

**Unity Moravian Church**  
**July 18, 2021**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Watchword for the Week: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

Ephesians 2:19

**Gathering for Worship**

**Prelude**

*Build My Life*

*by Pat Barrett*

Randy & Mel

**Welcome**

Rev. Joe Moore

**Call to Worship**

**Offering Our Prayers and Praises**

**Liturgy**

(Standing)

Lancashire pg. 13

*With joyfulness and longing we look to you, O Lord;  
receive us in your mercy and cheer us with your word.  
Crown us with love enduring and promises of grace,  
and let your holy blessing remain within this place.*

*The years have all been crowded with tokens of your love;  
and many who have sought you now worship you above.  
But we, O Lord, still need you, our pilgrim feet to stay,  
for evil often triumphs as faith to fear gives way.*

Almighty God, enthroned above all, you alone are God over the nations of the earth.  
Even the planets, the stars, and the galaxies are placed by your hand.

**Where could we go from your Spirit? Where could we flee from your  
presence? If we go up to the heavens, you are there; if we go down  
into the caves of the earth or the depths of the sea, you are there.**

God of all creation, we sing praises to your name; we stand jubilant before your glory,  
power, and beauty.

**God of certainty, God of truth, our confidence is in you and in you  
alone.**

Yet we live in a fallen world and we are an imperfect people.

**Our world is filled with pain and alienation.**

We know of illness when body or mind is failing, and the loneliness of spirit it brings.

**We know of separation from parent or child, from friend or neighbor,  
and the emptiness of life it brings.**

We know of strangeness in new communities and in changing communities, and the longing that it brings.

**We know of alienation caused by unemployment or poverty or  
discrimination and the pain it brings.**

We have become strangers to our relatives, and foreigners to our own families.

**How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? Let our cry for  
help come to you.**

I am a God nearby, says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? I am the Lord your God. I have called you out from the peoples and you shall be holy to me.

**We declare your praise, the one who called us out of darkness into  
your wonderful light. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a  
nation belonging to you.**

Mit Freuden Zart pg. 15

*Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation;  
with healing balm my soul he fills and ev'ry faithless murmur stills.  
To God all praise and glory!*

*The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,  
an ever-present help and stay, our peace, and joy, and blessing,  
as with a mother's tender hand, he leads his own, his chosen band.  
To God all praise and glory.*

### **Prayers of Confession and Intercession**

Come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, humbly confessing our sins.

(Sitting.)

**Gracious God, we humbly confess that we walk in the way of the indifferent, who depend upon their strength alone. We sit among the scornful, who deny the need for your guidance and power. Our hearts are not satisfied with riches vulnerable to moth and rust and thief, yet we store up those very treasures. Set our minds on things unseen and eternal, that our emptiness within may be filled.**

**We humbly confess that we fail to welcome the stranger among us. We pass by the neighbor who is hungry and thirsty, naked, sick, and in prison. We sing of your healing power and your unconditional love, but we fail to make our sanctuaries true havens for the suffering and the exiled. Give us the will to be ambassadors for our Savior and faithful stewards of the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Amen.**

As we gather as the people of God at Unity Moravian, we remember those members of our church family and our friends who need our prayers: Jere Dailey, Beth Basta, Jayne Parks, Don Matney, Lou Utt, Jeff Chrysson, Bob Smith and the family of Teresa Perry.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time to make our common confession and intercession to you, and you have promised through your Son that where two or three are gathered in your name you will be in the midst of them. Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.**

## **Responding to God's Love and Mercy**

### **Children's Time**

### **Worship by Learning and Serving**

### **Worship by Giving**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Psalm 96:7-8

Give Online: [Unity Moravian Online Offering](#)

Mail: Unity Moravian Church  
8300 Concord Church Rd.  
Lewisville, NC 27023

Offertory

*Be Thou My Vision*

*Celtic Hymn*

## Sharing God's Word

**Scripture**

Ephesians 2: 11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Rev. Joe Moore

**Sermon**

### Going Forth to Share God's Love and Grace

Without Christ we were strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus we who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. He is our peace.

**We are no longer strangers and aliens, but citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, with Christ himself as the cornerstone.**

Let us keep our eyes fixed on the promises of God, though we see them and greet them from a distance.

**We confess that we are strangers and foreigners on the earth, a people who are seeking our true him.**

We desire a better place, that is, a heavenly one. Indeed, God has prepared a city for us.

**Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.**

**Hymn**

Eastham pg. 17

*O then what raptured greeting on Canaan's happy shore;  
what knitting severed friendships up, where partings are no more!  
Then eyes with joy shall sparkle that brimmed with tears of late.  
no orphans left without a home, nor mourners desolate.*

*Bring near your great salvation, O Lamb for sinners slain;  
fill up the roll of your elect, then take your power, and reign!  
Appear, Desire of nations, your exiles long for him;  
show in the heav'n your promised sign; great Prince and Savior, come. Amen.*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*  
Donna Shore

arr. R Thygerson

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Interim Pastor:	Rev. Joe Moore
Pastoral Intern:	Dana Myers
Organist:	Donna Shore
Audio Visual Team:	Gabrielle Stevenson
	Scott Culbertson
Song Leaders:	Cindy Stewart
	Deeje Culbertson
	Randy Nofle
	Wayne Yancey