



ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5th Sunday of Easter ▪ April 28, 2024 ▪ 11:00 a.m.

— WE GATHER —

WELCOME and PARISH NOTICES

Dr. Sterling Boykin

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

PRELUDE

Elevation
Alicia Luttrell

Guilmant

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

Laureen Lynn

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**

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

UMH 662

❖ **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 22*

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will pay before those who worship the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live for ever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

and all the families of the nations shall worship before the Lord.

For dominion belongs to the Lord who rules over the nations.

All who sleep in the earth shall bow down to the Lord.

All who go down to the dust shall bow before the Lord, and I shall live for God.

Posterity shall serve the Lord.

Each generation shall tell of the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.

Surely the Lord has done it.

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

❖ **HYMN OF PREPARATION** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (verses 1 and 2)

UMH 384

f During the hymn, children are invited to come forward for a Children's Moment, then children up through 2nd grade 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 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

He Shall Feed His Flock
Chancel Choir

Beck

GOSPEL LESSON John 15:1-8

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

SERMON

Table Talk: Lunch 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

My Help (Cometh from the Lord)
Valencia Montgomery

arr. Cymbala

♪ 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 *To God Be the Glory* (verses 1 and 2)

UMH 98

— WE GO FORTH —

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

Doane

✠ FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bob Lee's birthday (4/28/1947 to 1/15/2001) by Phebe Lee.

✠ ROSE ON THE ALTAR is in celebration of David Mulford Foshee who was born on Thursday, April 25th to Megan and Bragg Foshee. "Ford" is welcomed by proud big sister Caroline, and grandparents in our church, Dabney and David Foshee, Jr.



Upcoming Opportunities

Today: Youth Group, 6:00pm (FP)
 Monday: Ladies Bible Study, 10am (WP)
 Tuesday: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10am (FP)
 Wednesday: The Joseph Project, 10:00 (DWCC)
 Handbells, 5pm; Choir, 6pm
 Thursday: Men's Bible Study, 7am (WP)
 The Joseph Project, 9:30 (DWCC)

[WP-Wisteria Parlor, FP-Fellowship Parlor
 DWCC – 126 Mobile Street]

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, 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), *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
Joseph Griggs – Sunday Morning Technology

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 kwright@apumc.com; youth contact Lee Ann at 251-272-0721, or LAboykin@apumc.com)

Sermon Series Continues

Our Sermon Series, "Table Talk", will continue through May 5th as we continue to consider our faith traditions in light of the United Methodist Church General Conference. First we "Set the Table" and then spent time looking ahead from the "Breakfast Table". This week we are at the "Lunch Table" during General Conference which will conclude on May 3rd. Links to watch the Conference are in the E-news.

Ladies Who Lunch on May 5th in Wisteria Parlor. Please make your reservation by Thursday, May 2, by emailing Chee Chee at lwstreet@gmail.com. A \$10.00 donation for lunch will be appreciated. All ladies of the church are invited.

A New Online Directory Soon Thank you for your patience as we create a new directory that members can access. We're working on this with our membership program, so all needed corrections are appreciated. Note: if you or a family member did not receive a birthday card last year, then we need to update your entry!

Sr Sunday is May 12th We will honor our 2024 Seniors and their families with a brunch at 10:00 in Wisteria Parlor and recognition in the 11:00 Service (and at 9:45 in Ascension).

Financial Update

2024 YTD Needed: \$269,700 YTD Received: \$207,137
 Needed Weekly: \$15,870 Offering Received: 4/21: \$9,178

MUSIC FOR April 28th

Christ Is Alive UMH 662

1. Stand up and bless the Lord,
ye people of his choice;
stand up and bless the Lord your God
with heart and soul and voice.
2. Though high above all praise,
above all blessing high,
who would not fear his holy name,
and laud and magnify?
3. O for the living flame
from his own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire,
and wing to heaven our thought!
4. God is our strength and song,
and his salvation ours;
then be his love in Christ proclaimed
with all our ransomed powers.
5. Stand up and bless the Lord;
the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless his glorious name,
henceforth forevermore.

And Can It Be that I Should Gain UMH 384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

To God Be the Glory UMH 98

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!
2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. [Refrain]

