



*Hear Our Prayer*

ASHLAND PLACE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 23, 2025  
3rd Sunday in Lent

— *We Gather* —

**WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES**

Rev. Kristen Wright

*Please take this time to sign the attendance pad located in your pew, or scan the CONNECT QR code located on the back of this bulletin.*

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

**PRELUDE**

*Panis Angelicus*  
Silvia Rath, violin

Franck

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Emily McGough

Everyone who thirsts:

**Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.**

All who are hungry for righteousness:

**Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.**

All who need the help of God:

**Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.**

❖ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

UMH 127

❖ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you. You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy. You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires. Our ways are not your ways; our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts. Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives. Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life. Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be. We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE** *As forgiven and reconciled people, let us pass the Peace of Christ with one another.*

## – We Listen –

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We seek you in your word, O God, as though we are searching for water in a dry and weary land. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us a rich feast, satisfying the soul. Then with our mouths, we will praise you; and with our lives, we will bless you, our Host and our Hope. Amen.

### RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 63

UMH 788

### ❖HYMN OF PREPARATION *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (v. 1-3)

UMH 381

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

† After the children's moment, children through second grade may leave with our staff to go to the Nursery. Following the service, parents can meet their children in The Landing.

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-9

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

*The Heart of Jesus*  
Chancel Choir

Hayes and Frombach

### ❖GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?' <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' <sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down!

Why should it be wasting the soil?" <sup>8</sup>He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

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

**SERMON**

**"For Thine is the Kingdom"**

Dr. Darren McClellen

— *WE RESPOND* —

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**—The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

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. Amen. Amen.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY**

*You Raise Me Up*

Kendall Thompson

Hayes and Frombach

♪ ❖ **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**

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* (V. 1-3)

UMH 340

❖ **BENEDICTION**

❖ **POSTLUDE**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

arr. Rogers



## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### Sunday, March 23, 2025

9:00am	Ascension Modern Service (FH)
10:00am	Sunday School
11:00am	Traditional Sanctuary Service (S)
4:00pm	Confirmation
5:30pm	Youth Fellowship (B)

**Monday** Men's Study Group, 7:00am (WP)  
Women's Bible Study, 10:00am (FH)

**Tuesday** Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)

**Wednesday** Wednesday Night Supper, 5:00pm (FH)  
Handbell Practice, 5:00pm  
Family Programs, 6:00pm  
Choir Practice, 6:00pm  
Pastor's Class, 6:00pm (FH)

**Thursday** Men's Bible Study, 7:00am (WP)  
Trivia Night, 7:00pm (206 State St.)

**Friday** Office Closed

FP-Fellowship Parlor, S-Sanctuary, WP-Wisteria Parlor  
B-Basement, DW-Dumas Wesley, 126 Mobile Street

**TRIVIA NIGHT** - Join us for Trivia Night every Thursday at Iron Hand Brewery (206 State St.) at 7pm. Enjoy a fun evening of friendly competition and fellowship. All are welcome—bring your friends and put your knowledge to the test! Questions? Contact Daniel O'Keefe at dbokeefe@gmail.com.

**PALM SUNDAY** is April 13, and we have a lot of things planned. At both services, the children will participate in a palm processional and sing a song. After the 11:00 service, we will have a churchwide lunch, with meat, hot sides, and dessert provided. Please bring a cold side dish to share. After lunch, there will be an egg hunt for the children. We look forward to seeing you there!

**CANDY FOR PALM SUNDAY EGG HUNT** - We are now collecting candy for the Palm Sunday egg hunt. Please place your donations on the Fellowship Hall counter.  
NO CHOCOLATE PLEASE

**THANK YOU** to the young men of KA fraternity at USA who volunteered time on Wednesday to help us with a church work day. They worked tirelessly, along with church members and our Building Steward, Danny White, on many building and grounds projects. You should notice things looking a little fresher around here!

## **CIRCLE OF CONCERN**

Please hold these persons in your prayers: John Allen, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Victor Brown (Dee Dee Cook's brother), Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Julie & Steve Dugan, Peggy Emond (David Mayhall's sister), Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Marcia Golson, Ruffin Graham, \*Margaret Hagood, Jim Harter, Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Tee Hope, Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Tyler Mazey, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Lonn Spencer, Peggy Tanner (Cindy Roton's mother), Sherry Thomson, Robert Wheeler (Emily McGough's brother), Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers  
(\*new concern this week)

## **WELCOME**

We want to thank you for choosing to worship with us at Ashland Place United Methodist Church. If you have questions about church activities, church membership, or the Christian faith, we would love to speak with you.



Are you visiting today? If so, please scan this QR code to complete a CONNECT card, or contact a staff member to assist you.

## **OUR CHURCH STAFF**

<b>Senior Pastor</b>	Dr. Darren McClellan dmcclellan@apumc.com
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	Rev. Kristen Curtis Wright kwright@apumc.com
<b>Music Director</b>	Alicia Luttrell musicdirector@apumc.com
<b>Administrator</b>	Kim Brown admin@apumc.com
<b>Youth and Technology</b>	Joseph Griggs youth@apumc.com
<b>Communication</b>	Leslie Johnston communication@apumc.com
<b>Ascension</b>	Jon Miller millermediaonline@gmail.com
<b>Children</b>	Linda Noble Linda.q.noble@gmail.com
<b>Preschool</b>	Mary Hunter Fuller Camille Hieronymus ashlandplacepreschool@gmail.com
<b>Building Steward</b>	Danny White Building@apumc.com

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Offering Received 3/16/25 \$10,441



To support the many ministries of APUMC, please scan this QR code and donate online.

ONLINE GIVING

## Hymns and Responses for March 23, 2025

### Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

UMH 127

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

### Responsive Psalter

Psalm 63

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts  
for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary  
land where no water is.

**So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.**

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips  
will praise you.

**So I will bless you as long as I live;**

**I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my  
mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of  
you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches  
of the night;

**for you have been my help, and in the shadow of  
your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.**

But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down  
into the depths of the earth;

**they shall be given over to the power of the  
sword, they shall be prey for jackals.**

But the king shall rejoice in God;

**all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths  
of liars will be stopped.**

### Fairest Lord Jesus

UMH 189

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.

### Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

UMH 340

- 1 Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,  
weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
full of pity, love, and power.

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus;  
he will embrace me with his arms;  
in the arms of my dear Savior,  
O there are ten thousand charms.

- 2 Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
true belief and true repentance,  
every grace that brings you nigh.

(Refrain)

- 3 Come ye weary, heavy laden,  
lost and ruined by the fall;  
if you tarry till you're better,  
you will never come at all.

(Refrain)