



Sunday, November 23, 2025
10:00 am Worship Service
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
24th 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
2101 Lancaster Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19805
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

The Rev. Dr. Melissa P. Lemons, Pastor for Community Ministry
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 ✚, 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

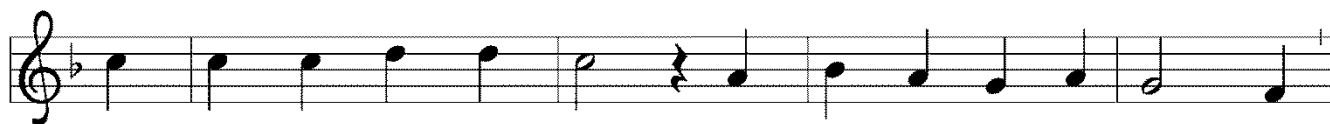
RINGING OF THE BELLS

Introduction

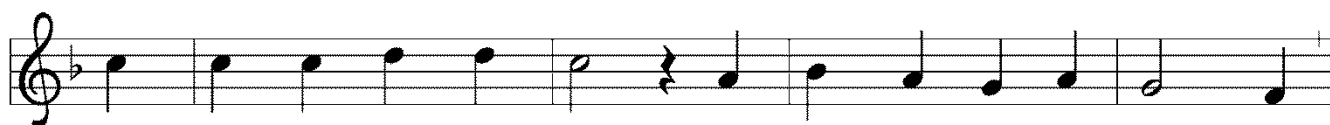
A: This is the final Sunday of the church year. Today, we celebrate the reign of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, recognizing that his kingship is one of humility, service and love, not earthly power. As we reflect on his sacrifice on the cross, we are reminded to live as his loyal citizens by serving others and bearing witness to his love in our own lives.

OPENING HYMN- “NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD” ELW 840
Please Stand

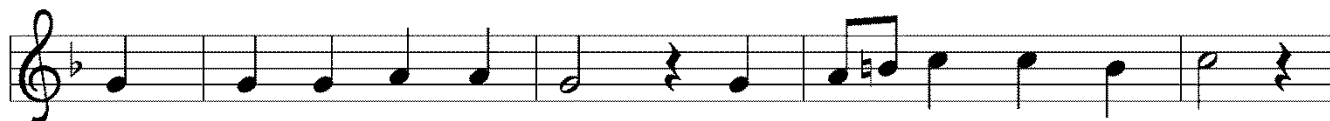
Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (Please Stand)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.** *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Faithful God, **you have shown us the ways of your heart,
yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of
oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful
promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth.
We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of
your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we
have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ☩ in Christ Jesus
your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set
free. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A or P: Lord Jesus Christ, **King of heaven and earth, you are the
ruler of all. Help us to live as your servants, to love and serve
those in need and to work for your kingdom of justice, love and
peace. Grant us the courage to share your truth and to stand
up for the rights of the marginalized. May your reign be com-
plete in our lives and in the world. Amen**

UNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIED DURING IN 2025:

BOB MAZZONI (3/13/25)

BETTY BEYER (4/20/25)

PAMELA BOYER (3/31/2025)

RUSSELL CRAIG (8/29/25)

WORD (*Please be seated*)

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

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

Psalm: Psalm 46 (READ RESPONSIVELY)

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted
among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and

through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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 23:33-43**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have

been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.”⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY- “SHOUT TO THE LORD”
UNITY SONG BOOK #22**

**MY JESUS, MY SAVIOR, LORD THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU
ALL MY DAYS, I WANT TO PRAISE
THE WONDERS OF YOUR MIGHTY LOVE.**

**MY COMFORT, MY SHELTER. TOWER OF REFUGE AND
STRENGTH
LET EVERY BREATH ALL THAT I AM
NEVER CEASE TO WORSHIP YOU.**

**SHOUT TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH LET US SING.
POWER AND MAJESTY PRAISE TO THE KING.
MOUNTAINS BOW DOWN AND THE SEAS WILL ROAR
AT THE SOUND OF YOUR NAME.**

**I SING FOR JOY AT THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS.
FOREVER I’LL LOVE YOU FOREVER I’LL STAND.
NOTHING COMPARES TO THE PROMISE I HAVE IN YOU.**

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: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick (*especially*). Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all who have died in faith (*especially*). May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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.

