



# ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3rd Sunday of Easter ▪ April 14, 2024 ▪ 11:00 a.m.

— WE GATHER —

## WELCOME and PARISH NOTICES

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dr. Sterling Boykin

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

## PRELUDE

*Sunday with Chorale "Praise Ye the Lord"*

Alicia Luttrell

Gurlitt

**OPENING PRAYER** *Together let us center our hearts and minds for worship*

Kathy Neel

**Almighty Father, who in your great mercy encouraged the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: Grant us the experience of his presence, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## ❖ HYMN OF PRAISE

*Christ Is Alive*

UMH 318

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE** *Before taking your seat, please pass the Peace of Christ to those around you.*

— WE LISTEN —

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of life, your Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of scripture. Your Spirit draws us to Christ and helps us to recognize and acknowledge him as Lord. We ask that you will send your Spirit now to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope through the proclamation of the Easter gospel. Amen.

## PSALTER READING *from Psalm 4*

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

**You have given me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.**

How long, O people, shall my honor suffer shame?

**How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?**

But know that the Lord has set apart the righteous as God's own;

**The Lord hears when I call.**

❖ *Please Stand in body or spirit, **Bold** - Congregation Reads Aloud  
† Children gather for Children's Moment*

❖HYMN OF PREPARATION *And Can It Be that I Should Gain* (verses 1 and 3)

UMH 363

*f During the hymn, All children are invited to come forward for a Children's Moment, 2nd grade and under may go to the Nursery, while others return to their seats. Following the service, parents can meet their children in The Landing.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

EPISTLE LESSON I John 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. <sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

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.**

ACT OF PRAISE

*In My Father's House*  
Chancel Choir

Courtney

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.

May God bless the reading of the Gospel. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Setting the Table

Rev. Kristen Wright

— WE RESPOND —

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER  
OFFERTORY

*At the Cross*

arr. Sinclair

♪ 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.

❖ INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

❖ HYMN OF INVITATION      *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (verses 1 and 3)      UMH 140

— WE GO FORTH —

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Faithfulness*

Runyan

✠ FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in loving memory and celebration of the life of Bob Thomson, by his family.

✠ ROSE ON THE ALTAR is in celebration of the birth of Graham Michael McCorrison, born to Katie and Jamison McCorrison on April 8th. He is also welcomed by big sister, Nuala.

✠ CHRISTIAN LOVE and SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Sue Reed who passed away on Tuesday, April 9th. Information about her Celebration of Life service is forthcoming.



## Joseph Griggs – Sunday Morning Technology Upcoming Opportunities

Today: Youth Group, 6:00pm (FP)  
Monday: Ladies Bible Study, 10am (WP)  
Tuesday: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10am (FP)  
Wednesday: Handbells, 5pm; Choir, 6pm  
Thursday: Men's Bible Study, 7am (WP)

[WP-Wisteria Parlor, FP-Fellowship Parlor]

## Did you take Easter pictures? We want a copy!

If you have a family picture from Easter, please email it to [LAboykin@apumc.com](mailto:LAboykin@apumc.com)

## A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR:

Welcome to Ashland Place United Methodist Church. We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today. We hope you find a warm welcome and an experience with the One true God this Easter Season as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. If you are visiting for the first time, on behalf of the congregation, I welcome you and encourage you to come again! Use your camera to complete a Connect card using the QR Code below, or fill out a physical card to give us your contact information or ask any questions you have about getting involved with Ashland Place.



CONNECT

Peace in Our Risen Christ,  
Sterling

## CIRCLE OF CONCERN:

Please hold these members in your prayers:  
John Allen, Ina Boykin (Sterling's mother), Jean Brown and son James Williams, Victor Brown (Dee Dee Cook's brother), Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Richard Crowther, Julie & Steve Dugan, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Ruffin Graham, Bill Higgs, Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Tee Hope, Andrew Irby, Freddie Jones, family of Sue Reed, \*David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Burton Roton, Mary Davis Rutledge, Alan Smith (Maria Coleman's brother), Joann Smith, Peggy Tanner (Cindy Roton's mother), family of Bob Thomson, Joan Waldron, Kathryn Willingham  
(\*new prayer concern this week)

## MEET OUR STAFF:

**Rev. Dr. Sterling Boykin** – Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Kristen Curtis Wright** – Associate Pastor  
**Alicia Luttrell** – Traditional Music  
**Lee Ann Boykin** – Youth and Communication  
**Mary Hunter Fuller** – Preschool  
**Jon Miller** – Ascension Music/ Media

## Registration Open for VBS & Service Squad, June 10-13th

Registration for VBS & Service Squad is OPEN for current 4-yr old Preschoolers through current 6th graders. Adults and youth (in 7th grade this year) are invited to sign up to volunteer. A nursery will be provided for younger children of volunteers. (Adults - Contact Rev. Kristen Wright to volunteer at [kwight@apumc.com](mailto:kwight@apumc.com); youth contact Lee Ann at 251-272-0721, or [LAboykin@apumc.com](mailto:LAboykin@apumc.com))

This summer we'll be "diving into friendship with God" through Scuba VBS & Service Squad at Ashland Place UMC. Our younger kids will anchor at the church for Scuba Singing, Deep Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Reef Recreation, Tidal Treats, and Sticky Scripture times that will make stories from the Bible something kids can't wait to splash into! Older kids who have completed 5th and 6th grades will start the morning with everyone in Fellowship Hall but then our "crew" will sail out into the Mobile area to do local missions. Questions? Call 251-478-6356.

## Easter Sermon Series

Our Easter Sermon Series, "Table Talk", will continue through May 5th. Through the series we will consider our faith traditions in light of the United Methodist Church General Conference. This week we will be "setting the table" before General Conference begins on April 23th. There will be 862 clergy and lay delegates from 4 continents around the world meeting in Charlotte, NC from April 23rd to May 3rd. This group meets every four years (except for the past few years due to Covid) and there will be "live" sessions that anyone can watch in the second part of the conference.

## Financial Update

YTD 2024 Needed: 238,050; YTD Received: \$187,855  
Needed Weekly: \$15,870 Offering Received 4/7: \$10,679

## MUSIC FOR April 14th

### Christ Is Alive                      **UMH 318**

1) Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
His love in death shall never die.

2) Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
he comes to claim the here and now  
and dwell in every place and time.

3) Not throned afar, remotely high,  
untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
but daily, in the midst of life,  
our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

4) In every insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
he suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, though ever crucified.

5) Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and all creation ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

### And Can It Be that I Should Gain      **UMH 363**

1) And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Savior's blood!  
Died he for me? who caused his pain!  
For me? who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

3) He left his Father's throne above  
(so free, so infinite his grace!),  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness                      **UMH 140**

1) Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2) Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.  
[Refrain]

3) Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
[Refrain]

