



**Sunday, June 29, 2025**  
**9:30 am Worship Service**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**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**

**Vida Dawkins, Youth Ministry Director**  
**[vidadawkins@gmail.com](mailto:vidadawkins@gmail.com), 302-345-2617**

YOU CAN ACCESS US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM 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 ✠, 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:** We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus’ call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit’s fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

## **OPENING HYMN- “O GIVE THANKS” UNITY SONG BOOK #2**

**Please Stand**

**O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD, YES HE IS GOOD**

**O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD, YES HE IS GOOD**

**FOR HE IS WORTHY, WORTHY  
FOR HE IS GOOD, YES HE IS GOOD  
FOR HE IS WORTHY, WORTHY  
FOR HE IS GOOD, YES HE IS GOOD**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (Please Stand)

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A or P: Sovereign God, **you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD (Please be seated)

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

### First Reading: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

<sup>19</sup> So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. <sup>20</sup> He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" <sup>21</sup> He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

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

### **Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

<sup>1</sup> For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ

Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

## **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please Stand)**

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



## **GOSPEL**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to: **Luke 9:51-62**

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

### **Gospel:**

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." <sup>59</sup> To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Let the

dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” <sup>61</sup> Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY- “LORD, PREPARE ME TO BE A SANCTUARY”  
UNITY SONG BOOK #12**

**LORD, PREPARE ME TO BE A SANCTUARY  
PURE AND HOLY, TRIED AND TRUE  
WITH THANKSGIVING, I’LL BE A LIVING SANCTUARY FOR YOU.**

**LEAD ME, O LORD, FROM TEMPTATION  
PURIFY ME FROM WITHIN  
FILL MY HEART WITH YOUR HOLY SPRIT  
TAKE AWAY ALL MY SINS**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Brian Sanders**

**Notes...**

## 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 communion 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:** Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of your peace. Emboldened by the witness of (*your apostles Peter and Paul and*) Christians throughout history, send us to proclaim your reign come near. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect this world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds, the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and respond to the people they govern. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence (*especially*). Give all your fullness of joy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries (*local ministries may be named*). Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom to which you have called us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, 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: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P: The Lord be with you**

***All are welcome to communion***

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

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**

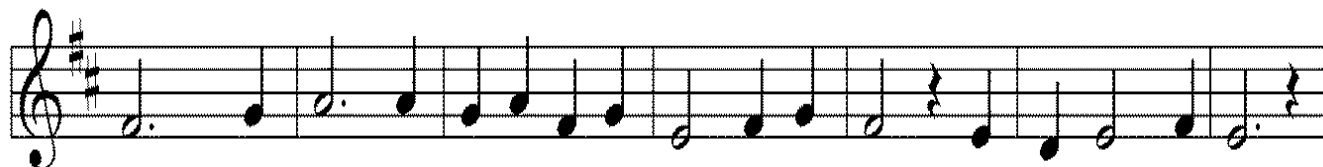
P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

*(Alternate/modern versions of prayer in This Far by Faith p. 3, WOV p. 39)*

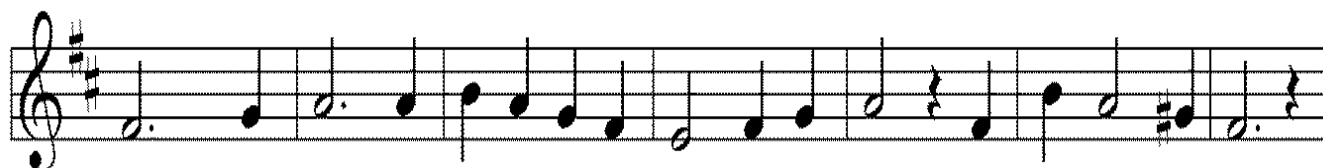
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.



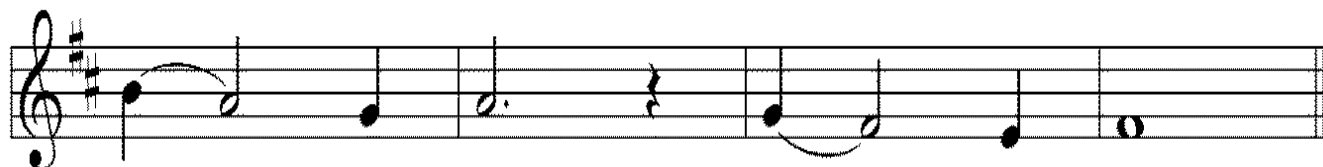
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**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: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING**

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. Amen.

**SENDING HYMN– “THE LORD IS BLESSING ME RIGHT NOW” UNITY  
SONG BOOK 9 Please Stand**

**THE LORD IS BLESSING ME RIGHT NOW, O RIGHT NOW  
THE LORD IS BLESSING ME RIGHT NOW, O RIGHT NOW  
HE WOKE ME UP THIS MORNING  
STARTED ME ON MY WAY  
THE LORD IS BLESSING ME RIGHT NOW, O RIGHT NOW**

## DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**“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:**

<b>UNITY CHURCH</b>	<b>PASTOR BRIAN SANDERS</b>
<b>DEBBIE SWAN</b>	<b>PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT</b>
<b>NORMAN GARRETT</b>	<b>SPENCER DRUMMOND</b>
<b>ROBIN BARNARD FAMILY</b>	
<b>BILL ELLSWORTH</b>	
<b>KATHLEEN DABKOWSKI</b>	

**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.**

**PUB THEOLOGY** – Through a generous donation, we will be able to resume Pub Theology on the third Sunday of each month. In July, we will meet on Sunday, July 20, 2025, in the Weiser Room, following morning worship, and lunch will be brought in for those attending. We will not meet in August, but we will resume our time together in September.

**SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN** - As we approach the end of the school year, we are planning to acknowledge all children and their year of completion in school. There are forms at the back of the church for this information. For more details, see Carol Egan.

**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** – We will suspend Weekly Zumba Classes for the summer and will resume in the fall.

**Praise and Worship Rehearsal:** every Sunday after church in the sanctuary.

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

**Food Pantry:** Evening Hours – Every Thursday 5:00-7:00pm

**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 has resumed on** Wednesday at 7:00pm. Please access Zoom as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87206052414?pwd=cWxnSnJodFE5S3hObzQrVGdMWGwwUTo9>

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87206052414#.....0#,,717690# US (Wash, DC)

**Meeting ID: 872 0605 2414**

**Passcode: 717690**





