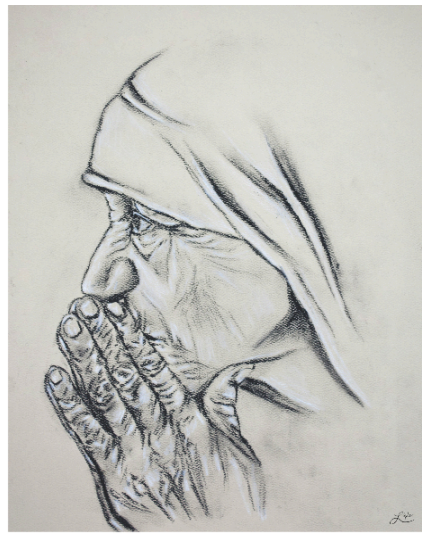


# Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20th, 2025 at 10:30am (Onsite & Online)



“Anna the Prophetess”  
by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

A Sanctified Art LLC  
sanctified art.org

## GATHERING

### Welcome and a Time of Greeting

Rev. Tyler Ung

i can never know  
the struggles you went through to get here,  
but i know you have swum upstream  
and at times it has been lonely

i honor your commitment to that which is larger than yourself  
and your journey  
to love the particular container of life  
that is you

**you are here  
and i am grateful**

-excerpt from “radical gratitude spell”  
by adrienne maree brown

### Invocation

Gina Sanders

### Prelude

David Wilson



### \*Call to Worship

Rev. Paula Womack

**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

Rev. Paula Womack

**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

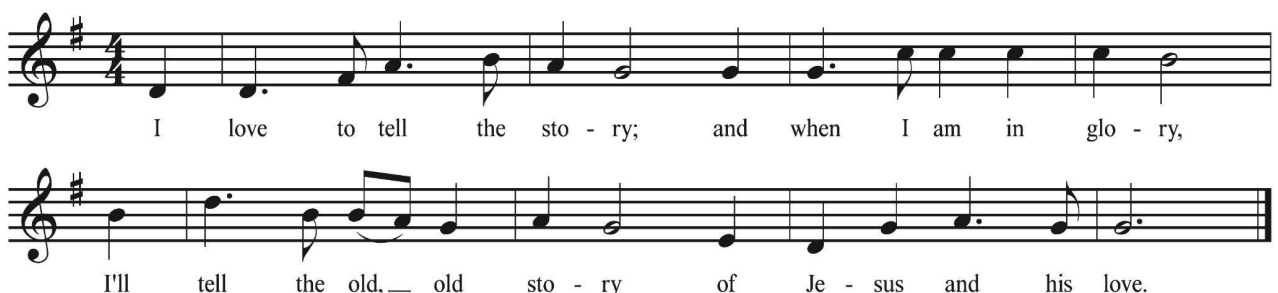
#433, “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

Congregation

## HEARING AND RESPONDING

### A Time with Children

Rev. Tyler Ung



### Reading of Scripture

Luke 2:21-38, *The Inclusive Bible*  
(see insert)

Gina Sanders

### Sermon

“While We Wait”

Rev. Tyler Ung

Prayers of the People

Rev. Paula Womack



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

Celebration of Gifts (Offertory)

Rev. Paula Womack

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

\*Sending Hymn

#576, "For the Healing of the Nations"

Congregation

Blessing for the Youth Trip

Rev. Paula Womack

**Congregation (Response One, when invited):**

May these gloves protect your hands.  
May your hands bring hope.  
May your hope build peace.  
May your peace be shared with every person you meet.  
Go in the strength of God,  
Go in the spirit of service,  
Go in love.

**CONGREGATION (Response Two, when invited):**

Go in peace and purpose.  
Go in courage and care.  
Go with hope in your hearts and tools in your hands.  
Return to us with stories of justice, joy and God's ever-widening welcome. Amen.

Announcements

\*Affirmation of Community

Gina Sanders

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. Tyler Ung

Postlude

David Wilson



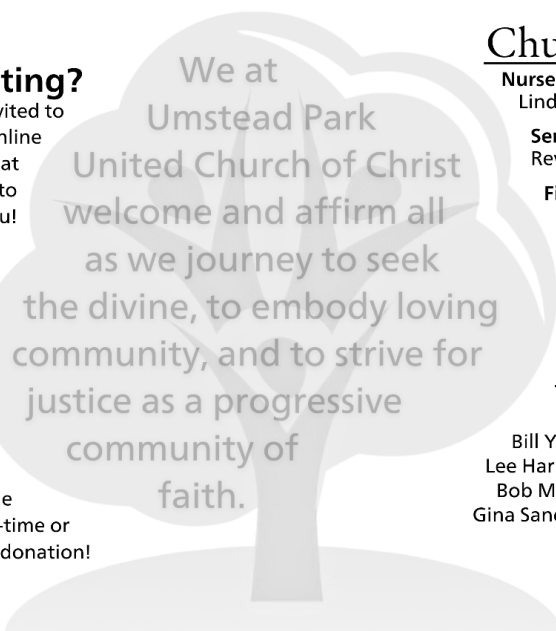
**Visiting?**  
You are invited to fill out our online visitor form so that we can get to know you!



**Realm**  
Access or create your Realm account



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



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)

**A special Thank You to this week's volunteers!**

Nevin Fouts	AV Team
Bill Yoder (he/him)	AV Team
Lee Harrison (he/him)	Assistant Treasurer
Bob Martin (he/him)	Auditor, Usher
Gina Sanders (she/her)	Usher

\* Please rise in body or in spirit.

# Supplemental Texts

## Reading of Scripture

Luke 2:21-38, *The Inclusive Bible*

Gina Sanders

<sup>21</sup>When the eighth day arrived for the child's circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

<sup>22</sup>When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the Law of Moses, the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. <sup>23</sup>For it's written in the Law of our God, "Every firstborn heir is to be consecrated to God." <sup>24</sup>They likewise came to offer in sacrifice "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accord with the dictate of the Law of our God.

<sup>25</sup>Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>26</sup>She had revealed to Simeon that he wouldn't see death until he had seen the Messiah of God. <sup>27</sup>Prompted by her, Simeon came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child to perform the customary rituals of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Now, O God, you can dismiss your servant in peace, just as you promised;

<sup>30</sup>because my eyes have seen the salvation

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared for all the peoples to see —

<sup>32</sup>a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>As the child's mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, <sup>34</sup>Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, "This child is destined to be the downfall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, <sup>35</sup>so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your heart as well."

<sup>36</sup>There was a woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet. She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup>Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem.



Perhaps being at the end of her life helped her to see the world with eyes sharpened for the holy. Perhaps living most of her years as a widow kept her hiding in the shadows, to keep from taking up too much space, when Simeon approached first to announce praise and prophecies on behalf of the newborn child. Perhaps being a prophet made her both patient and persistent, trusting that the right moment to share her wisdom would, indeed, come.

The moment came, for there was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel. Luke could have easily left Anna out of the story. But she leans in—from the margins, from the shadows, from the edges of the scene to approach her newborn king.

Perhaps Luke knew that those on the outside seemed to have the nearest access to Jesus. Those on the margins saw what others could not yet see. They knew without really knowing, because it was the kind of knowledge that shifts the chemistry of your heart.

She saw and she knew, so she lived out her days giving thanks for the promise of a world made new.

When drawing this image, I referenced photographs of Mother Teresa because I imagine her, like Anna a few centuries before, having eyes for the divine and devoting her entire life to pointing it out for others.