

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL
FESTIVAL WORSHIP



MARCH 15, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ
(I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ)

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

“Lift Thine Eyes” from *Elijah* (Psalm 121:1-4)

Felix Mendelssohn

Lift thine eyes, o lift thine eyes to the mountain, whence cometh help. My help cometh from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He hath said thy foot shall not be moved. Thy keeper will never slumber.

–Psalm 121

Program note: The Junior Choir is learning about psalms! Earlier this year, when they sang the text "the church with psalms must shout," they learned that this collection of 150 poems is the hymnbook of the Hebrew Bible. Today is all about psalms of comfort and guidance, with anthem and hymn settings, each of which reflects confidence and trust in God's unfailing guidance and protection, even in difficult times. For the introit, the Advanced Singers of the Junior Choir are joined by Chancel Choir members to present Mendelssohn's sublime setting of Psalm 121 from his oratorio "Elijah," written for a *cappella* trio. For the anthem, the full Junior Choir presents Stephen Paulus' gentle, prayerful setting of Psalm 5. Today's hymns provide the entire church an opportunity to "shout" (or at least sing lustily!) the psalms. The opening hymn is based partly on verses from Psalms 48 and 73, and the final hymn is a paraphrase of the most beloved psalm of comfort, Psalm 23 (*The Lord is My Shepherd*).

*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 embrace,
you who seek a good shepherd,
you who long to be known and protected,
you who are far off and you who are near.

In Christ, we gather as one flock.

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!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of love, you demonstrate your care for us by coming among us as Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Tend to us with mercy, gather us when we wander, protect us from the perils of this world, and bring all people together into one fold. Help us to recognize Christ's voice and Christ's calling. Remind us we are known. We are loved. We are invited to follow. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

As we walk through the wild wilderness of Lent, we imagine a world where all creation is at peace. We imagine a world without war, where creation flourishes and children are safe. Let these dreams of peace begin here as we share the peace of Christ with one another.

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE 18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

CWN RHONDDA

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 10:1-18
Ezekiel 34:1-10

Pew Bible page 872
Pew Bible page 702

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Noisy Offering for the CROP Hunger Walk

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**VOICE FOR LIFE MEDALS PRESENTATION**

White Level: Amber Bigina, Trudeau Bigina, Reiri Ichikawa, Aisha Mbengue, Alima Mbengue, Laila Mbengue, Sawyer McKee, Georgie Smith, Dinah Wei

Light Blue Level: Gemma Bolognesi, Hannah Few, Lilly Gray, Justin Hall, Yuiro Ichikawa, Emerson MacNevin, George McKee, Griffin Smith, Rowan Thayer, Sermoayela Wei

Dark Blue Level: Adela Gray, Robert Peña Sequera, Lyra Thayer

Special thanks to our tutors: Teri Conner, Ron Johnson, Terry Patrickis, Ann Spitler, Linden Thayer, Barbara Wildemuth, Jenny Anderson

CALL TO SHARING**ANTHEM**

Hear My Words (Psalm 5)

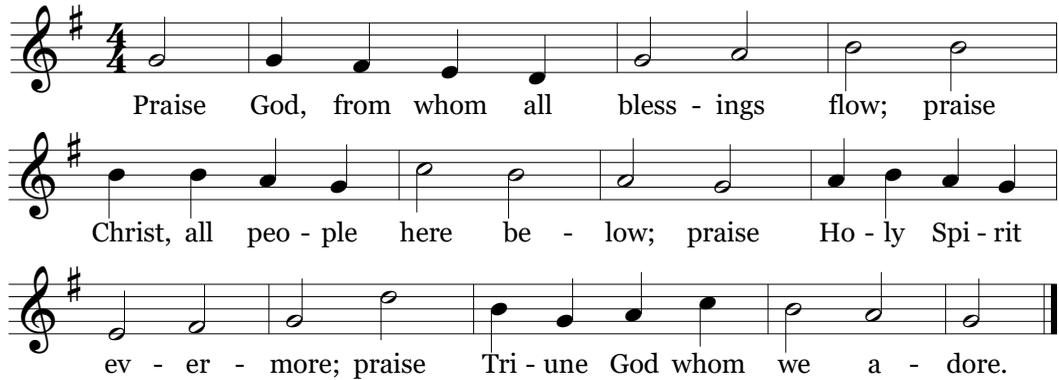
Stephen Paulus

Hear my words, O gracious Lord, to my thoughts attentive be. Hear my cry, my King, my God, I will make my prayer to thee. With the morning light, O Lord, thou shalt hear my voice arise; and expectant, I will bring prayer as morning sacrifice. Thou art holy, O my God; thou delightest not in sin; evil shall not dwell with thee, nor the proud thy favor win.

—The Psalter, 1912; from Psalm 5

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
Christ, all peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spi - rit
ev - er - more; praise Tri - une God whom we a - dore.

*INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God.

We joyfully give our thanks and praise.

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 333

O Bread of Life

SHENG EN

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.

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Final” (*Symphony I*)

Louis Vierne



Pillars of Promise *Capital Campaign* *Giving Update*

Pledges (as of 3/13/26): \$1,726,938

Gifts received (as of 3/13/26): \$1,103,967 (64% of pledged amount)

Thank you!

