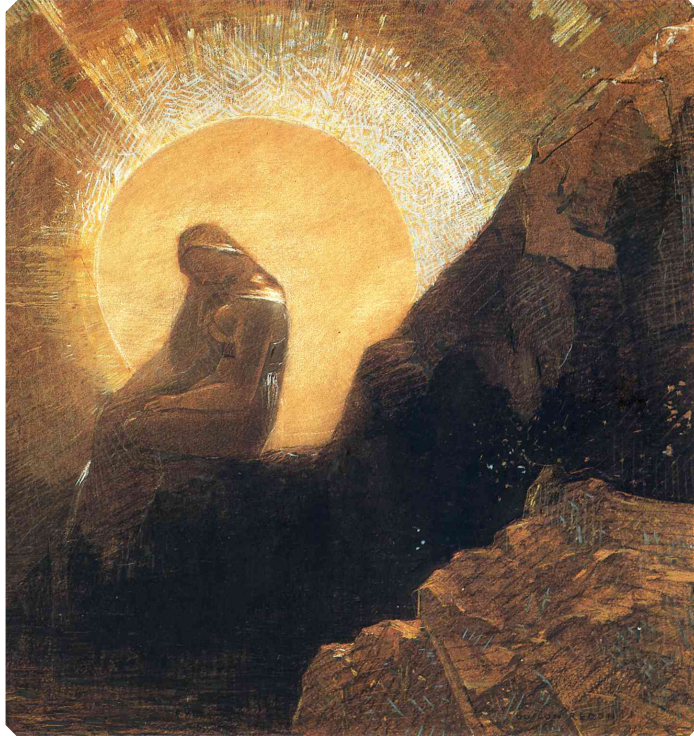


# UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL FESTIVAL WORSHIP



**APRIL 5, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.**  
EASTER SUNDAY

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

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## **OPENING VOLUNTARY**

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates”  
from Georg Frederick Handel’s *Messiah*

arr. Mark Schweizer  
& Reyna Alston

**Program note:** Originally for choir and chamber orchestra, this brass quintet arrangement of Psalm 24:7-10 from Handel’s *Messiah* captures the jubilant spirit of Easter morning. The brilliance of the instruments and the lively, call-and response texture underscore the proclamation of the risen Christ with a festive expression of joy.

**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 day of resurrection, you who have known grief, you who long for new life, you who carry "Alleluias" in your hearts.

**In Christ, we gather at the empty tomb.**

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 life, you breathe resurrection into our world, and you promise that life will triumph over death. On this day of celebration, awaken our spirits to signs of new life and symbols of grace, in our world, in our relationships, and in our own hearts. Lead us by the witness of Mary Magdalene and the faith that drew her to the garden. With her, let us proclaim, "We have seen Jesus!" Give us the courage and the joy to share this good news in word and in deed. We pray this in the name of Christ, who is risen indeed—alleluia! 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 greet this Easter day, we celebrate a world bursting into new life. We celebrate hope rising from despair, love conquering fear, and a world where death does not have the final word. Let this resurrection joy begin here as we share the peace of Christ with one another.

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 READING**

Matthew 28:1-10

Pew Bible page 811

**SERMON**

Rev. Cameron Barr

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive. From the waters of death you raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**We renounce them.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying God's word and showing Christ's love?

**We will, with God's help.**

Will you devote yourself to the community of the church, praising God in worship, serving your neighbors in compassionate ministries of care, and reaching out to touch the world with love and justice of Christ?

**We will, with God's help.**

Remember your baptism and be thankful, knowing that the Holy Spirit is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this water, that this font may be your womb of new birth. May all who pass through these waters be delivered from death to life, from bondage to freedom, from sin to righteousness. Bind them to the household of faith and guard them from all evil. Strengthen them to serve you with joy until the day you make all things new.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY 253**

*Yours is the Glory, O Resurrected One*

JUDAS MACCABAEUS

Georg F. Handel, adapt. setting by John Ferguson

*We will sing verses 1-3 in English*

**MOMENT FOR MISSION**

Reflections on Mission and Generosity

**CALL TO SHARING**

**ANTHEM**

*Alleluia! Christ is Risen!*

WZLOBIE LEZY

words and arrangement by Jon Paige

**\*DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;  
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.

# PASTORAL PRAYER

## LORD'S PRAYER

### Sung Lord's Prayer

*solo* *all* *solo*

Our Fa-ther which art in Hea - ven, Ha-llo-wed be thy Name. Thy

4 *all*

king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as in Hea - ven.

