



Stokesdale United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024



Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney

*We Gather for Worship!
We are reflecting God's love
at the heart of the community!*

** Stand, if able*

*Call to Worship

L: Fear and darkness are our companions!

P: We huddle together, wondering what will happen to us, to our world.

Choral Call to Worship

"Open Our Eyes"



*Call to Worship, *continued*

L: Lord, come and stand among us!

P: Bring us showers of blessing, release from our fears, light in our darkness



Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him,
and say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus.

Gathering Prayer



Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney



261 UMH

*Opening Hymn "Lord of the Dance"

I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the
stars and the sun,

and I came down from heaven and
I danced on the earth.
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
and I'll lead you all
wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe
and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and
they would not follow me;

I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John;
they came to me and the dance
went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
and I'll lead you all
wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on the sabbath
when I cured the lame,
the holy people said it
was a shame;

they whipped and they stripped
and they hung me high;
and they left me there
on a cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
and I'll lead you all
wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday and
 the sky turned black;
 it's hard to dance
 with the devil on your back;

they buried my body and
 they thought I'd gone,
 but I am the dance and
 I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
 and I'll lead you all
 wherever you may be,
 and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

They cut me down and
 I leapt up high,
 I am the life that'll never,
 never die;

I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
 I am the Lord of the Dance,
 said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
 and I'll lead you all
 wherever you may be,
 and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

***Affirmation of Faith** 888 UMH

(from 1 Cor. 15:1-6 and Col. 1:15-20)

L: This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together,

in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen

***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.



Children's Sermon

Mahalia McGee

Psalter – *Psalm 46*



**A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing.**

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear though the
earth should change, though the
mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains tremble with
its tumult.

**There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God, the holy habitation
of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of the city which shall
not be moved; God will help it at the
dawn of the day.

**The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
God's voice resounds, the earth melts.**

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.



**A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing.**

Come, behold the works of the Lord, who
has wrought desolations in the earth;

**who makes wars cease to the end of the
earth, breaks the bow, shatters the
spear, and burns the shields with fire!**

“Be still, and know that I am God.
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth!”

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**



**A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing.**



Choral Anthem



“Peace Be Unto You”



Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw



Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.”



Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”



Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

²⁶ After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”



Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”

³⁰ Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which



Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.



Sermon

*“Peace,
Three Times Over”*

Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney



534 UMH

*Hymn of Response

*“Be Still, My Soul”
verse 1*

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
 Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
 leave to your God to order and provide;
 in every change God faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best,
 your heavenly friend through thorny
 ways leads to a joyful end.



"Prayer Practice"

Be still and know that I am God.
 Be still and know that I am.
 Be still and know that I.
 Be still and know that.
 Be still and know.
 Be still and.
 Be still.
 Be. *Silence.*

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.

**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,
the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**



534 UMH

***Hymn of Response**
"Be Still, My Soul"
verse 2

**Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence
let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.**

**Be still, my soul: the waves and
winds still know the Christ who
ruled them while
he dwelt below.**



OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

- Mail your check to the church at:
PO Box 38
Stokesdale, NC 27357
- Give on-line at:
www.stokesdaleumc.org
- Drop your check at the church office
- Create bill pay with your bank

***Doxology** 94 UMH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



364 UMH

***Closing Hymn**
"Because He Lives"

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
 he came to love, heal, and forgive,
 he lived and died to buy my pardon,
 an empty grave is there to prove
 my Savior lives.

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
 because he lives, all fear is gone;
 because I know he holds the future,
 and life is worth the living
 just because he lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
 and feel the pride and joy he gives;
 but greater still the calm assurance,
 this child can face uncertain days
 because he lives.

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
 because he lives, all fear is gone;
 because I know he holds the future,
 and life is worth the living
 just because he lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's ginal war with pain;
and then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and
I'll know he reigns.

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
because he lives, all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living
just because he lives.

Dismissal with Blessing



*Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney, Pastor
Jeff Fink, Music Director
Beth Southard, Music Assistant
Robin Howerton, Handbell Director
Sarah McKinney, Youth Director
Linda Curtis, Interim Office Manager*

CCLI License #2440521

***Thanks for
worshiping with us!***

See you next week!

