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A & C: Radiant God, **we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise <sup>†</sup> bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN- “ALLELUIA SONG OF GLADNESS” ELW 318**  
**Please Stand**

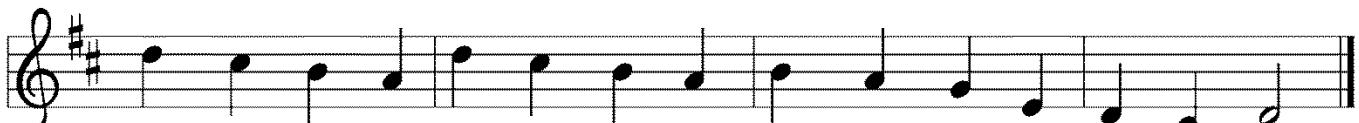
## Alleluia, Song of Gladness



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;  
2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;  
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;  
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless-ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;  
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth-er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;  
al - le - lu - ia our trans-gres-sions make us for a while for - go;  
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith-ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn-ing ex - iles still are we.  
for the sol - emn time is com-ing when our tears for sin shall flow.  
there to you for - ev - er sing-ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy  
**Thanks be to God.**

**“Let us exit to serve”**

*We are called to reach up, reach in, and reach out.....*

**IF YOU HAVE ANYONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE @ 302-658-5288. NAMES WILL REMAIN ON THE PRAYER LIST FOR 3 MONTHS, UNLESS YOU REQUEST LONGER. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE to MAKE ADDITIONS – (302) 658-5288.**

**THIS WEEK WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:**

**UNITY CHURCH  
HARRY WILLIAMS  
REV. LORRAINE  
FRAN RODRIQUEZ  
JOAN MILLER  
JAMES SPAMER  
DONA RODRIGUES AND SON DANIEL**

**PASTOR BRIAN SANDERS  
PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT  
RUTH JOE  
ROB FISHER  
MARLENE SMITH  
HARRY WILLIAMS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – Birthdays, Anniversaries, Visitors**  
**WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL VISITORS TO UNITY THIS MORNING.**  
**IT IS SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU AND PLEASE COME AGAIN.**

**FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH.** Please feel free to wear your clothing to represent your heritage.

**PUB THEOLOGY** – is held on the third Sunday of each month. We meet in the Weiser Room, have lunch and hold a lively discussion centering around everyday life. It is quite interesting and everyone is invited is invited to attend. In February, we will meet TODAY.

**BEGINNING MARCH 1** you will have the opportunity to purchase a lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one to be placed on the altar

for Easter. Deadline to purchase is March 22. The cost of each lily purchased is \$15.00.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is Wednesday, February 18. We will have a drive-by ashes here from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Worship service on Ash Wednesday will be held at 7:00 pm.

**TODAY** is the last Sunday for our alleluias in the service. They will be eliminated until Easter. See attached article explaining why we don't use alleluias during Lent.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE** will meet next on March 1, 2026, immediately following morning worship and in the Weiser Room.

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!** Our semi-annual spring giveaway will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Please donate all small household items, toys, shoes, and clothing. We need many volunteers on Friday, May 1 to organize donated items and we also will need many volunteers on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Please prayerfully consider helping. For more info, call Joan Lygate (302) 563-6464.

**SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR/FELLOWSHIP** is held in the Narthex immediately following morning worship and all are invited to attend. If anyone is interested in hosting one Sunday, please contact Rev. Lorraine @ (302) 383-9755.

**PRIVATE PRAYERS** – If you would like extra prayer time, you are welcome to stay at the altar after you have had communion.

**WEEKLY ZUMBA CLASSES** – These classes are held in Luther Hall immediately following morning worship. Please come and participant. Everyone is invited to attend for a fun, healthy activity, and there is a free-will offering.

**Dementia Caregiver Support Group:** 2nd Thursday of the month, 6-7:30pm. Contact Rev. Brain Sanders for more info.

**Prayer:** Anyone interested in 30 minutes of presenting prayer leads is invited to join our Prayer Line every Monday evening at 6:30-7:00 pm. Dial 1-240-591-0390, 315-704#.

**Volunteers needed:** Readers (lectors), Assisting Ministers (Worship leaders), Communion Assistants and Altar Guild. Please consider helping out in this capacity. Also, we need a volunteer liaison for the Boy Scouts to replace Bob Mazzoni. See Carol Egan for more info.

**Council Vacancies:** There are several open positions on Unity Church Council – volunteers needed to oversee Education, Hospitality, and Stewardship Committees; as well as anyone with accounting or bookkeeping skills to assist the Treasurer. See Rob Snowden or Pastor Sanders.

**Offering/Giving:** An alternative way to contribute to Unity is to set up VANCO on your mobile phone by texting (844)794-0738 and follow directions to donate by credit card. There is a “donate now” button on our Website which is [www.unitywilmington.org](http://www.unitywilmington.org)

**Spiritual Direction/Companionship:** If you'd like to talk individually about your faith life and how God shows up for you, contact Pr. Melissa. Sessions are free for Unity members (normally \$50 per hour). Companions usually meet once a month.

**BIBLE STUDY SURVEY** – Please take a copy of the Bible Study Survey which is at the back of the church and fill it out to aid Pastor Sanders in best way to approach weekly Bible Study and fulfill the needs of those attending the Bible Study.

**Bible Study** will resume on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and will be held every Wednesday evening at 7:00 via Zoom. Please access Zoom as follows:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87206052414?pwd=cWxnSnJodFE5S3hObzQrVGdMWGwwUT09>

One tap mobile  
+13017158592,,87206052414#....0#,,717690# US (Wash, DC)  
**Meeting ID: 872 0605 2414**  
**Passcode: 717690**



