Order of Worship Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Gathering Music Hymn Medley arr. O'Boyle

Welcome

Prelude

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Day by day, God leads us:

To the deep, deep pools of peace, to the green lush lawns of grace.

Day by day, Jesus calls us:

To pour out ourselves in service, to anoint the stranger with hope.

Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:

The community we could be, the family we are called to become.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn 39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

Litany for Easter (Responsive)

God, you are enough for us;

you give us rest in soft fields and beside whispering streams;

you restore and renew us,

and lead us into life-giving ways.

When death and evil come close to us, you carry us through,

you protect and comfort us;

when others seek to do us harm, your grace uplifts and provides for us in public view:

you fill us with your strength and we enjoy overflowing abundance.

We have confidence that your goodness and compassion will fill our days,

and we will stay immersed in your life and presence forever. Amen.

Word & Wonder - A Time for the Young & the Young at Heart

Scripture Lesson 1 John 3:16-24

NT, p. 240

John 10:11-18

NT, p. 103

Sermon Love: God's and Ours

Dr. Tom Lovell

***Hymn 187** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Bradbury

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

Christ calls us to live for our neighbors. Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include those ordinarily despised and excluded. His life on behalf of others led to persecution and death. He commanded his disciples to live the same way.

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives that recognize all people in all cultures as neighbors on this planet. Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the other's good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

As we pray together the prayer Christ taught us...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

Green Tyler

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

*You are invited to stand in body or in spirit as you are comfortable doing so.

No Worship Leader This Week

What's Happening at Hope?

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Tom Lovell to our pulpit today! Dr. Lovell is currently serving as the Executive Presbyter of North Alabama Presbytery after serving churches in North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama across over 40 years of ministry. He and his wife Krista are the proud parents of 3 adult children and doting grandparents of six boys between the ages of one and nine years old. When he is not playing with his grandchildren, Dr. Lovell can be found on the golf course or working in his yard. We are grateful to Dr. Lovell for sharing his gifts with us today.

Playschool Registration Open: Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is at our Playschool is open! We currently have openings for age 4 (on or before Sept. 1) and Pre-K. Registration packets are available in the narthex.

Wednesday Night Bible Study: Our Wednesday Night Bible Study is taking a break for the Spring and Summer. If you have topics or Bible books you would be interested in studying when we return in the Fall, please let Pastor Christie know.

Church Calendar at a Glance

Apr 21	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Choir Practice
Apr 28	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Choir Practice

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Hymn Medley

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God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

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Prayer Family of the Week:

Our prayer family of the week is **Kitsy Stracener**. This week, we ask the congregation to remember Kitsy and her family, asking God to strengthen and bless them.

The Elder on Call for April is Debbie Adsit. She may be contacted at any time for information, emergencies, or concerns at 256-479-7857.

Our Mission Statement

Called by God's grace, we celebrate life with Hope by creating a loving Christian community, serving and worshipping God, and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We provide an open environment to explore God's will, to grow in commitment to Christ, and to be a refuge of healing.

A Community of Hope