The earlier gifts are received for the capital campaign, the less UCCH has to rely on external sources of funding like loans. If you are able, please complete your pledge as soon as possible. If you have not yet made a pledge or gift to the capital campaign and would like to, please contact Church Administrator Kati Ruark (kruark@unitedchurch.org).

UNITED CHURCH OF CHAPEL HILL **LENT & EASTER 2026**

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 (Narthex)

Good Friday - April 3

5pm Stations of the Cross featuring music, art, & storytelling (Starting 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)

**Updated
service time**

Easter Sunday - April 5

8am Sunrise Service (Sanctuary portico)

Breakfast & UVoP performance in the Fellowship Hall

10:30am Festival & La Mesa Worship

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.

WILMINGTON'S LIE AUTHOR VISIT TODAY

The Racial Justice Ministries Committee is hosting David Zucchino, author of *Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy*. Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship today for a presentation and in-person conversation with the author. Spanish interpretation will be offered.

PRAY WITHOUT PREACHING: PRAYER AS A PRACTICE FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

United Church of Chapel Hill will host two days of reflection and conversation on prayer practices, **March 18 and 19** with Rev. Dr. Mary Luti. Learn more & register here: <https://bit.ly/prayer26>

UCCH STREAM MONITORING TEAM

Please sign up if you would like to join the UCCH Stream Team on our very first creek monitoring investigation, to be held on the spring equinox on **Friday, March 20, 9-11 a.m.** All ages are welcome, as long as you can appreciate a little mud and some uneven terrain! Children should bring an adult. Please dress for the weather, including waders, boots, or shoes you don't mind getting wet. If you can't make it this time, no worries! We will go out to monitor the creek once each quarter on rotating days/times. For questions or more info, please contact karen.setty@gmail.com. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/ucchstreamteam>

NEXT SUNDAY'S COMMUNITY FORUM

Sunday, March 22 | 9:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall
Julia Sendor and organizers with Orange County Justice United will share about community organizing for affordable housing and preventing displacement – and what it means when those most directly affected by the inequities are the leaders for change.

UCCH 101 NEXT SUNDAY

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the library: March 22, April 19
Interested in joining United Church as a member, or just in learning more about this congregation or denomination? UCCH 101 is for you! RSVP and join this three-session series leading up to membership day this spring. Over casual breakfast meetings, we'll explore spirituality, our church community and denomination, with plenty of time for questions and conversation. RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/UCCH101>

JOIN THE UCCH CROP HUNGER WALK TEAM!

Walk with us on **Sunday, March 22** to benefit IFC and Church World Service hunger relief efforts! Stop by our table in Fellowship Hall today for information, donations, and t-shirts. The need has never been greater for those facing insecurity in our community and around the world. Register/donate on our team page: <https://bit.ly/ucchcrop26>

GROWING STARTS AT UCP: PLANT FUNDRAISER

United Church Preschoolers will be growing seedlings of vegetables, herbs and flowers which we hope will either be a welcome addition to your garden or an inspiration to start one. Each plant will be sold for \$5, with all proceeds supporting the preschool/UCP Scholarship Fund. **Order by Monday, March 16** | Plant Pick-Up: mid-to-late April. Learn more & order here: <https://bit.ly/ucplants>

HELP PLANT THE PEACEMAKING GARDEN

We are ready to plant the Peacemaking Garden in the central traffic circle outside the sanctuary. Please join us on **Saturday, March 21 and/or Friday, March 27, 9am-1pm** to plant native perennials, grasses, and small trees. We could use many hands to work under the guidance of our gardener, Alan Johnson. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/pcegarden>

UCCH YOGA: MARCH CLASSES

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

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE PAULI MURRAY FIELD TRIP

Saturday, May 2 | 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Join a tour of the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice in Durham. This tour is limited to 30 and costs \$20 per person. Learn more and register in our Enews.

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

- ★ Grindal, G.M. I am the door [and] I am the good shepherd. In "Jesus, the Harmony: Gospel Sonnets," p165, 190. 811 Gri J
- ★ Matson, M.A. I am the good shepherd. In "John," p64-71. 226.7 Mat J
- ★ Tutu, D. Hearing God's voice. In "Made for Goodness: And Why This Makes All the Difference," p159-179. 170 Tut M
- ★ Blenkinsopp, J. The good shepherd. In "Ezekiel," p155-161. 224.7 Ble E

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

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SERVICE NOTES

MUSIC: Seth Austin, guest organist; Junior Choir, Jenny Anderson, director; Barbara Wildemuth, piano

DEACON: Jill McArdle

GREETERS: Seth Murray

READER: Midge Coward

LIVESTREAM: Peter Schay

SOUNDBOARD: Toby McCoy

COFFEE HOST: Janet Flowers

COVER ART: *Good Shepherd* by Kelly Latimore, 2019. Kelly Latimore Icons, <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/>. 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 rellenarla y depositarla en el plato de las ofrendas.*

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



GRATITUDE CORNER

Many thanks to Jody Forehand and her mighty crew that work tirelessly every week to provide a blessed nosh to all of us. Their special hospitality says to everyone who graces our table - you are welcome here. Muchas gracias. —Chip Baker

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 mmee@unitedchurch.org.

Your support of UCCH makes our worship and ministry possible.

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PHONE

919-942-3540

A PLACE of BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN