

Wide Circle Worship



**An interactive, inclusive and welcoming
liturgical worship experience for all ages.**

University United Methodist Church

October 4, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Please sign our pew pad or [online attendance pad](#) and visit the [announcements page](#) for more information about upcoming events! If you are unfamiliar with accessing our announcements online, please call the church office to get connected.

GATHERING

Words of Welcome



Prelude



“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
Organ ~ Andrew Berinson, Piano ~ James Rice

William Runyan, arr. by John Innes

Choral Introit



“Come with a Grateful Heart”
Cherub Choir
Piano ~ James Rice, Flute ~ Sarah Cooley

Lynn Shaw Bailey, Becki Slagle Mayo

*Call to Worship



Gather us in, the brokenhearted and the joyful. **Gather us in!**
Gather us in, the fearful and the brave. **Gather us in!**
Gather us in, to sing of God's works. **Gather us in!**
Gather us in, to praise Jesus Christ. **Gather us in!**
Gather us in, to worship and wonder. **Gather us in!**
Gather us in, to know of God's love. **Gather us in!**

*Hymn 64



"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"



*Opening Prayer

In Unison

Prodigal God, your love is more generous than we imagine and your grace reaches farther than we expect. You come toward us when we wander and seek us when resentment keeps us outside. Free us from every resistance to your mercy. Teach us to receive your love, celebrate the grace given to others, and enter fully into the joy of your kingdom. Amen.

Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders

Responsively

Leader: Receive the Word of God. Learn its stories and study its words.

Third Graders: We receive these Bibles with our hands, our hearts and our minds.

Congregation: **We pray God will guide you, as you use this Holy Bible on your Christian journey.**

Hymn 601



"Thy Word Is a Lamp"

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (x2)

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me,
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (x2)

Anthem



"Everywhere I Go"

Jubilee Choir

Piano ~ James Rice

Natalie Sleeth

(You are invited to move in response to the music or to get a better view.)

Play Time!



with Charlie and Rebecca

PROCLAMATION

*Prayer for Illumination



In Unison

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

*Gospel Reading



Luke 15:25-32

page 1272

(You are invited to move or stand if you need a better view.)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon



"The Father's Invitation"

The Reverend Justin Coleman

RESPONSE

*Hymn 389



"Freely, Freely"

Generosity Moment



Responsively

God is Good. **All the time.** And all the time. **God is Good.**

Presentation of Our Gifts and God's Tithes: *You may designate your offering via mobile phone by texting "UniversityUMC" to 833-245-5259 and choosing the General Fund or specific missions, or through UniversityUMC.church.*

Offertory Music



"You Say"
Youth Choir

J. Ingram, L. Daigle, P. Mabury
arr. by Heather Sorenson

Soloists ~ Meriwyn Baber, William Fitch

(You are invited to move in response to the music or to get a better view.)

***Doxology**, Hymnal, p. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Invitation to the Table**, Hymnal, p. 12



***Confession and Pardon**

Responsively

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

(Children are invited to gather around the Communion Table.)

***The Great Thanksgiving**, Hymnal p. 17



Responsively

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

 **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

... all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

 **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**



(You are invited to use the Lord's Prayer with pictures as a guide.)

***The Breaking of the Bread and the Taking of the Cup**



The Giving

The body of Christ broken for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

In the United Methodist tradition, the Table is open to all who desire the Sacrament, including children. You may stand or kneel at the chancel rail in prayer as long as you wish. We invite you to consider leaving an offering to support neighbors in need. We use bread from Wegmans and Welch's grape juice. [Visit our website for allergen information.](#)

 *Gluten-free wafers and a dedicated chalice are available upon request at the station just left of the center aisle. Wafers are free of gluten, wheat, yeast, dairy, egg, soy, nut, and corn.*

Hymn During Communion

(Congregation invited to sing)



451 "Be Thou My Vision"

Prayer after Communion



SENDING FORTH

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you wish to become a follower of Jesus Christ or a member of University United Methodist Church, or would like for someone to pray with you, we invite you to come forward during the closing hymn and meet the clergy in front of the chancel rail.

*Hymn 2208



"Guide My Feet"

from The Faith We Sing

*Sung Benediction

"Blessing of Grace"
Jubilee and Youth Choirs

Mark Patterson

(You are invited to pass the peace using ASL signs.)

Benediction



*Postlude



"Voluntary"

Charles Stephens

THIRD GRADERS

Anna Barham, William Charles Filer, Campbell Lavin, Elsie Miedema, Laurel Sinuefield, Seth Thomas, Adalyn Travis

A heartfelt thank you to Herb and Beth Patterson and their family who, in loving memory of their daughter Lauren, donate the Bibles that are given to our third graders each year.

Flowers



The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rita Bigham by her family.

All are welcome to join Wide Circle Worship the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

University United Methodist Church
150 East Franklin Street • Chapel Hill, NC 27514
www.universityumc.church
919-929-7191