



Sunday, November 9, 2025

10:00 am Worship Service

22nd SUNDAY OF 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

Vida Dawkins, Youth Ministry Director

vidadawkins@gmail.com, 302-345-2617

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: When the Sadducees encounter Jesus with a technical question, he responds by humanizing and placing divine value upon each character in the Sadducees’ hypothetical scenario. Jesus’ response is about resurrection and about naming people as children of God and of light. The answer Jesus gives the Sadducees is about God, whose presence means life. This is about God’s promise of resurrection in the face of death, and about life in the face of and in spite of death.

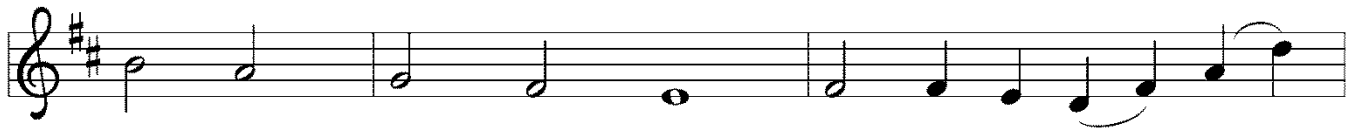
Like Job, who was surrounded by the remnants of his lost life and still proclaimed hope, Jesus is in the midst of palpable tension that very soon will lead him to his own death, and yet he proclaims life. The author of this hope is God, whose very naming of a person brings that one to life. These texts proclaim hope in the face of hopelessness, and urge us to do the same.

**OPENING HYMN- “I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES” ELW
619 Please Stand**

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
 3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
 4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
 guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
 wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
 throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
 me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
 trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

5 He lives to bless me with his love;
 he lives to plead for me above;
 he lives my hungry soul to feed;
 he lives to help in time of need.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 he lives, and I shall conquer death;
 he lives my mansion to prepare;
 he lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 he lives and loves me to the end;
 he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
 he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
 He lives, my Savior, still the same;
 what joy this blest assurance gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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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: God of Grace, **you have given us eternal comfort and good
hope. You have shown us the glorious splendor of your majes-
ty and the wonder of your works. Join our work with your own,
that by the grace in which we trust, we may be brought to the
resurrection in which we hope, by the faithfulness of your
wondrous love. Amen.**

WORD (*Please be seated*)

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

Job 19:23-27a

²³“O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead, they were engraved on a rock forever! ²⁵For I know that my vindicator lives and that in the end he will stand upon the earth; ²⁶and after my skin has been destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, ^{27a}whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 17:1-9 (READ RESPONSIVELY)

¹ Hear a just cause, O LORD; give heed ¹ to my cry;
listen to my prayer, which does not come from ¹ lying lips.

² **Let my vindication come forth ¹ from your presence;
let your eyes be ¹ fixed on justice.**

³ Examine my heart, visit ¹ me by night,
melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.

⁴ **I have not regarded what ¹ others do;
at the word of your lips I have avoided the ways ¹ of the
violent.**

⁵ My footsteps hold fast to your ¹ well-worn path;
and my feet ¹ do not slip.

⁶ **I call upon you, O God, for you will ¹ answer me;
incline your ear to me and ¹ hear my words.**

⁷ Show me your marvelous ¹ lovingkindness, O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who ¹ rise against them.

⁸ **Keep me as the apple ¹ of your eye;
hide me under the shadow ¹ of your wings,**

⁹ from the wicked ¹ who assault me,
from my deadly enemies ¹ who surround me.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

¹ As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴ He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

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 6:20-31**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 20:27-38

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to [Jesus] ²⁸ and asked him a question: "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive."

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY- "LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH"
UNITY SONG BOOK #8**

**LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH.
LORD, I LOVE TO SING YOUR PRAISES.
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE IN MY LIFE.
I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME TO SAVE US.**

**YOU CAME FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH
TO SHOW THE WAY
FROM THE EARTH TO THE CROSS
MY DEBT TO PAY
FROM THE CROSS TO THE GRAVE
FROM THE GRAVE TO THE SKY
LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH.**

SERMON

Minister Cynthia Slater

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 Fa-

ther, 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.*

God our Redeemer, bless your church universal and its leaders. Set all hearts on you from generation to generation in anticipation of Christ's return. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, we give thanks for the fruits and grains of harvest, for rivers and streams, for all that is made of rock and iron. Renew the earth's natural resources and the lands from which they come. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, we give thanks for the service of our veterans and pray for those needing support for wounds of any kind. Strengthen those charged with the governance and protection of vulnerable populations. Bring an end to war throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God who leads us to belief and truth, we give thanks that you are always and already here. Nurture and support those who are unsteady in mind, unsafe in spirit, or unwell in body (*especially*). Comfort those who suffer from trauma and exposure to traumatic events. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God who gathers us together, we give thanks for our pastors and deacons, teachers and musicians, administrators, and building caretakers. May they find joy in leadership as we grow in faith together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of the saints, we give thanks for all who have died in faith (*especially*). Uplift us as we honor their memory and await your coming in glory. 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.