6 *solo* *all*

Give us this day our dai - ly bread, and for - give us our debts as we for-give our debt-ors.

9 *solo* *all*

And lead us not in - to temp-ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For

11

thine is the king-dom, the pow'r and the glo - - - ry, for -

13

e - - - - - ver. A - - - - - men

## \*INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

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 349

*I Come with Joy*

DOVE OF PEACE

### COMMUNION HYMN 329

*Jesus the Joy of Loving Hearts*

HESPERUS

## 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 198

*Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFIER

*We will sing verses 1-3 and 5*

## \*BENEDICTION

### CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Allegro Maestoso*

Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Roland E. Martin

### GRATITUDE CORNER

Many thanks to Alex Chrisco, Erin Day, and Andrea Tanner for their exceptional event planning for the couples' retreat. It was wonderful to spend time with our partner and get to know other couples, as well. Thank you for your hard work to make this event happen. —Barbara Hall

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

## 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, & 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 following worship today.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GIVING UPDATE & REQUEST

Committed pledges: \$1,726,938

Pledges received (as of 4/2): \$1,121,414 (64.9%)

The sooner pledges are received, the less UCCH has to rely on external sources of funding like loans. If you are able, please send in your pledges as soon as you can. Thank you.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

The Board of Children's Ministries will host a brief Easter egg hunt on the front lawn immediately after today's 10:30am Festival and La Mesa services. Each child will be provided with a bag and a specific number of eggs to find.

## SAVE THE DATE | 2026 CHURCH YARD SALE

The 3rd annual yard sale supporting our language classes will be held the morning of April 25. Collection of small items starts March 29; large items (such as furniture and exercise equipment) can be brought to the church April 21-23.

## UCCH YOGA: APRIL CLASS

Join Melanie Joiner (melanie.spence@gmail.com) for an all-levels yoga class focused on building resilience and community on **Friday, April 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Hall.**

## "LET'S PAINT A FLOWER" ART CLASS

*Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at United Church*  
UCCH member & artist David Taylor is offering a painting class this April. Sign up using the form on the Visual Arts Committee bulletin board, or contact Cely Chicurel (celyc@mindspring.com, 919-225-7349). The class costs \$10 per person, or maximum \$20 per family.

## 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 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/register in the news.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY FORUMS

*Sundays, April 12 & 19 | 9:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall*  
Community Forums will return on April 12 when we welcome Betsy Small, author of *Before: A Discovery of Loss in Sierra Leone*. On April 19, Hiawatha Demby and Karen Setty (members of our Creation Care Team) will update us on UCCH efforts surrounding environmental justice in honor of Earth Day.

## UCCH 101 FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

*Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the library: 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! Join us for any of the three 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>

## 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. A registration link will be in upcoming enews; please sign up by April 26. 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) and Fridays (Spanish). Sign up at [unitedchurch.org](http://unitedchurch.org).

## FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ Borg, M.J., & Crossan, J.D. Friday, Saturday, and Easter Sunday. In "The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem," p137-216. 232.9 Bor L
- ★ Taylor, B.B. The unnatural truth. In "Home by Another Way," p109-112. 252 Tay H
- ★ Grimes, N. The sad parade. In "Glory in the Margins: Sunday Poems," p53. 811 Gri G
- ★ Pagels, E. Resurrection: What did people say happened – and what can be known? In "Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus," p161-197. 232 Pag M

These items are on the small wooden rack in the center of the library. Instructions are provided: for using the catalog (near the computer), and for borrowing an item (near the door). Questions? Contact Barbara Wildemuth.

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

## SERVICE NOTES

**MUSIC:** Doug Zabor, trumpet; Wendy Richardson, trumpet; Rick Lehner, horn; Rich Wilson, trombone; Brian Fee, tuba; Gaylen Brubaker, timpani; Julie Mitchell, organ and piano; Chancel Choir

**DEACON:** Bill Benjey

**GREETERS:** Seth Murray, Susan Wilson, Justin Chrisco

**READER:** Vicki Gardner

**LIVESTREAM:** Peter Schay

**SOUNDBOARD:** Sonic AL

**COFFEE HOST:** Board of Fellowship

**COVER ART:** *Melancholy* by Odilon Redon, 1876. Public domain.

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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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919-942-3540

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