

# Unity Moravian Church

November 15, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Festival of Christ the Chief Elder  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Unity Moravian Church  
(November 16, 1980 – November 16, 2020)

11:00 A.M. Livestream from Sanctuary

## THE CONGREGATION PREPARES FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Rejoice in the Lord Always”

arr. S. Greiner

## HEARING GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

LOVEFEAST ODE

*Lovefeasts originated in the first gathering of Christians after Pentecost. The early believers met and broke bread together, thereby signifying their union and equality. These meals of the church family were associated with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, which followed them. They were called agape, from the Greek word for love, that is for the highest type of spiritual love.*

*The lovefeast was embraced by the Moravian Church in 1727. After the memorable celebration of the holy communion on August 13, seven groups of the participants continued to talk over the great spiritual blessing which they had experienced and were reluctant to separate and return to their own homes for the noonday meal. Count Zinzendorf, sensing the situation, sent them food from his manor house, and each group partook together, continuing in prayer, religious conversation, and the singing of hymns.*

*Lovefeasts were introduced wherever new settlements were founded and so came to America. Today we celebrate the first lovefeast shared in 1980 by the newly formed congregation of Unity Moravian Church in Lewisville, North Carolina.*

THE READING FROM THE EARLIER CHURCH

Acts 2: 44 – 47

Dana Myers

Liturgist: The Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“When Christians Shared Agape Meals” Text: David Robb

Tune: BROTHER JAMES’ AIR

*When Christians shared agape meals, O Lord, your Spirit came  
to bless and love the infant church which gathered in your name  
and set each heart aflame with love, and set each heart aflame!*

*We gather still in Christian love, and celebrate with song  
the pilgrimage our parents made to keep our people strong;  
to keep them strong within the faith, and we will join the throng!*

*We clothe our faith and hope with love to meet our neighbors’ needs,  
and find that serving you through them transcends our human creeds,  
to hear and meet our neighbors’ needs fulfilling faith with deeds!*

*We also bring our burdens here and share them as we feast;  
grant us, O Lord, the gifts and grace to be the other’s priest  
to listen to and stand beside, through whom your love’s released.*

*Keep us in caring fellowship and help us to respond  
by living out the banquet feast supported by our bond  
to live in loving fellowship in this world and beyond.*

THE BLESSING

**Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be,  
and bless these gifts bestowed by Thee.  
Bless our dear ones everywhere  
and keep them in Your loving care. Amen.**

## **PARTAKING OF THE LOVEFEAST**

**1<sup>st</sup> VIDEO – (CHOIR ANTHEMS WITH CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY PHOTOS)**

## HISTORY OF UNITY MORAVIAN CHURCH

To the west of Winston-Salem the community of Lewisville was rapidly growing. So, to better serve the area the Province in August 1979 purchased an 8.93-acre parcel of land on Concord Church Road. It was the first church extension in Forsyth County in almost 30 years.

Events transpired as rapidly for this new endeavor as they did for Konnoak Hills and Messiah in 1951. A first meeting of interested people was held in the Lewisville Civic Center on January 27, 1980. William H. McElveen was commissioned as organizing pastor at the first service on April 13, 1980. On May 25<sup>th</sup> the congregation received provisional church status. It had 66 members, one-third of them from non-Moravian backgrounds. The previous Sunday they had chosen a name: Unity Moravian Church. Unity held its charter Sunday, its anniversary date, on November 16, 1980.

The church building was even quicker. Groundbreaking was on November 9, 1980. The first service in it was on April 12, 1981, and dedication followed on June 7. All that — from nothing to a fully operating church — in less than two years.

Less than a year later Unity was having a problem, the kind of problem a church loves to have. Its burgeoning membership — by July 1983 Unity had more than 200 members — was outgrowing the church building. For stopgap relief, Unity installed a mobile building for classrooms, but more effective measures had to wait until debts on the first building were paid. Finally the campaign for the Sanctuary began in 1990, Unity's 10th anniversary year.

Groundbreaking was on March 22, 1992, and the first service in the new building on October 25, 1992 practically filled the sanctuary, which can seat 350. Formal dedication took place on February 14, 1993.

