



ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 22, 2026 5th Sunday of Lent

Hannah Garrity, *Unbind Him*

PRELUDE

Au clair de la lune
Alicia Luttrell

arr. Young

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

Dr. Darren McClellan

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.*

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Caroline Hinds

Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

Hope lives here.

So, come. Rest your weary bones.

Let us worship Holy God.

♪❖HYMN OF PRAISE

To God be the Glory

UMH 98

❖PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus of Nazareth, I confess: I forget that you know this feeling. I forget that you, too, have wept. I forget that you, too, have lost. I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity. Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you. Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could never feel what I feel. Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us. Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you. With gratitude I pray. Amen.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creator God,

Why is bad news so loud? It often feels like suffering has a microphone. How do we hear you? How do we find you? How do we know that these bones can live? Today we bring our raw selves into this space

Today's Acolytes: Annie and Sally Dodson

❖ *Please Stand in body or spirit* **Bold Print** – *Congregation Reads Aloud*
Hearing amplifier devices are available. Please see an usher for assistance.

asking that once more you would rush through this room like a mighty wind. Remind us that these bones can live. Speak to us in your still, small voice and let it be loud enough to speak to the sorrow of the day. We know that good news rests in you, and we know that you are here. So help us listen, not to the bad news of the day alone, but to the hope that you breathe into every word. With open hearts we pray. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 130

UMH 848

Please join the choir in the sung response when indicated by the red R.

♪HYMN OF PREPARATION

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

UMH 273

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

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

Silent Was the Night
Chancel Choir

Martin

❖GOSPEL LESSON

John 11:1-3, 17-27, 32-44

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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

SERMON

"Seeking: Can These Bones Live?"

Rev. Jennifer Porto

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

UMH 881

♪❖ **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

What Wondrous Love Is This

arr. Sinclair

♪❖ **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.**

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖ **HYMN OF INVITATION**

Lord of the Dance (v. 1-3)

UMH 261

❖ **BENEDICTION**

❖ **POSTLUDE**

To God Be the Glory

Doane



UPCOMING WEEK AT APUMC

- 9:00am Ascension Modern Service (FH)
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Traditional Sanctuary Service (S)
- 12:00pm Get to Know You Lunch (FP)
- 5:00pm Youth

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

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

Wednesday Handbell Practice, 5:00pm
Choir Practice, 6:00pm

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

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Please hold these persons in your prayers: Fay Adams, John Allen, John and Angela Bell, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Maria Coleman, Bob Cook, Ann Cottrell, Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Julie & Steve Dugan, Mihyon Ellis, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Missy Foose, Marcia Golson, Holly Hastings (Dee Dee Cook's sister), Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Tyler Mazey, Jean McCutchen, John McMurphy, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lon Spencer, Sherry Thomson, Robert Wheeler (Emily McGough's brother), Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (**new concern this week*)

PALM SUNDAY is March 29, and we have a lot of things planned. At both services, our children will process in waving palms and will sing for us. At 12:00pm, we will have a church-wide 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.

GOOD FRIDAY FIELD TRIP

It's not too late to join Pastors Darren and Jennifer, District Superintendent Rev. Sheila Bates, Deaconess Clara Ester, and members of APUMC this Friday, for a Good Friday congregational pilgrimage to the Legacy Museum and memorial sites in Montgomery, Alabama.

Cost: \$75 per person (includes transportation, meals, and admission)
Click on the link in your newsletter to reserve your spot.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Celebrate a loved one by donating to the special Easter floral and greenery arrangements for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Donations may be made in honor or memory of a loved one. See the link in your newsletter to sign up.

USA CAMPUS OUTREACH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

We are planning another fellowship opportunity with our young friends from the University of South Alabama and rekindle the flame of former softball glory here at APUMC. If this peaks your interest, or you want to come laugh at your pastors, or do some Christian heckling from the beachers or help with a cookout, then mark your calendar now for Sunday, April 19! We plan to start games around 3pm that Sunday afternoon on the fields at USA.

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.

CONNECT

OUR CHURCH STAFF

- Senior Pastor** Dr. Darren McClellan
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- Associate Pastor** Jennifer Porto
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- Music Director** Alicia Luttrell
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- Building Steward** Danny White
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FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received Last Sunday \$8,613



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

ONLINE GIVING

Hymns and Responses

To God be the Glory

UMH 98

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

UMH 273

1. Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all, healing pain and sickness, blessing children small, washing tired feet, and saving those who fall; Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

2. Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you; make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do. Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too, till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

Lord of the Dance

UMH 261

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

Psalm 130

Ps. 120:1-2a
Jane Marshall

RESPONSE (*Lent, Funerals and Memorial Services & General*)



In my dis - tress I cry to the Lord:



"De - liv - er me, O Lord."

R

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!
- 2 Lord, hear my voice!
**Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!**
- 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
- 4 **But there is forgiveness with you,
that you may be worshiped.**
- 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
in the Lord's word I hope;
- 6 **my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**
- 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
with the Lord is plenteous redemption.
- 8 **And the Lord will redeem Israel
from all iniquities. R**