



# 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

*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

*August 24, 2025*



## **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***

*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

*August 24, 2025*

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## ***Gathering***

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Largo*

Samuel Wesley

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Like a woman who searches her house until she finds the lost coin,

**So God searches until he finds us.**

Like a shepherd who leaves the 99 and searches until he finds the lost sheep,

**So God searches until he finds us.**

Come, let us celebrate the God who seeks, who finds, and brings home with great rejoicing!

**For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home. Thanks be to God!**

†OPENING HYMN

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*(UMH #400)\**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

#### †SHARING THE PEACE

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

### ***Proclamation***

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

[Psalm 39:1-12](#)

JJ Kelley

1 I promised I would watch my steps  
so as not to sin with my tongue;  
promised to keep my mouth shut  
as long as the wicked were in my presence.  
2 So I was completely quiet, silent.  
I kept my peace, but it did no good.  
My pain got worse.  
3 My heart got hot inside me;  
while stewing over it, the fire burned.  
Then I spoke out with my tongue:  
4 "Let me know my end, Lord.  
How many days do I have left?  
I want to know how brief my time is."  
5 You've made my days so short;  
my lifetime is like nothing in your eyes.  
Yes, a human life is nothing but a puff of air! Selah  
6 Yes, people wander around like shadows;  
yes, they hustle and bustle, but pointlessly;  
they don't even know who will get the wealth they've amassed.  
7 So now, Lord, what should I be waiting for?  
My hope is set on you.  
8 Deliver me from all my sins;  
don't make me some foolish person's joke.  
9 I am completely silent; I won't open my mouth  
because you have acted.  
10 Get this plague of yours off me!  
I'm being destroyed by the blows from your fist.

11 You discipline people for their sin, punishing them;  
like a moth, you ruin what they treasure.  
Yes, a human life is just a puff of air! Selah  
12 Hear my prayer, Lord!  
Listen closely to my cry for help!  
Please don't ignore my tears!  
I'm just a foreigner—  
an immigrant staying with you,  
just like all my ancestors were.

## SHARING FAITH WITH ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Anita Sherer

*All students, bring your backpacks up.*

*Childcare is available for children up to age 5 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*

## BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

Pastor Duane

## ANTHEM

### *Gentle Shepherd*

Gaither

Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,  
For we need you to help us find our way.  
Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us,  
for we need your strength from day to day.

There's no other we can turn to  
who can help us face another day;  
Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,  
for we need you to help us find our way.

There's no other we can turn to  
who can help us face another day;  
Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,  
for we need you to help us find our way.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING [Luke 15:1-10](#)

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 So he told them this parable: 4 "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

8 "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

## SERMON

"The Gospel According to Pixar: "Finding Nemo"

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*

†CLOSING HYMN

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

(UMH #357)\*

Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict many a doubt  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown  
hath broken every barrier down;  
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

†THE BLESSING

†CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir and Congregation)

**Amen, amen, amen.**

†CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

†POSTLUDE

*The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*

Beethoven

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†Please stand if you are able.

\*Songbooks are located in pew rack