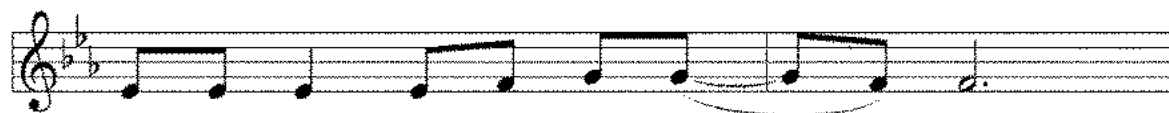
OFFERING

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

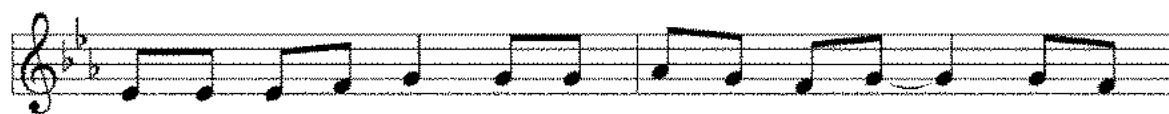
(During the offering, the ushers will pass the offering plates moving from back to front while a musical selection is played. Then the congregation will sing the Offertory hymn printed below.)



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



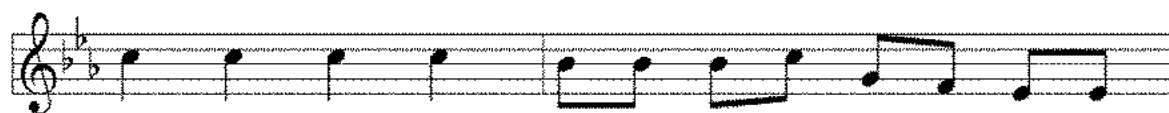
new a right spir - it with - in me.



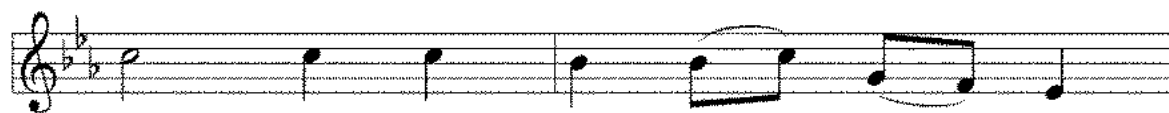
Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your



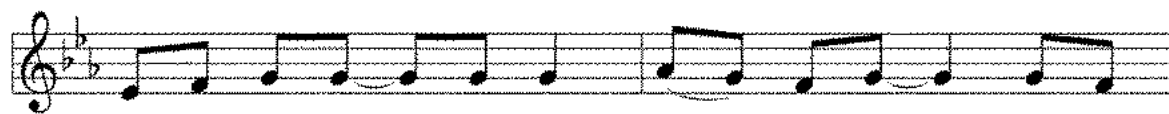
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



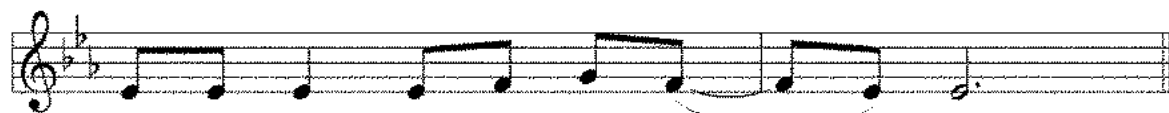
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -



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 healing and hope, **you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

All are welcome to communion

P: The Lord be with you

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**

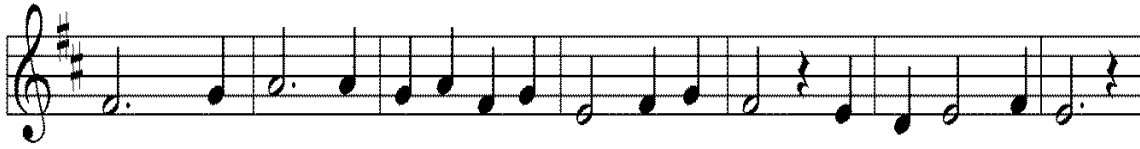
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*)

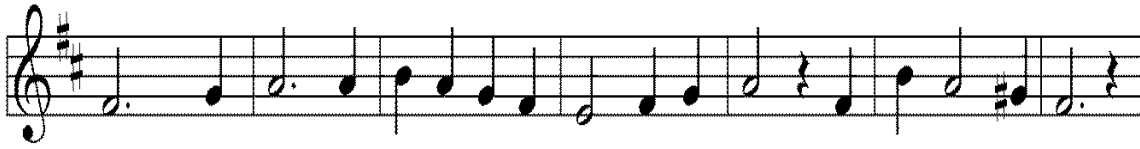
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.