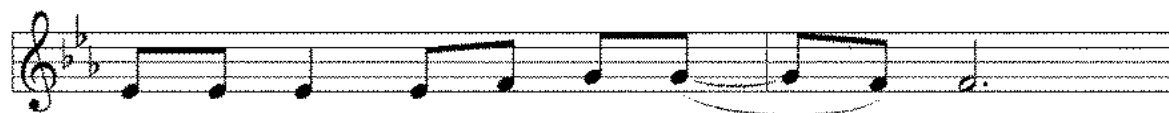
OFFERING

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

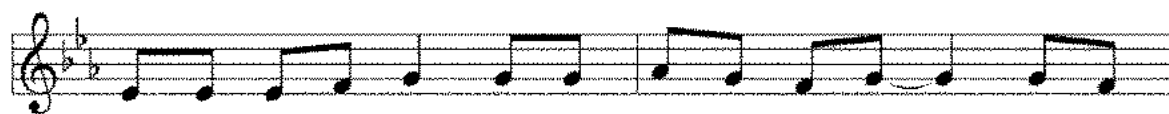
(During the offering, the ushers will pass the offering plates moving from back to front while a musical selection is played. Then the congregation will sing the Offertory hymn printed below.)



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



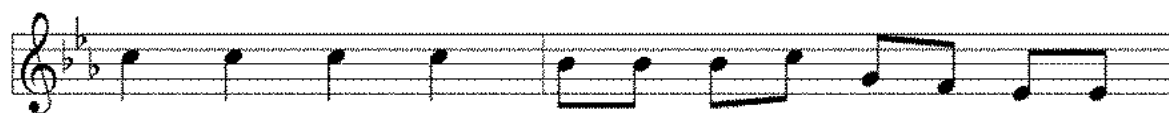
new a right spir - it with - in me.



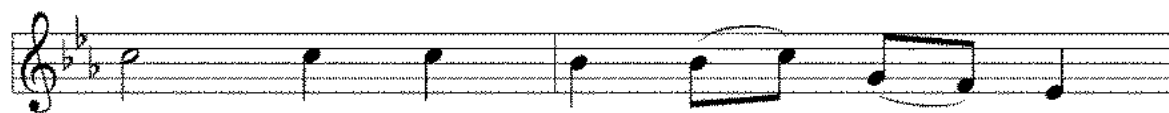
Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your



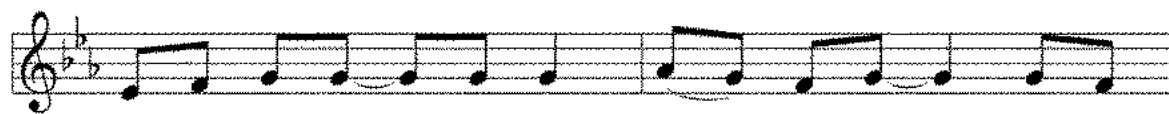
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



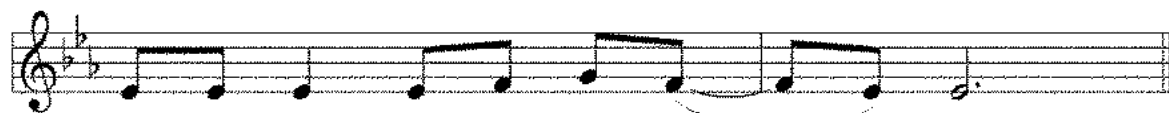
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -



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.**

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.



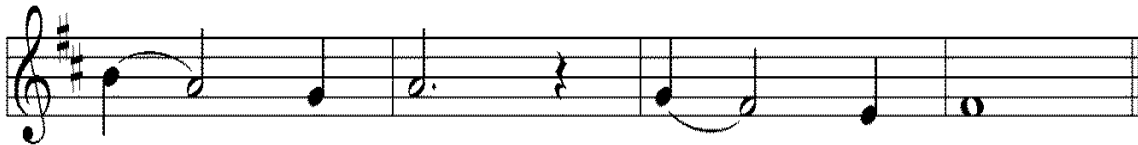
☩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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– “I’LL SAY YES, LORD” UNITY SONG BOOK
#45 Please Stand**

**I’LL SAY YES LORD YES
TO YOUR WILL AND TO YOUR WAY.**

**I’LL SAY YES LORD YES.
I WILL TRUST YOU AND OBEY.**

**WHEN YOUR SPIRIT SPEAKS TO ME
WITH MY WHOLE HEART I’LL AGREE
AND MY ANSWER WILL BE YES LORD YES.**

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**

**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.*

MINISTER CYNTHIA'S GRANDSON, PHARAOH, has a fund raiser at his school. They are selling Thanksgiving pies for \$20 each made by Desserts by Dana. There are a variety of pies to choose from and there is a flyer at the back of the church. Contact Minister Cynthia for further information. Deadline for ordering is November 12th.

BISHOP GOHL'S 25TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY – will be held on Sunday, November 16th from 3-5pm. The closest one to us is at Grace Church in Hockessin. Pastor Sanders and Pastor Melissa will be going, and they hope that many of our members will be able to attend. This event is free.

UNITY WORK DAY will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 9:00-noon. Please come out to help to beautify our church.

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 November 16, 2025 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=cWxnSnJodFE5S3hObzQrVGdMWGwwUTo9>

One tap mobile

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

Meeting ID: 872 0605 2414

Passcode: 717690

