



# ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 19, 2023 ■ 4th Sunday of Lent

— WE GATHER —

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

Rev. Kristen Curtis Wright

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY *Three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

PRELUDE

*He Is Lord*  
Alicia Luttrell

arr. Christopher

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Travis Bedsole

Gracious Father, Your blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world. Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

❖HYMN OF PRAISE

*He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought* (verses 1, 4)

UMH 128

❖PASSING OF THE PEACE *Greet those near you with the words, "Peace be with you" and respond with "And also with you."*

MINISTRY MOMENT

Teaming with Tanzania

Lee Ann Boykin

SUNG RESPONSE

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.*

— WE LISTEN —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER *from Psalm 51*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God

**And put a new and right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

**Deliver me from death, O God my salvation,**

**and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth your praise.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;**

**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

❖Please Stand as you are able,

**Bold Print** – Congregation Reads Aloud

† Children 4 yrs to 4th grade leave for Children's Chapel

**❖ HYMN OF PREPARATION***Open My Eyes, That I May See*

UMH 454

† During the hymn, children (4 yrs to 4th grade) are invited to go to Children's Chapel. Following the service, parents can meet their children in The Landing.

**EPISTLE LESSON** Romans 1:20-25

<sup>20</sup>Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; <sup>21</sup>for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools; <sup>23</sup>and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the degrading of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup>because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever! Amen.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God!**

**ACT OF PRAISE**

*Calvary*  
Chancel Choir

Bell and Carter

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' <sup>2</sup>Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.' <sup>3</sup>So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup>He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' <sup>5</sup>When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.' <sup>6</sup>They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ' <sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'

<sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, 'O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever." ' <sup>14</sup>And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

Humanity's Condition: Golden Calf

Dr. Sterling Boykin

— WE RESPOND —

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *The Apostles' Creed*

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.

*\*universal*

♪ GLORIA PATRI 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. A-men. A-men.

MORNING PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

*The Power of the Cross*  
Ensemble

Getty and Townend

♪ ❖ DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

— WE GO FORTH —

❖ INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

❖ HYMN OF INVITATION *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (verses 1, 4) UMH 381  
*During the Hymn of Invitation, those who wish to join this congregation of the United Methodist Church are invited to come to the chancel rail to meet with the pastors.*

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE *He Leadeth Me*

🌸 FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from the wedding of Heather Buckley and Ethan Punch on March 18.  
They are placed in memory of the bride's grandfather, Charles M. Turner.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for choosing to worship with us at Ashland Place United Methodist Church. If you have questions about our church, or the Christian faith, we would love to speak with you. Feel free to contact one of our pastors or a staff member, or to scan this code with your camera to complete a digital CONNECT Card.



## OUR CHURCH STAFF

<b>Senior Pastor</b>	Dr. Sterling Boykin, sboykin@apumc.com
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	Rev Kristen Wright, kwright@apumc.com
<b>Music</b>	Alicia Luttrell, musicdirector@apumc.com
<b>Ascension</b>	Jon Miller, millermediaonline@gmail.com
<b>Preschool</b>	Mary Hunter Fuller, MHfuller@apumc.com
<b>Children</b>	Sarah Willingham
<b>Youth</b>	Lee Ann Boykin, LABoykin@apumc.com
<b>Technology</b>	Joseph Griggs
<b>Steward</b>	Thomas Grandt

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Sunday, March 19th**

- 9:00 Ascension Modern Service
- 10:00 Sunday School All Ages
- 11:00 Traditional Sanctuary Service
- 6:00 Youth Group

**Monday** Ladies Bible Study, 10:00AM

**Tuesday** Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00AM  
Pastor's Bible Study, 5:30PM

**Wednesday** Handbell Practice, 5:00PM  
Chancel Choir Practice, 6:00PM

**Thursday** Men's Bible Study, 7:00AM

## CIRCLE OF CONCERN

John Allen, Jean Brown, Tootsie Chitwood, Linda Lee Counts, Jane Ford, Ruffin Graham, June and Jim Harter, Melanie Jackson (Katie McCarrison's mother), Freddie Jones, Don Jordan, Peggy Mann, Haley Maxime, Lexi Mayhall, Michael Pierce, Sr, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Burton Roton, Mary Davis Rutledge, Joann Smith, Peggy Tanner (Cindy Roton's mother), Kathryn Willingham (\*new concern this week)

**CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME** We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

15 Wisteria Avenue ♦ Mobile, AL 36607  
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**Children Rehearsing for Palm Sunday** at 10:00 on Sunday mornings at Sunday School in The Landing. Our children will wave palms at both services, and will sing with the Chancel Choir during the 11:00 service before our Churchwide Lunch at Noon on April 2.

**Youth Group** meets from 6:00 to 7:30 in the basement on Sunday evenings. This week: "Giving Up Expectations". In our Lenten "Grow On Your Own" (G.O.Y.O) read John chapters 13-17 this week. How has Jesus changed the way you think and the way you live? For points this week, text Lee Ann a comment at 251-272-0721, or invite a friend to youth!

**Palm Sunday Eggs & Candy Needed** When you are out and about this month, please grab some plastic eggs &/or a bag of candy, and we'll have them for our Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 2. Individually wrapped candies are preferred. Drop them off in the Church Office, Fellowship Hall, or Sanctuary vestibule.

**Palm Sunday Lunch & Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 2nd**  
Please plan on coming to the Palm Sunday Churchwide Lunch on April 2 at noon, Bring cold sides and desserts; hot sides and chicken fingers provided.

## **Holy Week Dates**

A Maundy Thursday special communion service will be on April 6 at 6:00 in Fellowship Hall. Then the Chancel Choir will lead us in a Service of Darkness on Good Friday, April 7 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. Easter is on April 9 at 7:00 AM (Courtyard), 9:00 AM (Fellowship Hall), or 11:00 AM (Sanctuary).

## Hymns for March 19, 2023

### He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought UMH 128

1. He leadeth me: O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,  
by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be,  
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,  
by waters still, o'er troubled sea,  
still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]

3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine,  
nor ever murmur nor repine;  
content, whatever lot I see,  
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. [Refrain]

4. And when my task on earth is done,  
when by thy grace the victory's won,  
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,  
since God through Jordan leadeth me. [Refrain]

### Open My Eyes, That I May See UMH 454

1. Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2. Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3. Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

### Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us UMH 381

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
much we need thy tender care;  
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Hear, O hear us when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

3. Thou hast promised to receive us,  
poor and sinful though we be;  
thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
grace to cleanse and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
We will early turn to thee.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
We will early turn to thee.

4. Early let us seek thy favor,  
early let us do thy will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior,  
with thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