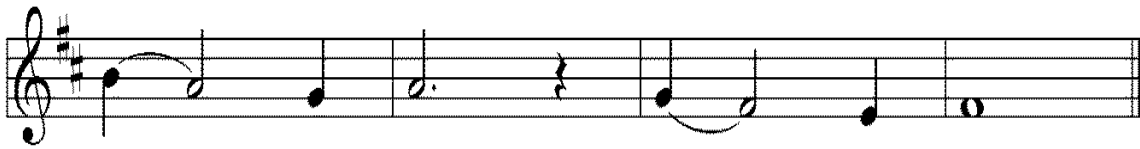
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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: God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world.

Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. Amen.

THE SENDING

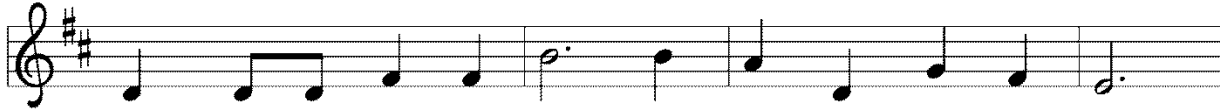
God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.

BLESSING

P: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN– “PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY” ELW 855 Please Stand

Crown Him with Many Crowns



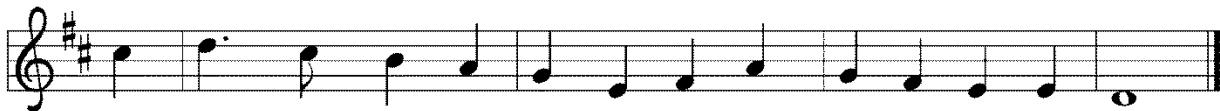
- 1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest. **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
DEBBIE SWAN
NORMAN GARRETT
TYLER ALEXANDER
BILL ELLSWORTH
REV. LORRAINE
DRANE JONES
FRAN RODRIQUEZ**

**PASTOR BRIAN SANDERS
PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT
SPENCER DRUMMOND
CURTIS JACKSON
NANCY ELLSWORTH
RUTH JOE
ROB FISHER**

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.

“BLUE CHRISTMAS”. Not all feel joy and happiness during the holiday season. You are invited to Old Swedes Church on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm to join in sharing in a ceremony of prayers, sacred text, music and poetry. All are invited. We pray you will find comfort in knowing you are not alone and that God’s promise

is for those who grieve, for those who struggle, for those who “feel blue”. Pastor Brian Sanders will be one of the worship leaders at this ceremony. There is a flyer at the back of the church giving you more information or see Pastor Sanders.

CHRISTMA EVE – Our Christmas Eve here at Unity will be held at 3:00 pm.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE – The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025, immediately following morning worship.

CHRITMAS POINSETTIAS – will be available for purchase for \$15.00 each and will be used to beautify the sanctuary during the Christmas holiday. Deadline for purchase will be December 14th. Envelopes for this purpose will be at the back of the church beginning next Sunday.

KIM WILLIAMS is collecting hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant to be given away on Christmas Eve. All donations are accepted. Please leave your contributions in the Narthex for Kim. Deadline is Sunday, December 21, 2025.

TURKEYS FOR THE NEEDY – We will be collecting turkeys for the needy next Sunday, November 23, 2025. Please leave your donations in the kitchen, and the turkeys will be taken to the Neighborhood House for distribution. Thank you all!!

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.

PUB THEOLOGY – Through a generous donation, we will be able to resume Pub Theology on the third Sunday of each month. In November, we will be meeting on TODAY in the Weiser Room, immediately following morning worship. Please join us!! ALL ARE WELCOME!!

JOAN LYGATE'S GRANDDAUGHTER, ADDISON ASHWORTH, is actively seeking donations for the new coat drive. The coats purchased will be given away to all children at the Wilmington library on the first weekend of December. She is attempting to collect at least 100 coats for this free giveaway. She is asking for donations of \$10/coat or, if you prefer, you may purchase the coats to be donated. See flyer at the back of the church. Please see Joan Lygate for more information.

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

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 meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 via Zoom. Please access Zoom as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87206052414?pwd=cWxnSnJodFE5S3hObzQrVGdMWGwwUTog>

One tap mobile

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

Meeting ID: 872 0605 2414

Passcode: 717690

