

# STRETCH

MARK 2:23-3:6

MATTHEWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 21, 2024

*Welcome!*

If you're here for the first time, please complete the **Guest Welcome** form at [MatthewsUMC.org/Getting-Started](https://MatthewsUMC.org/Getting-Started) and stop by the Welcome Center to pick up your visitor gift! We would love to connect and help you get plugged into life and ministry of the church. **Children's Praise Packs** are located in the Reception Area & Welcome Center. These special bags are for kids ages 3-6 or kids ages 7-12 and will help them to engage in worship.



**MOBILE CHECK-IN & ONLINE GIVING:** Scan the QR Code to download our **Realm Connect church app** and begin engaging with events, registrations, groups, the church directory and more! Sign in, Sign up, or learn more at [MatthewsUMC.org/Realm](https://MatthewsUMC.org/Realm). Check-In Station also available at the Welcome Center & Attendance Books on each pew for guests and those without a smart phone.

*Get the app!*



**EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & ONLINE BULLETIN:** Access the bulletin and a complete list of ministry opportunities in the [Celebration Newsletter](#). *(Printed copies at the Welcome Center.)*  
*Thank you for helping to conserve paper and waste.*

# TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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*April 21, 2024*

*4th Sunday in Eastertide*

*8:15am*

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## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

### \*PRELUDE

Lift High the Cross  
*The Joyful Ringers*

Dobrinski

## WELCOME

## *CELEBRATION OF PRAISE & WORSHIP*

### \*OPENING HYMN, NO. 545

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## TIME OF PRAYER

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Fanfare Celebration!  
*The Joyful Ringers*

Mazzatenta

### \*DOXOLOGY NO. 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## *THE WORD*

## SCRIPTURE

Mark 2:23-3:6

## MESSAGE

"Stretch"

*Bishop Lawson Bryan*

## *RESPONSE TO THE WORD*

### \*CLOSING HYMN, NO. 444

O Young and Fearless Prophet

LANCASHIRE

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

Postlude on FOUNDATION

David Lasky

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Bishop Lawson Bryan; Rev. Dr. Charles (Chuck) Wilson, II; Rev. Paul Craig;  
Craig Estep, *Director of Music & Worship Arts*; Kathy White, *Music Ministry Associate/Organist*;  
The Joyful Ringers (*names on back*); Joel Mullis, *Worship Production Director*; Nancy Harris, *Screens*;  
Susan Chambers, *Worship Coordinator*; Jonnie Hildreth, *Lay Reader*

# CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

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*April 21, 2024*

*9:30am*

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## *Welcome & Greeting*

### **\*Musical Praise**

Lead On Good Shepherd  
Your Spirit

*Patrick Mayberry*  
*Tasha Cobbs Leonard*

### **\*Passing the Peace**

### **Children's Chimes**

I Love You, Lord  
*Tina Fincher & Karen Price, Co-Directors*

*Laurie Adams-Klein*

### **Announcements/Prayer/Offering**

### **A Song of Giving**

Honestly, We Just Need Jesus

*Terrian*

## *The Word*

### **Lesson**

Mark 2:23-3:6

### **Message**

"Stretch"

*Bishop Lawson Bryan*

## *Response*

### **\*Musical Praise**

You Know My Name

*Tasha Cobbs Leonard*

### **\*Blessing**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

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## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Bishop Lawson Bryan; Rev. Dr. Chuck Wilson; Rev. Paul Craig;**  
**John Woodall, Director of Contemporary Worship; Children's Chimes; Tina Fincher and Karen Price, Co-Directors;**  
**Joel Mullis, Worship Production Director; Donna Balisado, Screens; Susan Chambers, Worship Coordinator;**  
**Contemporary Praise Team**

# TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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*April 21, 2024*

*4th Sunday in Eastertide*

*11:00am*

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## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

### \*PRELUDE

Lift High the Cross  
*The Joyful Ringers*

Dobrinski

## WELCOME

## *CELEBRATION OF PRAISE & WORSHIP*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN, NO. 545

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### ANTHEM

Joyful! Joyful!  
*The Ringtones; Susie Verrill & Annette Clary, Co-Directors*

arr. Valerie W. Stephenson

## TIME OF PRAYER

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
*Sanctuary Choir*

arr. Mack Wilberg

### \*DOXOLOGY NO. 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## *THE WORD*

### SCRIPTURE

Mark 2:23-3:6

### MESSAGE

"Stretch"

*Bishop Lawson Bryan*

## *RESPONSE TO THE WORD*

### \*CLOSING HYMN, NO. 444

O Young and Fearless Prophet

LANCASHIRE

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

Postlude on FOUNDATION

David Lasky

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Bishop Lawson Bryan; Rev. Dr. Charles (Cbuck) Wilson, II; Rev. Paul Craig;**  
**Craig Estep, Director of Music & Worship Arts; Kathy White, Music Ministry Associate/Organist; Jesse Roberts, Pianist;**  
**The Joyful Ringers (names on back); The Ringtones; Susie Verrill & Annette Clary, Co-Directors;**  
**Joel Mullis, Worship Production Director; David Wilkinson, Screens; Tom Amann, Livestream;**  
**Susan Chambers, Worship Coordinator; Matthew Markus, Crucifer; Joshua Deyton &**  
**Will Wallace, Acolytes; Julia TenBroeck, Lay Reader**

