

# UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL FESTIVAL WORSHIP



**APRIL 12, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

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## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Les Barricades Mysterieuses*

François Couperin

## INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT

“El amor que siempre se queda contigo”  
from *Hasta la Raíz*

Alyssa Mercedes Mena

## WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

When God began to create the heavens and the earth,  
the world was in disarray. The waters crashed with chaos, and nothing had any shape to it.

**But God said, “I want to plant a garden here.”**

So God tamed the chaos and made space between the streams.

God created microbes, earthworms and honeybees,

dandelion and goldenrod,

trees of oak and serviceberry.

**Then God scooped up some clay and formed a gardener.**

**God said to this human,**

“Be gentle with my creation. Till the soil, and treat the land well.”

**Let us praise the Lord, who made beauty out of chaos!**

**Let us praise the Lord, who commissioned us for care!**

**Let us praise the Lord, who created you and me!**

**Alleluia! Let all creation sing!**

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE 17

*To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

## 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.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

We are rarely gentle people. We harden our hearts to cope with this world's problems, and we ignore the cry of creatures near and far. Soften and strengthen us. Renew our hearts and minds in service of your new creation.

*[silent prayer]*

Amen.

## PROMISE OF GRACE

2 Corinthians 5:17

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

## 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.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 2:5-9, 15

John 20:15-23

Pew Bible page 2

Pew Bible page 883

## SERMON

*Supposing Him to be the Gardener*

Jackson Ringley

## CALL TO SHARING

# ANTHEM

*This is My Father's World*

TERRA BEATA

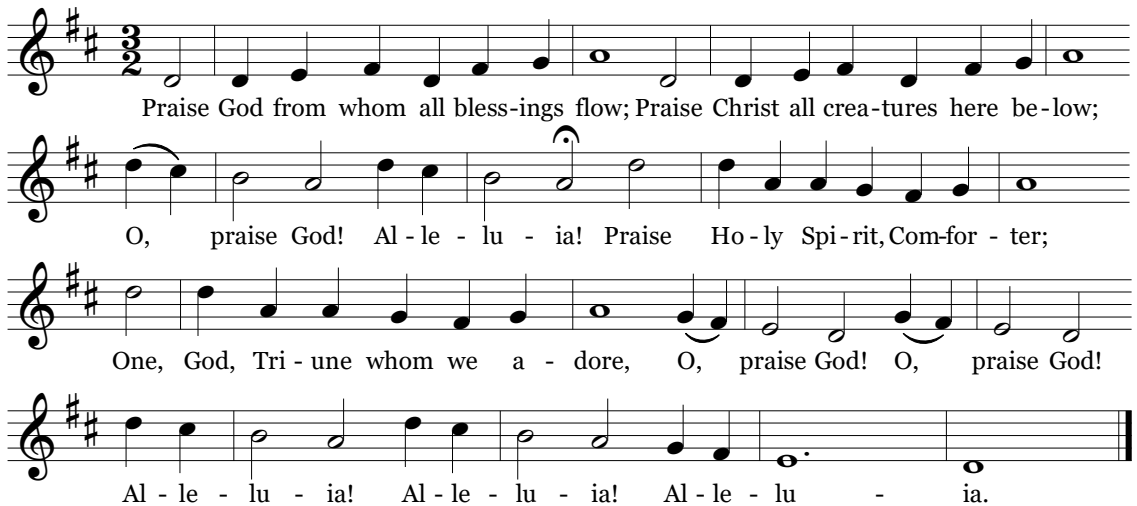
text by Maltbie D. Babcock,

tune by Franklin L. Sheppard, arr. Reyna Alston

**Program note:** The arrangement begins in peaceful reverence of D-flat major, a key often associated with water and the quiet beauty of creation. In the middle of the piece, we transition to E major, a brighter, more radiant key that evokes awe and wonder as we behold God's presence in all of creation. In today's John reading, Jesus' character is revealed when he is mistaken for a gardener, not in displays of force, but gentle tending. We see His power in gentleness, rather than force or destruction. The final verse grounds this hope, reminding us that God's quiet, sustaining rule endures.

