

# Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 13th, 2025 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)

## GATHERING

Welcome and a Time of Greeting

Rev. Paula Womack

Invocation

Gwen Reagan

## Meditation

"I am trying to keep my soul alive in times not hospitable to soul."

-Character in J. M. Coetzee's novel, *Age of Iron*

Prelude

David Wilson

## \*Call to Worship

David Wilson

One: Beckoned to this place of belonging, we of Umstead Park United Church of Christ, with body, mind, and spirit, gather to worship, serve, and proclaim God, unknowable mystery whose center is love, and Jesus the Christ, who makes this loving mystery known.

Many: **With inarticulate words and unfinished lives, we yearn to further embody this holy love, shaping the future as partners with God, who dances and weeps with us along the way. Let us worship God with our whole lives.**

## \*Statement of Intention

David Wilson

One: In this place of belonging, we wonder whose stories we overlook, miss altogether, or take for granted.

Many: **In scripture and in community, may we tend to the stories around us.**

One: May belonging be nurtured by intention.

## \*Opening Hymn

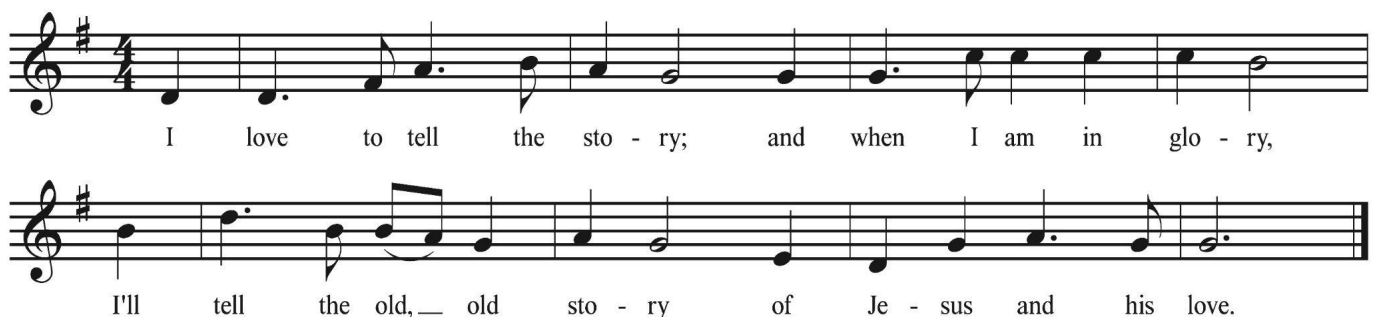
#423, "Great Is Your Faithfulness"

Congregation

## HEARING AND RESPONDING

### A Time with Children

Christy Tucker



I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry,  
I'll tell the old, — old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

## Reading of Scripture

Jonah 4:1-5, *NRSVUE*  
(see insert)

Gwen Reagan

## Sermon

"Righteous Anger and a Merciful God"

Rev. Paula Womack



Sarah, One

"I Knew You Were"  
by Sara Are

A Sanctified Art LLC  
sanctified art.org



**\*Responsive Hymn** #23, "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" Congregation

**Prayers of the People** Dan Harrell



*You are invited to share names or brief joys and concerns. To submit written prayer requests to the church office, visit [tinyurl.com/upuccprayers](http://tinyurl.com/upuccprayers), or scan the QR code to the left.*

**Celebration of Gifts (Offertory)** Dan Harrell

### SENDING INTO THE WORLD

**\*Sending Hymn** #581, "Lead Us From Death to Life" Congregation

### Announcements

**\*Affirmation of Community** Gwen Reagan

**One:** We believe that all people are God's people, that every child is holy, that every person is a part of the sacred family.

**Many:** **We believe that God's love embraces all, and that to exclude any person would be contrary to the message of Jesus.**

**One:** We proclaim that this community of faith, Umstead Park UCC, will strive to be as open as the radical realm of God, and as liberating as the love of Christ.

**Many:** **And so we journey into our hopeful future with joy, pledging to offer each other welcome, compassion and care. May God grant us wisdom, grace, and guidance in our life together.**

**\*Benediction** Rev. Paula Womack

**Postlude** David Wilson

### Volunteers

A special Thank You to  
this week's volunteers!

Peter van Dorsten (he/him), AV Team  
Rebecca van Dorsten (she/her), Coffee Set-up  
Gwen Reagan (she/her), Lay Leader  
Michele Van Note (she/her), Usher

### Church Staff

**Nursery Director**  
Lindsay Cooper (she/her)

**Senior Pastor**  
Rev. Tyler Ung (they/them)

**Financial Administrator**  
Gwen Vass (she/her)

**Director of Music**  
David Wilson (he/him)

**Associate Pastor**  
Rev. Paula Womack (she/her)

umstead park  
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST



### Visiting?

You are invited to fill out the online visitor form so that we can get to know you!



### Giving

Scan the QR code to make a one-time or recurring donation!

# Supplemental Texts

## Reading of Scripture

Jonah 4:1-5, *NRSVUE*

Gwen Reagan

<sup>1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

## Artist Statement

“I Knew You Were”

Sarah Are



I learned the story of Jonah as a child at summer Vacation Bible School. I was taught that Jonah was a young prophet called by God for a big task—a task so big that Jonah ran in fear. While some of that may be true, in recent years, I have learned another side to the story.

What I did not know as a child was that Jonah was not necessarily afraid of his call, but was reluctant to show his enemy grace. Jonah did not like the Ninevites—those to whom God had called him to prophesy. They were brutal people. Why would anyone want to give such brutal and violent people a second chance?

Jonah’s hatred of the Ninevite people led me to include the figs, which are a biblical symbol for Israel, and the whale, a symbol of Jonah’s deep resentment, encompassed by Jonah’s testimony about God (Jonah 4:2). In this verse, Jonah confesses to God, “That is why I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love.”

This story is about a man who was reluctant to forgive and a God who is so loving that grace and forgiveness are the only option. It’s a powerful truth.

May this story, and Jonah’s grudge, remind us of all the ways in which we need saving. May it remind us just how good and compassionate our God truly is, for not a day goes by when I don’t need that same unrelenting mercy that God showed Jonah and the Ninevites.