



**EASTER**

*Sunday*

**APRIL 5, 2026**

SUNRISE AT THE STEEPLE | 7:00 A.M.

# *The Worship of God*

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\*Please stand as you are able. The congregation speaks the text in **bold** type.

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**THE FLOWERS FOR EASTER ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**  
**In honor and memory of** our loved ones. *Please see the end of the bulletin for dedications.*

## **BEFORE THE SUNRISE**

### *The Tolling of the Steeple Bells*

#### *The Call to Worship*

“Were You There?” | WERE YOU THERE

Led by the Wesleyan Youth Choir and Choral Scholars; Vincent Tong, piano  
Congregation sings in **bold**.

Choir: *Were you there when the stone was rolled away?*  
*Were you there when the stone was rolled away?*

All singing: **Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**  
**Were you there when the stone was rolled away?**

Choir: *Were you there when He rose up from the grave?*  
*Were you there when He rose up from the grave?*

All singing: **Oh, sometimes I feel like shouting “Glory, Glory, Glory!”**  
**Were you there when He rose up from the grave?**

*\*The Scripture Reading* | John 20:1-18 | Nate Roberson

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her."

## *The Lighting of the Paschal Candle*

### *\*The Easter Greeting* | Rev. Montana Hamby

The Lord is risen! **He is risen, indeed!**

Faith, hope, and joy are alive. A new age is dawning, and death cannot harm us. God of all creation, we praise you. God of resurrection and eternal life, we have gathered in this place to worship you and celebrate your victory. The Lord is risen!

**He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

### *\*The Passing of the Peace*

The peace of the risen Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with Easter blessings and signs of peace.

## AS THE SUN RISES

### *The Opening Song*

“What a Beautiful Name” | Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood

Led by Marianna Baccus and Choral Scholars

*Verse 1*

**You were the Word at the beginning, One with God the Lord Most High. Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You our Christ.**

*Chorus*

**What a beautiful name it is, what a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ, my King. What a beautiful name it is. Nothing compares to this. What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus.**

*Verse 2*

**You didn't want heaven without us, so Jesus You brought heaven down. My sin was great, Your love was greater. What could separate us now?**

*Chorus*

**What a wonderful name it is, what a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ, my King. What a wonderful name it is. Nothing compares to this. What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus.**

*Instrumental and Bridge*

**Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You. You silenced the boast of sin and grave. The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory. For You are raised to life again. You have no rival, You have no equal. Now and forever, God, You reign. Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory. Yours is the Name above all names.**

*Chorus*

**What a powerful name it is, what a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus Christ my King. What a powerful name it is. Nothing can stand against what a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.**

**What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus. What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.**

### *The Pastoral Prayer and the 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## *The Offering*

Thank you for your generous support of the missions and ministries of Athens First United Methodist Church by placing cash or a check in the offering plates or by giving online at [athensfirstumc.org/giving](http://athensfirstumc.org/giving). Give now by scanning the QR code on the back of the bulletin.

## *The Offertory Anthem*

“Goodness of God” | arr. Jay Rouse

Janis Maxwell, Director of Children’s and Youth Music

*I love you, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands. From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, oh I will sing of the goodness of God. All my life you have been faithful. All my life you have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able, oh, I will sing of the goodness of God. I love Your voice; You have led me through the fire, and in darkest night, You are close like no other. I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend, and I have lived in the goodness of God. Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything, Your goodness is running, it keeps running after me.*

## *The Meditation* | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“Reading the Story Backwards”

## *\*The Hymn*

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” | EASTER HYMN

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

## *\*The Blessing and Benediction*

# *In Honor of*

Each year, flowers are placed throughout our church for Easter Sunday worship services in honor and memory of loved ones:

**AFUMC Music Ministry,  
Janis Maxwell, and Ryan  
Ferguson**

Jane, Sarah, Sallie, and Matt  
Allgood

**AFUMC Staff**  
AFUMC Clergy

**AFUMC Staff**  
Chris and Mike Selleck

**Sallie Allgood**  
Alisha and Mitch Bain

**Alisha and Mitch Bain**  
Jane, Sarah, Sallie, and Matt  
Allgood

**Jill Bateman**  
Julie and Oscar Webster

**Twinkle Baxter**  
Alisha and Mitch Bain

**Anna Grace and Brock  
Bowling**  
Mom and Dad

**Betty Chapeau**  
Circle 1

**Betty Chapeau**  
Michelle, Betsy, Charlie, and  
Jonah

**Nancy Cobb**  
Franses, Brooke, and Pierce  
Byrom

**David Conley**  
Sherry Jackson

**Cathy Felton**  
By her Family

**Joy Ferrell**  
The Jordan Family

**Deborah and Scott Fuller**  
Abby B. and Matthew Fuller

**W. Bramblett Fuller**  
Abby B. and Matthew Fuller

**Ginny Graham**  
Bradford, Watson, and  
Denton Graham

**Jamie and Harris Haley**  
Carlyn Haley

**Palmer and Hatcher Haley**  
Carlyn Haley

**Graham Harvey**  
Jane Harvey

**Jon Harvey**  
Jane Harvey

**Raegan Harvey**  
Jane Harvey

**Landon Heath**  
Janeanna and Landon Heath

**Robert Heath**  
Janeanna and Landon Heath

**Page Hughes**  
Bradford, Watson, and  
Denton Graham

**Molly, Anna, and Lucy  
Linthicum**  
Kristen and Will Linthicum

**Janis Maxwell**  
Wesleyan Youth Choir

**Adaline, Alison and Bryan  
McCullick**  
Camilla Bracewell

**Dianne Morrison**  
Sharon and David Conley

**Our Grandchildren—  
Caroline, Peyton, Allie,  
Thompson, William, Logan,  
Tanner, and Groves**  
Alice and Nathan King

**Our Grandchildren—  
Charli, Leah, and C.J.**  
Gail and David Walton

**Kara and Steve Purvis**  
Michelle, Robert, and William  
Beckum

**Chris Selleck**

Mike Selleck

**Caroline Sumerel**

Alisha and Mitch Bain

**Nancy and Bob Taylor**

Kristen and Will Linthicum

**Muriel Turner**

Lee and Mark Channell

**Barnes and Borders Utley**

Carlyn Haley

**Ginn and Matt Utley**

Carlyn Haley

**Ann Vickers**

Julie and Dave Suppes

**Lilla McIntosh Walker**

Dorothy and Phillip Walker

**Charles Hamilton Walker**

Dorothy and Phillip Walker

**Dianne Wall**

Circle 3

**Callie Waller**

Sharon and David Conley

**Callie Waller**

Sherry and Tom Jackson

**Kierstin, Betty, Chris, and David Jr. Walton**

Gail and David Walton

**Jody and Richard Warner**

The Sullivan Family

**Leo West**

Julie and Oscar Webster

**Clark Williams Family**

John Breen

**Julian Williams Family**

John Breen

**Pat Wilson**

Bradford, Watson, and Denton Graham

# *In Memory of*

**Rachael Quinn Adams**

Debbie and Phil Kincaid

**Jimmy Allen**

Frances Allen

**Derek Bain**

Gail and David Walton

**LaRue and Carl Barnes**

Carlyn Haley

**Mike Beckum**

Michelle, Robert, and William Beckum

**Lee Boyd**

Dianne and Pat Morrison

**Bill Bracewell**

Camilla Bracewell

**Judi and Tom Bradley**

Kathy and Brian Thomas

**Karen Sailors Bramblett**

Abby B. and Matthew Fuller

**Connie and Mary Jon Branch**

Dorothy, Mary Lane, and Danny Todd

**Lory Breen**

John Breen

**Louie A. Brown**

Frances Brown

**Armand "Toby" Chapeau**

Michelle, Betsy, Charlie, and Jonah

**Armand "Toby" Chapeau**

Betty Chapeau

**Bryce Chapeau**

Betty Chapeau

**Betty Ann Chapman**

Karen and Susan Chapman and Courtney, Maddie, and John Durham

**Bill Chapman**

Karen and Susan Chapman  
and Courtney, Maddie, and  
John Durham

**Delores Chorneyko**

Gail and David Walton

**Darris Crawford**

Betty Chapeau

**Walter D. Crawford**

Betty Chapeau

**Mrs. and Mr. W.D.  
Crawford**

Michelle, Betsy, Charlie,  
and Jonah

**Mollie Culpepper**

Lee and Mark Channell

**Mollie Culpepper**

Peggy Gates

**Mollie Culpepper**

Thursday Morning  
Bible Study

**Sam H. Dabbs**

Kathy Dabbs

**Branan Elliott**

Tish Elliott

**Connor Elliott**

Tish Elliott

**Raleigh Elliott**

Tish Elliott

**Dr. Tom Ferrell**

The Jordan Family

**Tim Furlow, Jr.**

His Family

**Bobbie and Martin Gates**

Peggy Gates

**Jack Godwin**

Pat Dunleavy

**Sara Godwin**

Pat Dunleavy

**Dianne Graham**

Marty Mitchell

**Bill Haley**

Carlyn Haley

**Cassandra and Jeff Haley**

Carlyn Haley

**Haley Ruth and Billy Haley**

Carlyn Haley

**Alton Kenneth Hall**

Carey, Stacy, Bo, and Hank  
Stephens

**Sara Hamby**

Montana and Natalee Dukes  
Hamby

**Laurie and John Hansen**

Patti Hurst

**Ann Hudson**

The Hudson Family

**Wallace Jan Hunnicutt**

Theresa Hunnicutt

**Avolyn and Robert Huycke**

Rev. Richard Huycke and  
Jennifer Huycke

**Jay Huycke**

Rev. Richard Huycke and  
Jennifer Huycke

**Our Grandparents Huycke**

Rev. Richard Huycke and  
Jennifer Huycke

**Lowellen Jackson**

Cynthia Harbold

**Mary and Charlie Jordan**

The Jordan Family

**Dell and Robert Kerr**

Rev. Richard Huycke and  
Jennifer Huycke

**George Kuhlman**

Cindy Kuhlman

**Bob Langstaff**

Susan Reinhardt and Family

**Shirley Lee**

The Hudson Family

**Effie McCullough**

Ellen McCullough and Keith  
Newberry

**Tom McCullough**

Ellen McCullough and Keith  
Newberry

**Connie McMillan**

Gary McMillan

**H.C. McMillan, Jr.**

Gary McMillan

**Johnny McMillan**

Gary McMillan

**Thelma McMillan**

Gary McMillan

**Mitch Mitchell**

Marty Mitchell

**Wanda Huycke Moore**

Rev. Richard Huycke and  
Jennifer Huycke

**Joanne Newberry**

Ellen McCullough and  
Keith Newberry

**John Parker**

Jane Parker

**Jennifer Pickwell**

Cindy Kuhlman

**Kevin Reinecke**

Allison and Jason Hodge,  
Elizabeth and Weston

**Bob Reinhardt**

Susan Reinhardt and Family

**Mary John Reinhardt**

Susan Reinhardt and Family

**Rob Reinhardt**

Susan Reinhardt and Family

**Jeffrey Todd Rodrick**

Lynn Bailey and Gary Rodrick

**Donnie Rogers**

Ellen and Bob Hope

**Janelle Rogers**

Ellen and Bob Hope

**Janelle and Donnie Rogers**

The Partners Sunday School  
Class for Ellen and Bob Hope

**Bill Ruff**

Dianne and Pat Morrison

**Boyd Ruff**

Dianne and Pat Morrison

**Grace Ruff**

Dianne and Pat Morrison

**Geoff Smith**

Campbell and Andrew Smith

**Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wade  
Stephens**

Carey, Stacy, Bo, and Hank  
Stephens

**The Guthrie Family**

Billy Stone

**The Stone Family**

Billy Stone

**Jackie Thomas**

Kathy and Brian Thomas

**Carolyn Trigleth**

Reese and William Trigleth

**Col. Jack A. Turner**

Muriel, Jackie, Mary,  
Chandelle, and Sandi

**Ruth and Lamar Wansley**

Margaret and Gene Howard

**Gene and Ina Claire  
Weekley**

Alice and Nathan King

**Deborah Willingham**

The Willingham and Lord  
Families

**WE'RE GLAD  
YOU'RE HERE!**

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## We're Glad You're Here!

Whether this is your first time with us or you've been coming for a little while, we're glad you're here this Easter! We hope you feel a genuine sense of welcome, joy, and connection as we worship together.

