

“I Felt My Heart Strangely Warmed”

In the evening I went very unwilling to to Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given to me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

--from the journal of John Wesley



MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8533 Cox Mill Road, Sanford, North Carolina 27332

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Worship Service 9:30 AM, Fellowship Meal after worship.

The Rev. Connie Mitchell Shelton
Raleigh Area Bishop

The Rev. Kevin H. Seymour
Pastor

A Service of the Word

September 14, 2025

A heart-felt welcome is offered to all who join together to celebrate the presence of God and the work of God’s people in this place since 1860. We remember today the cornerstone of this building in which we gather was laid in 1904, while we praise the cornerstone of our salvation, our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. We’re also here in remembrance of our Methodist roots in the great evangelist John Wesley. Fr. Wesley’s story is indeed the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Ring the Church bell

Prelude

Karen Johnston

† **Call to Worship**

God Father, praise and glory your children come to sing.
Good will and peace to mankind, the gifts your kingdom brings.

And you, Lord Coeternal, the Father’s only Son.
O Jesus, King anointed, you have redemption won.

O Holy Ghost, Creator, the gift of God most high.
Life, love and holy wisdom, our weakness now supply.

† **Hymn of Praise** *“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

UMH No. 57

Prayers for the Church and the world

Presentation of God’s tithes and our offerings

Offertory

† **Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Introduction of Mr. BJ Johnston

“The Man from Aldersgate”

BJ Johnston as John Wesley

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Invitation to Christian commitment

Presentation of Love Offering

Offertory

Karen Johnston

SENDING FORTH

† **Hymn**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

UMH No. 384

† **Thanksgiving for the meal**

† **Benediction**

Postlude

“To God Be the Glory”

Leslie Orlovsky

† *The congregation is invited to stand, as you are able.*

Our closing hymn today is one of thousands of hymns written by John Wesley’s brother, Charles. *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* was written in 1747, but first appeared in John Wesley’s 1780 *Collection of Hymns* and found its place in the section “For Believers Groaning for Full Redemption.” Charles Wesley sounds the depths of praise and perfection. Perfecting grace is centered in God’s presence by the Spirit (John 14:16-23; 20:22), yet it involves an ever-deepening process – “changed from glory into glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:17) --- which is finally communal and cosmic in scope (Revelation 4:9-11). This is one of the ten most widely sung hymns among United Methodists. – from *The Hymns of United Methodist Hymnal* by Diana Sanchez

John A. and Candice Morris, donors of the land in 1860 helped, along with Rev. Peter Doub, to erect the first church building which served the congregation until the present structure was built in 1904. Cornerstone laying rites were held on September 15, 1904, with John Marvin Groce, grandson of John and Candice, at age 12, placing the stone. The present church building has seen many improvements since 1904. For the history lovers, artifacts can be found in our Heritage Room and in our history book, *A Charge to Keep*.