



Sunday, October 12, 2025
10:00 am Worship Service
18th 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

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: It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

**OPENING HYMN- “PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN”
ELW 865 Please Stand**

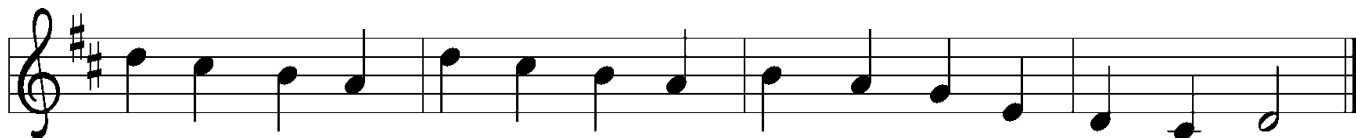
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.
- 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis - tress.
- 3 Tend - er - ly he shields and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows.
- 4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, who be - hold him face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais-es sing.
Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
In his hands he gent - ly bears us, res-cues us from all our foes.
Sun and moon bow down be - fore him; all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

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

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (Please Stand)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A or P: Almighty and most merciful God, **your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD (Please be seated)

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

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease."

⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

^{15a, b, c} Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴ Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please Stand)**

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

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: **Luke 17:11-19**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel:

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samari-

tan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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

HYMN OF THE DAY- "PRAISE HIM! JESUS, BLESSED SAVIOR" TFF 285

**1: Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him;
Jesus blessed Savior He's worthy to be praised.**

**Verse 1: From the rising of the sun until the going down of the
same; He's worthy, Jesus is worthy. He's worthy
to be praised.**

**2: Glory! Glory! In all things give Him glory; Jesus, blessed
Savior He's worthy to be praised**

**Verse 2: For God is our rock hope of salvation; A strong deliverer
In Him will I always trust.**

**3: Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him;
Jesus blessed Savior He's worthy to be praised.**

**Verse 3: From the rising of the sun until the going down of the
same; He's worthy, Jesus is worthy. He's worthy
to be praised.**

**4: Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him;
Jesus blessed Savior He's worthy to be praised.**

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: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you lead your people to faith. Remind the church that your word flows into the world. By your Spirit, teach the church to share the word of God for the sake of the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, you provided cleansing and healing waters for Naaman. Water the earth's lands in parched places. Restore clean water to all communities, and guide the work of all who advocate for safe and abundant water supplies. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous One, you bring justice and wholeness throughout the world, and your righteousness endures forever. By your spirit, guide leaders

of all nations and lands to right relationship with you and with one another. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, you know the needs of your people. Show mercy to those suffering in the world. Comfort those in need of your healing (*especially*). God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, you free us by your word. Help us, by your Spirit, to be transformed to live your word of freedom honestly and uprightly in our teaching, preaching, and serving. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy God, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith (*especially*). Guide us to trust in the baptismal promise of resurrection in Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, 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: Lord of the harvest, **we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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*)

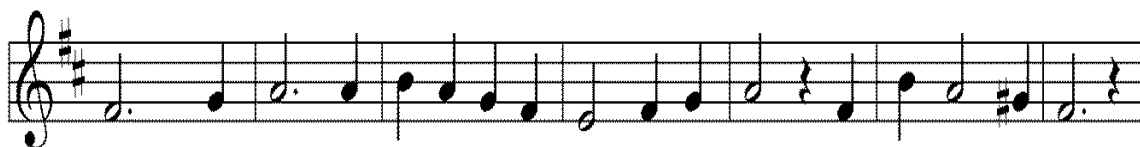
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.



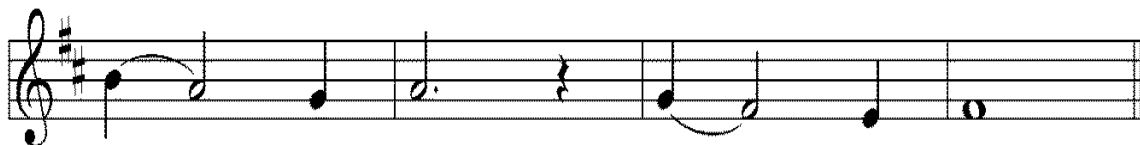
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN– “LORD, PREPARE ME TO BE A SANCTUARY”
UNITY SONG BOOK #12 Please Stand**

**LORD, PREPARE ME TO BE A SANCTUARY
PURE & HOLY, TRIED & 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 SPIRIT
TAKE AWAY ALL MY SINS**

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **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.

COUNCIL MEETING – Will be held on Monday, October 13, 2025 at 7:00 on Zoom.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR/FELLOWSHIP will resume on Sunday, November 2, 2025. This 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.

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT – St. Philip's Lutheran Church has invited the women of Unity to a Fall Retreat on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 8am-1pm in their fellowship hall. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. RSVP by Sunday, October 26th. The theme is "Far More Precious than Diamonds".

PUB THEOLOGY – Through a generous donation, we will be able to resume Pub Theology on the third Sunday of each month. In October, we will be meeting on October 19, in the Weiser Room, following morning worship, and lunch will be brought in for those attending. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

ALL SAINTS DAY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025. Your loved ones who have passed on will be acknowledged and will be named in the bulletin. Please use the envelopes at the back of the church to inform us of the names of your loved ones and for any donations to be given in their honor. The contributions will be given to the building fund.

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.

OUR SEMI-ANNUAL GIVEAWAY will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2025 between the hours of 10:30-1:30. We will accept all donations of gently used clothing, children's items, small household items and small appliances. Please bring your donations into the church and leave in the Narthex. This is completely free for all, and there will be

lunch served for all attending. We need volunteers to make this happen. Please call Joan Lygate (302) 563-6464 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 – We will resume TODAY. These classes are held in Luther Hall immediately following morning worship. Please come and participate. Everyone is invited to attend, and there is a free-will offering.

Dementia Caregiver Support Group: 2nd Thursday of the month, 6-7:30pm. Contact Rev. Brian 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