# WELCOME FROM THE PASTORS AND CONGREGATION!

All are welcome here ... and we do mean all. We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God's kingdom. We don't all look or act alike; God knows we don't all think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions and carry different burdens, but every Sunday, we worship together as one. Our nearly 150-year-old church is filled with some traditional and inspiring untraditional ways. We study the teachings and actions of Jesus. We sing modern songs and old hymns. Yet, in our preaching and prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant — a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God. **After the service, please stick around. Introduce yourself to one of our pastors or someone at our Welcome Center. We have lots of programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know – you just might be home!**

## OUR PRAYERS

*In care and sympathy, we lift up:*

Harriett Broadwell upon the death of her brother.

Maggie Johnson upon the death of her grandfather, Steve Daniels.

Family and friends of Phyllis Jordan, upon her death.

Wendy & Mike Jones upon the death of Wendy's mother, Sharon Gay.

Carol Hatcher upon the death of her aunt.

Ali Connell upon the death of her mother.

Terrie Grose upon the death of her sister.

### Prayers for a Neighboring House of Worship

Let us pray that **Weddington Methodist Church** will flourish, and that God might richly bless their ministry.

*Please remember in your prayers all those in our Church family with special needs and concerns.*

## THE JOYFUL RINGERS

*Craig Estep, Director*

*Mellie Friend, Robin Havican, Susie Verrill, Maxine Starner, Annette Clary, Chrissie Hackett, Janice Mangun, Lee Cornell, Olivia Beaver, Sarah Sheffield, Liz Mockler, Jan Moynihan, Julie Knafelz, Tom Amann*

## Please Welcome Bishop Lawson Bryan

*Bishop Lawson Bryan retired in 2021 after 46 years of ministry, the last five of which he served as episcopal leader of the South Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church. He previously served as senior pastor of Montgomery First United Methodist Church in Montgomery, AL, in the Alabama West-Florida Conference. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Tulane University and a doctorate in ministry from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He is married to Sherrill, and their son Philip and daughter-in-law Brittany, along with their two grandchildren, John Phillip and Caroline Cooper "Cece," reside in Alabama.*

*An ordained elder in The United Methodist Church for more than 42 years, Bishop Bryan began his pastoral ministry as an associate pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Opelika, AL. He served as pastor for Hiland Park United Methodist Church in Panama City, FL; for Dexter Avenue United Methodist Church in Montgomery, AL; for First United Methodist Church in Brewton, AL, and for Ashland Place United Methodist Church in Mobile, Ala. He was senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Dothan, AL; and First United Methodist Church in Montgomery, AL.*

*Bishop Bryan has served actively in the Church and in his community, including leading the Alabama-West Florida Conference Board of Ministry, serving on the Board of Trustees for Huntingdon College, serving as a General Conference delegate, and organizing and hosting an annual Pan-Methodist Pentecost Service in Montgomery. He also serves on the General Commission on Religion and Race.*



## COME AS YOU ARE: Sunday Mornings

8:15 (Traditional), 9:30 (Contemporary); 11:00 (Traditional),  
9:30 (United Kids Family Worship 2nd Sundays in the Gym);  
12:30 Centro Cristiano Hosanna (Servicio en Español)

9:30 & 11:00 Services Livestreamed at [MatthewsUMC.org](https://www.MatthewsUMC.org)

## **The United Methodist Church General Conference 2024**

*Right here in Charlotte!*

*United Methodists from all over the world are traveling to attend General Conference in Charlotte, NC from April 23-May 3, 2024. General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The conference meets to consider revisions to church law and to adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. General Conference also approves plans and budgets for churchwide agencies and programs.*

**You are invited to serve as part of our Welcome Team during General Conference and offer gracious hospitality to our guests!**

## **Serving at General Conference**

As part of the Welcome Team at General Conference, you will have a tremendous opportunity to see the United Methodist connection up close and provide hospitality to friends in Christ from around the world!

- \* Apply online to serve: [WelcomeToGC.org](http://WelcomeToGC.org).
- \* Anyone 18 years and older is welcome to serve.
- \* After your application is processed, you will receive an invitation email with a link to select your available serving dates and times.
- \* Opportunities will be set up in 4-hour shifts.
- \* Help needed starting April 18.
- \* Welcome Team members will wear red aprons to help be easily-identifiable while serving.
- \* You are responsible for hotel and meal costs associated with your stay

*More information can be found by visiting  
[WelcometoGC.org](http://WelcometoGC.org)*

*Hard copies of an informational flyer are available at  
the Welcome Center today!*