



# First United Methodist Church Graham, NC

[www.fumcgraham-nc.org](http://www.fumcgraham-nc.org)

303 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

336/226-4343

***Ascension Sunday***

***Miracle Sunday***

***May 17, 2026***



## **Our Mission**

*To make disciples for Jesus Christ through love and service*

## **Our Vision**

*A loving and diverse community meeting the real needs of our neighbors through spirit-filled worship, intergenerational discipleship, and caring service*

# ***Come, Let Us Worship the Lord***

*Ascension Sunday*

*Miracle Sunday*

*May 17, 2026*

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## ***Gathering***

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Morning Hymn*

Beethoven

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to God with loud songs of joy,

**for the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great ruler over all the earth.**

God chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom God loves. Let us sing praises to God.

**For God is the ruler of all the earth; let us worship God!**

†OPENING HYMN

*Lift High the Cross*

*(UMH #159)\**

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign  
the hosts of God in unity combine.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory!

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

## †SHARING THE PEACE

*Please greet your neighbor and pass the Connect pads to register your attendance.*

# ***Proclamation***

## MISSION MOMENTS

Miracle Sunday Initiative

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Eternal and gracious God, your Son ascended with triumph into your kingdom in heaven. Carrying your word in our hearts and minds, may we also ascend to where he is and dwell with him for eternity; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Acts 1:6-14](#)

Susan Brink

<sup>6</sup> As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus’ son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James’ son— <sup>14</sup> all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

## SHARING FAITH WITH ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Chris Fulkerson

*Childcare is available for children aged 5 and under in Room 121. Red drawstring “Worship Kid Kits” with children’s bulletins are available in the entrance area each week for children to use throughout worship.*

## ANTHEM

*Celebrate the Day*

Choplin

Celebrate the Day, celebrate the life.  
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.  
Celebrate the Day, celebrate the life.

Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.

Remember all the blessings, the blessings of the day.  
Be thankful for the very gift of breath and life.  
Remember all the goodness, and mercies of the Lord  
and fill the morning with the sounds of praise and joy!

Celebrate the Day, celebrate the life.  
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.  
Celebrate the Day, celebrate the life.  
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.

We'll bless Your name forever, for great are You, Lord.  
And every generation will declare Your mighty works.  
We sing of Your great goodness, Your holy righteousness.  
Your Glory of Your Kingdom reigns forever, forevermore.

We come to celebrate the day, celebrate the life.  
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.  
Celebrate the Day, celebrate the life.  
Celebrate the joy of our faith in Christ.  
Celebrate the joy of our life in Christ.

†SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON      [John 17:1-11](#)

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

SERMON

“Living the Vision: LEAD COURAGEOUSLY”

Pastor Duane

## ***Response***

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(UMH #895)

**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. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(UMH #881)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI

(UMH #71)

**Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen. Amen.**

## ***Sending Forth***

RESPOND TO THE WORD

*The altar is always open if you would like to pray. Feel free to stay as long as you desire. If people remain in prayer after the dismissal, those who must leave are asked to move quietly and reverently toward the back of the sanctuary.*

†CLOSING HYMN

*Lead On, O King Eternal*

(UMH #580)\*

1. Lead on, O King eternal,  
the day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest  
thy tents shall be our home.  
Through days of preparation  
thy grace has made us strong;  
and now O King eternal,  
we lift our battle song.

2. Lead on, O King eternal,  
till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper  
the sweet amen of peace.  
For not with swords loud clashing,  
nor roll of stirring drums;  
with deeds of love and mercy  
the heavenly kingdom comes.

3. Lead on, O King eternal,  
we follow, not with fears,  
for gladness breaks like morning  
where'er thy face appears.  
Thy cross is lifted o'er us,  
we journey in its light;  
the crown awaits the conquest;  
lead on, O God of might.

†THE BLESSING

†CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir and Congregation)

(UMH #898)\*

**Amen, amen, amen.**

†CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

†POSTLUDE

*The Solid Rock*

arr. Page

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†Please stand if you are able.  
\*Songbooks are located in pew rack.