

Stokesdale United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024





Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney

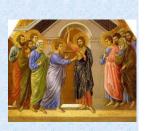
We Gather for Worship! We are reflecting God's love at the heart of the community!

*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

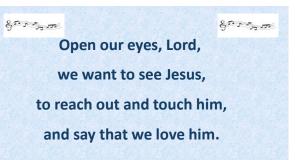


"Open Our Eyes"

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

Gathering Prayer



Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney



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

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(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.



Psalter – Psalm 46

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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.

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

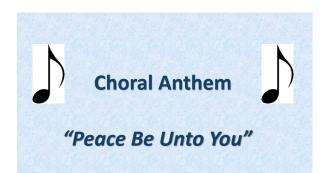
Come, behold the works of the Lord, who has wrought desolations in the earth;

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.

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





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

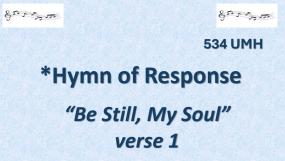


Gospel Lesson

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.





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. ۵۳۰۰ 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.



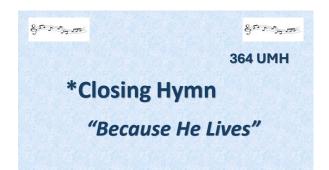
OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

- 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

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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!



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

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Thanks for worshiping with us! See you next week!