## \*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Christ all crea-tures here be-low;  
O, praise God! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise Ho - ly Spi - rit, Com - for - ter;  
One, God, Tri - une whom we a - dore, O, praise God! O, praise God!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,  
hear our 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.

## \*INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## 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 HYMN 238

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

NOËL NOUVELET

## 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 32

*God of the Sparrow God of the Whale*

ROEDER

## \*BENEDICTION

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Fugue in E minor*

J.S. Bach

### GRATITUDE CORNER

I am grateful for Newman's Upholstery in Hillsborough, a modest, hard-to-spot shop on Queen St near Nash. Inside working diligently are Jamila and Jerry. Jerry lifted eight of our large pieces of vinyl into the shop (I got the last two). He and Jamila understood immediately what the Fellowship Board had in mind – straightening the sides of each piece of vinyl, which would take many cuts. They truly wanted to do all of our cutting free of charge. My response was you need to make a living. Jamila said, "All right \$100 then." That was a huge bargain. I am grateful for Jamila and Jerry's kindness and willingness to go above and beyond to help our church. I highly recommend this team if you have any upholstery needs.

—Priscilla Boomer

**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 [mmeem@unitedchurch.org](mailto:mmeem@unitedchurch.org).



# Pillars of Promise *Capital Campaign Giving Update*

**Pledges (as of 3/20/26): \$1,726,938**

**Gifts received (as of 4/9/26): \$1,301,242 (75% 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](mailto:kruark@unitedchurch.org)).

## **STAFF-CONGREGATION RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SCRC)**

I want to take a moment to highlight a committee you may not hear much about, but that plays an important role in the health of our church—the Staff Congregation Relations Committee.

This committee serves as a bridge between the congregation and our staff. We support healthy communication, provide feedback, and help ensure that our staff are supported, encouraged, and able to do their best work in ministry.

The SCRC has started to celebrate our individual staff members by putting a notice in the Enews and bulletin when staff work anniversaries are coming up. That would be a great opportunity for you to reach out to say “thank you for all you do.”

And speaking of staff—our church is blessed with an incredible team. We have nearly 20 staff members who together lead worship, care for our congregation, guide our children and youth, manage our operations, keep the church neat and tidy, manage the kitchen, and keep everything running behind the scenes. It’s easy to see what happens on Sunday morning, but much of their work takes place throughout the week—planning, preparing, visiting, coordinating, and responding to the many needs of our community.

Our staff is deeply committed to the work of this church and the people who worship within, and they are also very busy. They want to handle every request you or your board raises, but please try to give them as much lead time as possible, especially during the very busy seasons of Lent and Advent.

I want to lift up their work, express the gratitude of the entire congregation, and remind you that the Staff Congregational Relations Committee is here as a resource—for both the congregation and our staff.

If you ever have questions, concerns, or words of encouragement you’d like to share, please feel free to reach out to any member of our committee: Toby McCoy, Vicki Gardner, Nubia Rivero Bello, Hugh Knapp, Angie Wright, Katie Rankin, Lucy Austin, Christine Harding.

Thank you—and let’s continue to hold our staff in appreciation and prayer.

—Vicki Gardner

## 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.

## BECOMING A TRUSTWORTHY WHITE ALLY

The Monday evening women's group has finished reading Melanie Morrison's book, "Becoming Trustworthy White Allies," and Melanie will be joining the group for a discussion of it on Zoom on **Monday, April 13, 6:30-8pm**. All those identifying as women are invited to join the discussion; contact Cindy Johnson for the Zoom link: [clj5823@yahoo.com](mailto:clj5823@yahoo.com).

## NEXT WEEK: GOSPEL WORSHIP & YOUTH SUNDAY

*Sunday, April 19 | 8:45am & 10:30am | Sanctuary*  
Join us in the sanctuary at 8:45am for Gospel Worship with United Voices of Praise Gospel Choir.  
Youth will lead the 10:30am Festival service on April 19. Come hear our youth reflect on the recent service retreat to Raleigh, NC.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY FORUM

*Sunday, April 19 | 9:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall*  
In honor of Earth Day (April 22), members of our Creation Care Team will update us on UCCH efforts surrounding environmental justice. Hiawatha Demby will share a brief history of the meaning of environmental justice and how it has been addressed by UCCH, an overview and introduction of the team, and current efforts. Karen will offer a presentation about the River Watch project and our UCCH Stream Team.

## UCCH 101 NEXT SUNDAY

*Sunday, April 19, at 9:15 a.m. in the library*  
Interested in joining United Church as a member, or just in learning more about this congregation or denomination? UCCH 101 is for you! Join us for these informal meetings leading up to membership day on April 26. Over breakfast we'll explore spirituality, our church community and denomination, with time for questions and conversation. RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/UCCH101>

## EARTH DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

*Wednesday, April 22 at 6pm in the Comma Garden*  
Join us for a short service to celebrate God's creation!

## APRIL 26 JOINT WORSHIP: MEMBERSHIP DAY

*10:30am worship in the Sanctuary*  
We will bring Festival Worship and La Mesa together on Sunday, April 26. During this joint, bilingual service, we'll officially welcome new members to our congregation.

## 2026 CHURCH YARD SALE

The 3rd annual yard sale supporting our language classes will be held from **8am-12pm on April 25**. Collection of small items continues between 10am-4pm on weekdays and Sunday mornings through April 19; large items (such as furniture and exercise equipment) can be brought to the church April 21-23.

## THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE CROP WALK!

Many thanks to the UCCH team for your support of the 2026 CROP Hunger Walk! The last day to donate is April 25. <https://bit.ly/ucchcrop26>

## SIGN UP FOR VBS 2026: SUPERHEROES OF FAITH

*Monday, June 29 - Thursday, July 2 | 8:30am - 12:30pm*  
Join us for Vacation Bible School 2026! Have fun, meet new friends, and connect with your inner superhero. VBS is for children between 2 years old and 5th grade (6th grade and up are invited to be helpers). Everyone is welcome - all faith groups, our neighbors, and church community. **Register by June 14:** <https://bit.ly/ucchvbs26>

## IN-HOME POTLUCKS | COMIDAS EN CASA

One of our most beloved fellowship traditions is back. Small group dinners hosted in the homes of our own congregation. Bring a dish, share a meal, and get to know your church family a little better. **Gatherings will be held May 16 & 17. Please sign up by April 26.** Register here: <https://bit.ly/ucchdinners>. Questions? Contact April Harrison at [ath1045@gmail.com](mailto:ath1045@gmail.com) or Pastor Caleb Wolf at [cwolf@unitedchurch.org](mailto:cwolf@unitedchurch.org).

## SAVE THE DATE | FALL CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

UCCH will present *Zombies! the Musical* on October 24 and 25, 2026. Auditions are on August 29, and rehearsals begin on August 30. Learn more & sign up here: <https://bit.ly/ucchzombies>

## MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS

Our email newsletter is sent weekly on Tuesdays (English) & Fridays (Spanish). Sign up at [unitedchurch.org](http://unitedchurch.org).

## FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ Grimes, N. Mourning obscurity. In "Glory in the Margins: Sunday Poems," p54-55. 811 Gri G
- ★ Shaw, L. Open [and] Seed. In "Accompanied by Angels: Poems of the Incarnation," p76, 87. 811 Sha A
- ★ Sleeth, M. Work: The garden. In "The Gospel According to Earth," p1-19. 261.84 Sle G
- ★ Wall, C. Every yard must have its flowers. In "Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening," p103-111. 920 Wal M
- ★ Tull, P.K. Humans and creation. In "Inhabiting Eden," p19-33. 261.84 Tul I

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

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

## SERVICE NOTES

**MUSIC:** Terry Patrickis, alto flute; Mark Rossnagel, guest organist; Chancel Choir

**READER:** Peter Schay

**LIVESTREAM:** Bill Siddall

**SOUNDBOARD:** Ron Johnson

**COVER ART:** *Mary Magdalene and Christ the Gardener* by Kelly Latimore, 2024 | [kellylatimoreicons.com](http://kellylatimoreicons.com)

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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:



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**A PLACE of BELONGING** FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN