

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL FESTIVAL WORSHIP



MAY 17, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Two Pieces (Verso, Canzona)

Girolamo Frescobaldi

INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT

Majestic Alleluia

Joel Rainey

WELCOME

Beloved of God, think of us in this way:

As servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, who calls us to a shared table in communion with Jesus Christ, in you we find the union of all things. Where our self-seeking impulses have separated, your love reconciles. What our failed efforts have broken, your mercy restores. What the sin of our world has corrupted, your grace restores. Forgive us for the divisions that grow among us, and give us the wisdom of your heart, that we may treasure and preserve the unity of your people and the wholeness of your creation. By the Holy Spirit, who binds us together, through Jesus Christ, who prays for our unity with you. Amen.

*PROMISE OF GRACE

1 Peter 5

The early church has taught us to be humble and to be honest about our limitations, and to trust that God's hand will deliver where we cannot provide for ourselves. Let us cast all our cares and anxieties upon God, and remain steadfast in our faith. For Christ will always restore, strengthen, and establish God's people.

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

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 413

By Gracious Powers

BONHOEFFER

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Praise God All Ye Little Children

Musical notation for the children's response, consisting of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes.

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

John 17:1-11
Acts 1:6-14

Pew Bible page 879
Pew Bible page 884

SERMON

Rev. Cameron Barr

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

CALL TO SHARING

ANTHEM

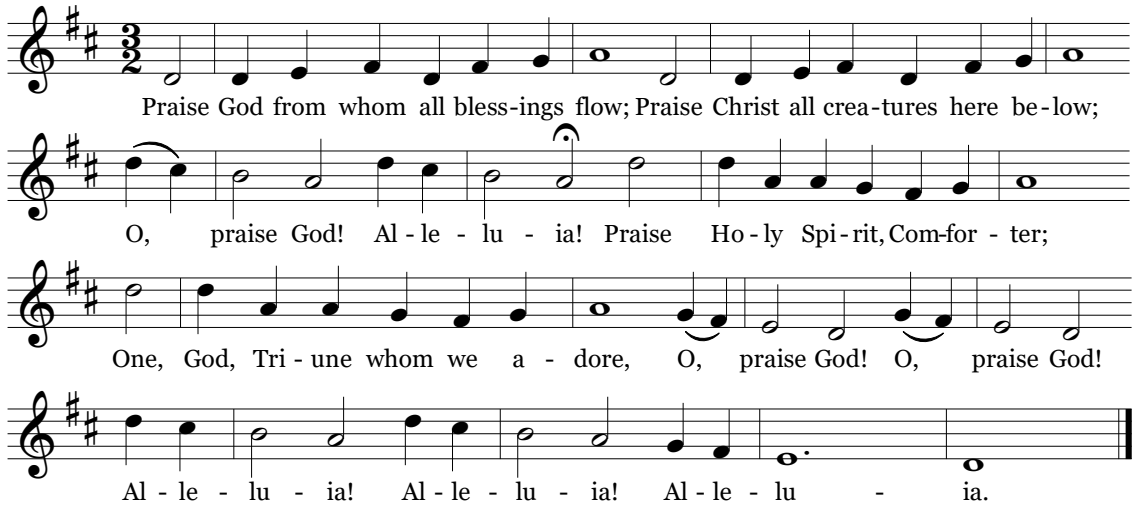
In Bright Mansions Above

African American Spiritual,
arr. Dr. Roland M. Carter

Program note: This anthem gives voice to the hope of a heavenly home, and the peace in Christ's words from today's reading. It echoes the promise that His departure is not an ending, but the beginning of hope that endures in uncertainty. As we listen to this transcendent arrangement, we are reminded to live in peace and confidence, trusting Christ's promise of what is yet to come.

*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.

Program note: In today's John reading, Jesus prays for His disciples, rededicating them to God while asking for their protection as they are sent into the world in His name. Kevin McChesney's contemplative composition is inspired by the Prayer of St. Francis written in 1912 (text below), a plea for peace, love and humility. During this communion anthem, we adopt Jesus' prayer for the disciples as our own, asking that we may live lives of service, compassion and unity with God and our neighbors.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.*

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 390

Eternal Christ, Who, Kneeling

NYLAND

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Danse de Tambourin

Jean Jacques Charpentier

Program note: This "Drum dance" by French organist/composer Charpentier is based on a lively 18th century folk dance from Provence, traditionally featuring flutes, reeds, and drum.

Giving Update

(as of 5/15/26)

Annual Budget

Total 2026 pledges: \$819,696

Pledged gifts received: \$380,857 (YTD budget: \$302,661)

Non-pledged gifts received: \$17,202 (YTD budget: \$23,540)

Other income (e.g. interest, building use donations): **\$36,278** (YTD budget: \$36,618)

Pillars of Promise Capital Campaign

Pledges: \$1,726,938

Gifts received: \$1,316,496 (76% of pledged amount)

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).

PILLARS OF PROMISE UPDATE

Many exciting things are happening as the Pillars of Promise capital campaign continues to secure the present and build toward the future of United Church. The recently dedicated Peacemaking Garden, alongside updated landscaping toward MLK, has made UCCH more visible and inviting. Siding and windows will begin replacement later this summer, and preparations are ongoing for a completely overhauled HVAC system. The best way to support the capital campaign's work is to keep our church in your prayers. Support can also be more direct. You can complete your pledge, preferably early. You can also make a stand-alone gift at any time. Thank you for your support.

STAFF-CONGREGATION RELATIONS COMMITTEE: DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that May 15 marked the ninth anniversary of Anitra's employment at UCCH? Simply put, Anitra is the emotional heart of our church. Through her care and presence, she reminds us that our children are the clearest fulfillment of God's Easter promise of continued life, not just for us as individuals but also for us as a church. If you look around during the Children's Moment, you will see in people's faces that she is not just ministering to the children of the church--Anitra's leadership blesses all of us with love, acceptance, and kindness, which we all need regardless of age. Please join the Staff-Congregation Relations Committee in expressing our gratitude to Anitra and letting her know how much she is appreciated.

GRATITUDE CORNER

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 share your thoughts in our weekly worship bulletins and newsletters. Send your submission to mmee@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, 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.

YOU'RE INVITED! RELATIONAL MEETING TRAINING WITH JUSTICE UNITED

Sunday, May 17 | 12-1:30pm | Fellowship Hall

Join us after worship TODAY for a light lunch and an interactive introduction to "relational meetings," one-to-one conversations that build trust, strengthen community, and support justice work. Participants will learn the basics, practice a relational meeting, and explore how these conversations can deepen connections within United Church and the wider community.

NEXT SUNDAY: PENTECOST JOINT WORSHIP

Sunday, May 24 | 10:30am in the sanctuary

Festival worship and La Mesa will join together for one worship service next Sunday (May 24) in observance of Pentecost. Join us in the Sanctuary at 10:30am for this bilingual service.

UCCH 101 FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Interested in joining United Church as a member, or just in learning more about this congregation or denomination? UCCH 101 is for you! Visit "bit.ly/UCCH101" to RSVP and join us for any of the three meetings leading up to membership day on August 23, 2026. Over breakfast we'll explore spirituality, our church community and denomination, with time for questions and conversation. **Meeting 1: June 21 @9:15am.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHAPEL HILL PRIDE

Event date: Saturday, June 6, 2026 | 12:00-3:00pm

Help UCCH get to Chapel Hill Pride! Volunteer roles still needed: Promenade Team Lead and Table Closer shift. If you can help, please write to Pastor Caleb as soon as possible (cwolf@unitedchurch.org). If we are unable to fill these roles, we will need to step back from participating this year. Thank you! —Pastor Caleb

WE ARE HIRING!

UCCH is seeking to hire for two part-time positions: **Junior Choir Director & Children's Musical Director.** Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis and the positions will remain open until filled. For detailed information see <https://unitedchurch.org/careers>. Cover letter and resume and/or questions may be sent to childrensmusic@unitedchurch.org. Please spread the word!

UCCH YOGA: MAY CLASS

Join Melanie Joiner for an all-levels yoga class focused on building resilience and community on **Friday, May 29, at 9am in the Assembly Hall.** Questions? Contact Melanie at melanie.spence@gmail.com.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION

Calling all High School Seniors: Graduation Sunday will take place on June 7 in Festival Worship. Please **complete this form by May 20** to be honored during the service: <https://bit.ly/ucseniors26>. Questions? Reach out to Jackson at JRingley@unitedchurch.org

JOY & DELIGHT CONCERT

Join us on *Friday, May 29 at 7:30pm* for Joy & Delight - an inspiring joint concert featuring UCCH Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells. A journey through themes of Exuberance, Reflection, Reverence, and Assurance, the concert features choral composers include Brahms, Monteverdi, Aaron Copland and R. Nathaniel Dett, and handbell composers Joel Raney, Kevin McChesney, Cathy Mocklebus, & Michael J. Glasgow of NC. A free will offering will be collected in support of the UCCH Music Ministry.

SAVE THE DATE: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual meeting to elect church officers and board members will be held **Sunday, June 7, following worship.** There will also be potluck lunch. Please plan to attend; more information will be available soon.

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 here by June 14:** <https://bit.ly/vbs2026ucch>

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS

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

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ Cleveland, C. The preeminence of (identity in) Christ. In "Disunity in Christ," p177-191. 262 Cle D
- ★ Robinson, A.B., & Wall, R.W. Called to be church (Acts 1). In Called to Be Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day, p29-48. 226.6 Rob C
- ★ Gushee, D.P. May they all be one. In "The Moral Teachings of Jesus," p173-176. 248.4 Gus M
- ★ Borg, M.J. The ascension. In "Speaking Christian," p175-181. 232 Bor S

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: Julie Mitchell, organ; Chancel Bells; Reyna Alston, drum.

DEACON: Jill McArdle

GREETERS: Mark Kleinschmidt, Peter Barnes

READER: Midge Coward

LIVESTREAM: Bill Siddall

SOUNDBOARD: Peter Schay

COFFEE HOST: Janet Flowers

ALTAR FLOWERS: Given in celebration of Andrea and David Tanner's 25th wedding anniversary (May 19, 2001).

COVER ART: *In the Beginning* by Brian Whelan, 2003. 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:*



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PHONE
919-942-3540

A PLACE of BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN