

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL
FESTIVAL WORSHIP



FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

*Please stand, as able, when indicated by asterisk. **Bold text indicates congregational response.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

EIN FESTE BURG

INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

arr. Sallie Lloyd

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come into God's presence,
you who imagine and you who seek,
you who disrupt and you who repair.

By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

Come into God's presence,
you who live in this wide and wild world,
navigating beauty and uncertainty, temptation and trial.

In Christ, we gather as children of God.

Come into God's presence,
singing for joy and for justice;
bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE 439**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN FESTE BURG

***COLLECT IN ESPAÑOL**

Dios misericordioso, que nos llamas a amar a nuestro prójimo como a nosotros mismos, nos has bendecido con muchas lenguas para alabar tu santo nombre. Oramos por la unidad de la Iglesia, por todos los que celebran su culto en inglés o en español, y por los inmigrantes que viven de la fe en un país desconocido. Por Cristo Jesús, que hace un hogar para todos tus hijos. Amén.

Merciful God, who calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves, you have blessed us with many tongues to praise your holy name. We pray for the unity of the church, for all who worship in English or Spanish, and for immigrants who live by faith in an unfamiliar country. Through Christ Jesus, who makes a home for all your children. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 4:1-11

from *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." But Jesus answered, "It is written, '*Not by bread alone does humanity live, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.*'"

Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, '*God will command God's own angels concerning you*' and '*On their hands they will take you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*'" Jesus said to it, "Again it is written, '*Do not put the Holy One your God to the test.*'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the dominions of the world and their glory. And it said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to it, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, '*Worship the Holy One your God, and serve only God.*'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on Jesus.

Jeremiah 29:1-9

Pew Bible page 638

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Praise God All Ye Little Children

Praise God! Praise God, all you lit-tle chil - dren. God is love, God is love.

Praise God! Praise God, all you lit-tle chil - dren. God is love, God is love.

SERMON

Tempted To Hate?

Rev. Angie Wright

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

CALL TO SHARING

ANTHEM

Lass dich nur nichts nicht dauren, Op.30 (*Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee*)

Johannes Brahms

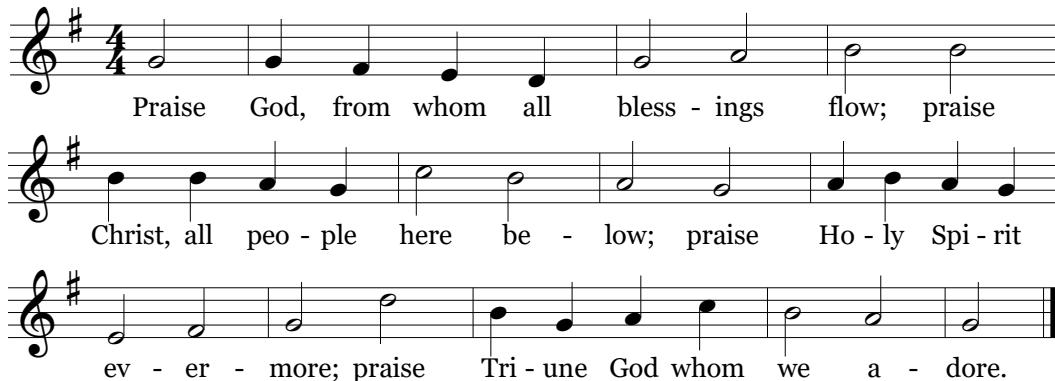
Program note: When Jesus was in the wilderness, he fought temptation with a steadfast trust in God's word and an unwavering devotion to God's will. This work by Johannes Brahms is structured in an ABA form. The first section may be summarized as, "Let nothing grieve you with sadness. Be still; as God wills, so be it. Be cheerful, my soul." The B section draws directly from Matthew 6:34: "Why worry about tomorrow? God will give you what is yours." The final section echoes Christ's strength in the wilderness, "Be true and stand firm in all things. What God has ordained is best. Amen."

Brahms' setting for organ and choir is contemplative and serene, offering a musical reflection of Jesus' confidence. While listening, we are invited to rest in God's word and quiet our souls, even in the midst of temptation.

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit
ever more; praise Tri-une God whom we adore.

*INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You may be seated. Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Please come forward to receive the bread and cup. We offer a gluten-free option in the basket with purple linens and serve only non-alcoholic grape juice. Raise your hand if you would like a pastor to bring the elements to you. Communion cups may be left in the openings on the back of the pews.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Prayer for Guidance

arr. Michael J. Glasgow

Program note: This work is an arrangement of *Be Thou My Vision* and *Open My Eyes That I May See*. Both hymns express a desire to be guided and governed by God's word, and for sensitivity to God's spirit and leading, as Jesus demonstrates in the wilderness. As we hear these tunes intertwined, we pray our lives are shaped by God's truth and grace.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN OF BLESSING 490

I Want Jesus to Go with Me

African-American spiritual

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

I Want Jesus to Go with Me

arr. Richard Billingham

GRATITUDE CORNER

There are many hands that come together to make UCCH a safe, nurturing, inclusive space for all children and families. I am abundantly grateful for the support of an active Board of Children's Ministry, dedicated Sunday School Teachers, a robust music program for children, and a nurturing nursery staff. I am equally grateful for three leaders in our community that go above and beyond to ensure that we are thoughtful about the rich experiences that we make available for our children and families, Chip Baker, Tania Osborn, and Jan Thornton-Irvine give generously of their time, talents, and energy! It is a blessing to be in a community that cares so deeply for the most precious among us! —Anitra Grove

Submissions needed! If you can name something about our church community that makes you want to give thanks and sing in less than 200 words, we'd love to print it here. Send your submission to mme@unitedchurch.org.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHAPEL HILL LENT & EASTER 2026

Ash Wednesday - February 18

12:30pm & 5:30pm Imposition of Ashes (bilingual, on the church lawn)
Empty Bowls Sale supporting IFC after both services, with a soup supper at 5:45.

First Sunday in Lent - February 22

10:30am Festival & La Mesa Worship

Second Sunday in Lent - March 1

10:30am Festival & La Mesa Worship

Lenten Organ Meditation - Thursday, March 5

12:30pm A 35-40 minute time of silent meditation or prayer with traditional Lenten organ music played by Julie Mitchell. A freewill offering will support UCCH's music ministry. (Sanctuary)

Third Sunday in Lent - March 8

10:30am Festival & La Mesa Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 15

8:45am Gospel Worship with UVoP (Sanctuary) | 10:30am Festival & La Mesa Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 22

10:30am Festival & La Mesa Worship | 1:30pm CROP Hunger Walk @Carrboro Town Commons

Palm Sunday - March 29

10:30am Joint, bilingual Service of Palms (Sanctuary). *Gather on the lawn at 10:15 to participate in the palm procession.*

Maundy Thursday - April 2

7pm Bilingual service of prayer, music, & Communion in memory of the Last Supper of Jesus. (Narthex)

Good Friday - April 3

5pm Bilingual Stations of the Cross featuring music, art, & storytelling. Beginning in the Sanctuary.
7pm *Tenebrae* service in the tradition of Taizé (Sanctuary)

Holy Saturday - April 4

7pm Spanish language service to keep vigil with the tomb of Jesus. (On the lawn)

Easter Sunday - April 5

7am Sunrise Service (Sanctuary portico) | 10:30am Festival & La Mesa Worship

Morning Prayer Series

7:30am each Wednesday in Lent

A series of 15-25 minute bilingual Lenten prayer gatherings with optional oil anointing. We will meet outside the Prayer Room (downstairs below the Narthex).

A Contemplative Path Through Lent

A weekly Sunday email will offer a spiritual practice, with scripture, reflection, and a blessing to guide your week.

WELCOME!

If you are new to United Church, we are so glad you are here. Please complete a Welcome Card that can be found in the back of the pew, introduce yourself to a pastor after the service, and take a gift bag with more information about our congregation (available on the table outside the sanctuary). We invite you to join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments following worship today.

TODAY: SOULS TO THE POLLS!

Early voting for the 2026 primary elections is underway. Join members of the UCCH community as we walk together **after worship today, February 22**, to the Orange County early voting site at the Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd. We will gather in front of the church and leave at noon (or you can meet us there). Only Orange County residents may vote at this location. Same-day voter registration is available during early voting. View voting info & sample ballots at vote411.org.

LENT & EASTER WITH UNITED CHURCH

View our Lent calendar to learn about our offerings from now until Easter Sunday (April 5). Some upcoming programs include:

- ★ 7:30am Lenten Prayer Series starts February 25.
- ★ Lenten Organ Meditation at 12:30pm on March 5.
- ★ Gospel Worship with UVoP on March 15 at 8:45am

CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR ADULTS

Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25 / 6 - 7 p.m. "Confirmation (for Adults)" is an educational opportunity for adults to rediscover their faith during the Lenten season. We will explore the same major themes that our youth encounter in the Confirmation Class: including, scripture, history, theology, justice, and worship. Together, we will engage in a combination of lessons and exercises to examine our faith(s). Scan the QR code to learn more & sign up.



LIGHT UP YOUR WINTER ON FEBRUARY 27

Friday, February 27 / Starting @5:45 p.m. Join us for our rescheduled Chili Cook-Off and Game Night on February 27. Bring chili in a crock pot, and we'll all vote on the winner. If you do not bring chili, please bring a "finger food" dessert to share. You are also invited to bring your favorite games to play after dinner! Chips, toppings, prizes, & some games will be provided. No cost to attend. Sign up for the cook-off here: <https://bit.ly/ucchili26>.

UCCH YOGA: FEBRUARY CLASSES

Join Melanie Joiner for an all-levels yoga class focused on building resilience and community on **Friday, February 27 at 9 a.m. in the Assembly Hall**. Questions? Please contact Melanie at melanie.spence@gmail.com.

WILMINGTON'S LIE BOOK DISCUSSIONS & AUTHOR VISIT

During Lent, the Racial Justice Ministries Committee is hosting discussions about David Zucchino's Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy*. Discussions will be **March 1 and 8**, culminating in a presentation and in-person conversation with the author on **March 15**. All sessions are **right after worship**. This riveting book has been popular among book clubs, so be sure to borrow or order your copy and start reading soon! Check the UCCH Enews for more details.

SEEKING PEACEMAKING SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Peacemaking Scholarship Committee is seeking new members to join them in supporting young people in our community who are working for peace. Awarding scholarship money to deserving high school students on their way to college is what we do. Be uplifted by reading and judging the submissions of our peacemaking youth. Our most active time is during the spring, but in the fall we also sponsor a fundraising concert and a booth at the Alternative Gift Market. Contact Sherry Siddall (sherrysiddall@gmail.com) for more information; please contact her by March 13 to participate in the 2026 review of scholarship applications.

NEXT COMMUNITY FORUM

Sunday, March 1 / 9:15 a.m. / Fellowship Hall

Join us for "Cybersecurity for the Layperson," led by UCCH member Peter Schay, who has worked in Information Technology since 1972. Drawing on decades of experience across the tech field, Peter will offer guidance to help everyday users better understand and navigate today's cybersecurity landscape.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS

Our email newsletter is sent weekly on Tuesdays (English) and Fridays (Spanish). Sign up at unitedchurch.org.

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ Gordon, M. The temptation in the desert. In "Reading Jesus," p63-74. 226.6 Gor R
- ★ Taylor, B.B. Lenten discipline. In "Home by Another Way," p65-68. 252 Tay H
- ★ Grimes, N. One cookie leads to another. In "Glory in the Margins: Sunday Poems," p31. 811 Gri G
- ★ Thurman, H. Hate. In "Jesus and the Disinherited," p64-78. 261.81 Thu J
- ★ Sacks, J. Letting go of hate. In "Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence," p238-251. 2017 Sac N

These items are on the small wooden rack in the center of the library. A volunteer, Karen Demby, will be in the library after the worship service, to assist you in finding library materials.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Nursery Sign-in: If your child will be going to the nursery after the Children's Moment, please scan the attached QR code to share care information with our nursery staff.



SERVICE NOTES

MUSIC: Julie Mitchell, organ; Chancel Bells; Chancel Choir

DEACON: Tom Williams

GREETERS: Seth Murray, David Thompson, Dianne Bertsch

READER: Seth Murray

LIVESTREAM: Bill Siddall

SOUNDBOARD: Toby McCoy

COVER ART: *Three Temptations* by Cara B. Hochhalter, 2019. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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UNITED CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR: Rev. Cameron Barr

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Caleb Wolf

MINISTER TO CHILDREN: Anitra Grove

MINISTER TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES: Jackson Ringley

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Reyna Alston

PROGRAM ORGANIST: Julie Mitchell

ADJUNCT MUSIC STAFF: Charles Bradshaw (United Voices of Praise Director), Jennifer Anderson (Junior Choir Director)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Kati Ruark

BUSINESS MANAGER: Duane Gilbert

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: Marisa Mee

SEXTON: Bruce Thomas

KITCHEN STEWARDS: Hser Nay Htoo & Zoila Fonseca

NURSERY ASSISTANTS: Harper Gray, Kallista Mela, Mimi Reeves, Anna Grove, Jack Tanner, & Josh Hart

Bienvenido. Welcome. Visitors are invited to take a contact card from the Narthex or Sanctuary pew pockets to fill out and place in the offering plate. / Se invita a los visitantes a coger una tarjeta de contacto de los bolsillos de los bancos del Nártex o del Santuario para llenarla y depositarla en el plato de las ofrendas.

Or complete the form online:
O rellene el formulario en línea:



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A PLACE of BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN