



**Sunday, June 13, 2021**

***3rd Sunday After Pentecost***  
**9:30 am Worship Service**

**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

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

**The Rev. Clarence Pettit, Senior Pastor**  
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**The Rev. Dr. Melissa P. Lemons, Pastor for Community Ministry**  
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**Norwood Coleman, Jr., PhD, Music Director**  
**Mrs. Sharlene Drummond, Choir Director**

**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

### **THE GATHERING**

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

#### **> PRAISE & WORSHIP – “Here I Am to Worship”**

**Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down.  
Here I am to say that you’re my God.  
You’re all together lovely. All together worthy, all together  
Wonderful to me.**

**I’ll never know how much it cost  
To see my sins upon that cross.  
I’ll never know how much it cost  
To see my sins upon that cross.**

### **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

#### **Introduction**

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We’d expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It’s not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody’s looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

#### **OPENING HYMN – “God is Here” *Please Stand***

**There is a sweet anointing in this sanctuary  
There is a stillness in the atmosphere.  
O come lay down the burdens you have carried  
For in the sanctuary – God is here.**

**He is here. God is here. To break the yoke and lift the heavy  
burden. He is here. God is here.**

**To heal the hopeless heart and bless the broken.  
O come lay down the burdens you have carried  
For in the sanctuary God is here.**

### **CONFESSION & FOREGIVENESS (PLEASE STAND)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **WORD (PLEASE BE SEATED)**

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

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

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

### **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17**

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you

again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!  
*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (PLEASE STAND)**

**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: Mark 4:26-34**

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

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

***HYMN OF THE DAY "Faithful"***

**Faithful, faithful, faithful is our God.  
Faithful, faithful, faithful is our God.  
I'm reaping the harvest God promised me.  
Take back what the devil stole from me.  
And I rejoice today for I shall recover it all.  
Yes, I rejoice today for I shall recover it all.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Clarence Pettit**

**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 catholic 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)**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musician(s) (*especially*). We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you (*especially*). We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.  
**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

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

**We ask that you place your offering in the plate as you exit the church. God bless you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, Bread of life, **you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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*)

**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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

### **Prayer after Communion**

Jesus, Bread of life, **we have received from your table**

more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.**

**HERE IS A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO DONATE TO UNITY VIA TEXT AND CREDIT CARD. SET UP VANCO ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE BY TEXTING TO (844)794-0738, AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS TO DONATE BY CREDIT CARD.**

The United Voices ministry would like to give thanks for the outpouring of support and donations for our community service project. The items collected were donated to a small non-profit that serves women in transition. If you would care to donate, please make checks payable to Unity Church or United Voices. No cash please. For more info, contact Cynthia Slater (302) 397-7913 or Rev Lorraine Dryden (302) 383-9755.

## **THE SENDING**

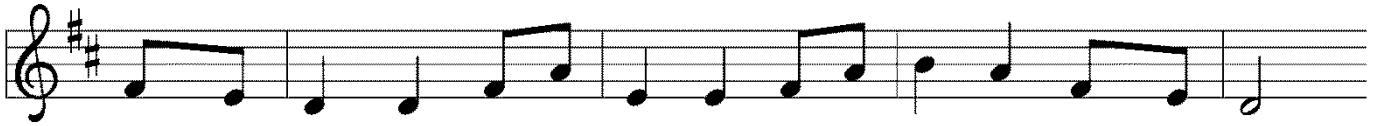
*God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.*

### **BLESSING**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN -- Please Stand**

## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



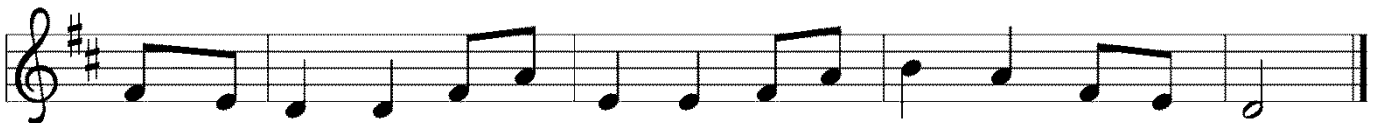
- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
- 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **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. THIS WEEK WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:**

**MARY DARRELL  
DICK ULLMAN  
ERIKA ULLMAN  
JIM PIETSCHMAN  
DOTTIE DODDS  
DELORES BOUZOUKIS  
DENIS RODRIQUES  
MARY DOUGLAS**

**PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT  
PASTOR MELISSA LEMONS  
UNITY CHURCH  
JOE OLIVER  
LUC OYOLA  
MIKE (BRAD) BRADLEY  
ALEXIS JOHNSON**