Pastors: Bill McElveen (1980 – 1991), Carl Southerland (1991 – 2002), Interim Pastor: Polly Applefield (2002), Stuart Zimmerman (2002 – 2014) Interim Pastors: Wayne Burkette and Neil Routh (2015), Barry Foster (2016 - 2020)

**2<sup>nd</sup> VIDEO from founding pastor, The Rev. Bill McElveen**

HYMN 533

“Now Thank We All Our God”

1. *Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

2. *Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;  
And guard us through all ills in this world, till the next!*
  
3. *All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven—  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and Heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> VIDEO - “Messages from the Rev. Carl Southerland and the Rev. Stuart Zimmerman”**

A READING FROM SAINT PAUL

Ephesians 4: 11 – 16

**Dana Myers**

Liturgist: The Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**4<sup>th</sup> VIDEO – “Messages from the Rev. Wayne Burkette and the Rev. Neil Routh”**

INTERLUDE

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

arr. M. Reimer

## **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

WORSHIP BY GIVING

[For online giving: You may use the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal available to us at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/> Or, as always, you may send a check via U.S. Mail to the church]

CONCERNS AND JOYS FOR THE COMMUNITY, NATION AND WORLD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Let us in penitence and humility confess our sins before the throne of grace, praying together:  
**God of mercy, as we mark this moment, we confess our weaknesses, failures, and transgressions:**

**Our broken vows,  
Our slackness and misuse of time and opportunity,  
Our selfishness and our love of ease,  
Our unkindness and indifference,  
Our self-indulgence and our pleasures taken at the expense of others,  
Our moments when we have not been true to ourselves,  
Our lack of faith in your providence.**

**For these sins of commission and omission, have mercy upon us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember in your presence our losses and griefs, our hopes and treasures which the departing years have carried away, the disappointments we have known, the friends who are no longer with us and whose steps we shall hear no more. We pray for grace to cherish the spirit which brings good out of evil, and which prevents adversities and sorrows from embittering our hearts. Give us comfort and a deep sense of your goodness in every circumstance of life; and when, despite our good intentions, we fail, be our strength and stay.

Chant: *Lord God, Father, hear us as we pray:*

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Lord Jesus, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever: your throne is established in righteousness, your compassion fails not, and your love endures from generation to generation. Lift the light of your countenance upon us, for we are exiles as our ancestors were. We thank you for all the ways by which you have led us in the past. Give us courage to set our faces toward the future.

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for all God's mercies.

For your grace given to us in days that are gone,  
For the blessings of life, seen and unseen,  
For the joy and peace of communion with you,  
**We give you thanks, gracious God.**

For the sacraments of love and service which have made usconscious of your presence in our common life,

For the deeds we have been able to accomplish in the strength which you supply,

For the kindness of associates, the love of friends, and the fellowship of kindred souls,

**We give you thanks, loving God.**

For the disciplines which have enriched our living,

For your wisdom and gracious providence which we have recognized when you have denied our foolish requests,

For the faith which has guided us in days of trial,

**We give you thanks, gracious God.**

God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

TUNE: MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in every generation.  
Your people still have known your grace and your blest consolation.  
Through every age you heard our cry, through every age we found you nigh,  
Our strength and our salvation.*

*Lord, nothing from your arms of love shall your own people sever.  
Our helper never will remove; our God will fail us never.  
Your people, Lord, have dwelt secure; our dwelling place, you will endure  
Forever and forever.*

## **FOLLOWING OUR LAMB INTO THE WORLD**

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

HYMN 511

“The Church’s One Foundation”

*The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the Word:  
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy Bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.*

*Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

*'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace for evermore;  
Till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, in love may dwell with Thee.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                    “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”                    arr. F. Hagen

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**Staff**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Barry Foster</b>	<a href="mailto:barryf@unitymoravianchurch.org">barryf@unitymoravianchurch.org</a>
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**Watchword Text for the Year**

*Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people,  
may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.                    II Corinthians 4:15*

In essentials **UNITY**, in non-essentials, **LIBERTY**, in all things, **LOVE!**

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