If you'd like to get more connected, we invite you to fill out a Connect Card in the back of the pew. It's a simple way for us to follow up and help you find your home here at Athens First. You may place that card in the offering plate later in service or, after the service, stop by the Welcome Table in the narthex—just look for the red sign. We'd love to meet you and share a small welcome gift with you!

missions  
**celebration  
brunch**



## Mission Celebration Brunch | April 19

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, April 19**, to celebrate what God has done through our Missions Ministry in the past year! The Missions Celebration Brunch is a morning full of fun and fellowship around a delicious meal, accompanied by a silent basket auction. All are welcome! Ways to get involved:

- **Attend the Brunch!** Sign up for a seating time on the Missions webpage
- **Donate a basket!** Gather your group, class, family, or friends and donate a basket to be bid on!
- **Help us prepare!** Help us decorate and get ready for the Brunch on Saturday, April 18. Please email Sarah Beth Barger to help.

Sarah Beth Barger, Director of Missions | [sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org)

**College Grad  
Sunday**



**college**  
AT ATHENS FIRST UMC

## College Graduation Sunday | April 26

Join us for Graduation Sunday as we celebrate our college graduates during worship at **11:00am on April 26!** Whether you're graduating from undergraduate or graduate programs, we want to recognize all you have done! We'll have a special moment of celebration in worship for you, and we will have your names and graduation information included in our bulletin. Your parents and family are also invited to attend this special service and are welcome to stay for our final Sunday Lunch of the semester where the celebration will continue. To help us plan accordingly, please RSVP with the number of family members attending the lunch.

Even if you're not in town, we still want to celebrate you. Scan the QR code and send us your graduation info. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you!

# Happy EASTER

***Thank you for joining us in worship on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the joy of the resurrection. We warmly invite you to continue journeying with us throughout the spring and summer.***

**UMW Spring Luncheon** | April 9

**Athens First hosts Twilight Kids Zone** | April 18

**New Member Sunday** | April 19

**Missions Celebration Brunch** | April 19

**The Sweet Life: A 50+ Ministry** | April 23

**College Graduation Sunday** | April 26

**Children's Music Ministry Spring Program** | April 26

**5th Grade Sneak Peek** | April 26

**Student Ministry Color Wars** | April 26

**Wesleyan Youth Choir "Drop Party"** | May 3

**New Member Sunday** | May 17

**Sanctuary Concert Series: Creation** | May 17

**Wesleyan Youth Choir Tour to Niagra Falls** | May 25-31

**The Sweet Life: A 50+ Ministry** | May 28

**Vacation Bible School** | June 1-4

**James Banks Basketball Camps** | June 8-12, June 22-26

**Summer Music and Arts Camp** | July 6-9

**Middle School Mission Trip** | July 13-15

**Adult Summer Sunday School** | July 12

**Back to School Blessing** | August 2

*Visit [athensfirstumc.org](http://athensfirstumc.org) to learn more.*

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED | APRIL 6

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 6, to allow our staff a Sabbath day of rest.

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### WAYS TO GIVE



#### OFFERING PLATE:

Fill out the envelope located in your pew.



#### ONLINE:

Scan to be taken to Realm, our online giving platform.



#### TEXT-TO-GIVE:

Text "AFUMCTTG" to 73256.

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### FOLLOW UP WITH A MINISTER

**Rev. Jeremy Lawson** | Senior Minister  
[jeremy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:jeremy@athensfirstumc.org) | 404-304-3574

**Rev. Montana Hamby** | Associate Minister  
[montana@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:montana@athensfirstumc.org) | 770-633-3140

**Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby** | Associate Minister  
[natalee@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:natalee@athensfirstumc.org) | 404-414-1701

**Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson** | Associate Minister  
[nancy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:nancy@athensfirstumc.org) | 762-233-4761

**REQUEST PRAYER** | Have a prayer request? Scan the QR code located in your bulletin and select "**Needing Prayer**" to fill out a form to submit your prayer request. If you desire for the request to be shared with our Prayer Ministry team, please indicate that in your submission. Prayer requests can also be made directly via email [prayer@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:prayer@athensfirstumc.org).

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