



**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**Fayetteville First UMC**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 11, 2021**

**GREETING**

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence  
Associate Minister

**MUSIC OF PREPARATION**

*Aria from 'Renaldo'*  
Mr. Rick Massengale, organ

G. F. Handel

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Lawrence

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Jesus, United By the Grace*

Charles Wesley

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*from Psalm 133*

Rev. Thaxton and **People**  
Children & Family Minister

We have gathered from our different places to worship here.

**How good it is to worship together in unity!**

We come from our different occupations, our varied activities.

**How good it is to worship together in unity!**

We come as unique individuals, bound together in the love of Christ.

**How good it is to worship together in unity!**

**\*HYMN**

*O Church of God, United*

ELLACOMB

*O church of God, united to serve one common Lord,  
proclaim to all one message, with hearts in glad accord.*

*Christ ever goes before us; we follow day by day  
with strong and eager footsteps along the upward way.*

*From every land and nation the ordered ranks appear;  
to serve one valiant leader they come from far and near.  
They chant their one confession, they praise one living Lord,  
and place their sure dependence upon his saving word.*

*Though creeds and tongues may differ, they speak, O Christ, of thee;  
and in thy loving spirit we shall one people be.  
Lord, may our faithful service and singleness of aim  
proclaim to all the power of thy redeeming name.*

*May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one,  
close bound, by love united in thee, God's blessed Son:  
to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright,  
that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light.*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*A Modern Affirmation*

Rev. Thaxton and **People**

**We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.**

**We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.**

**Amen.**

UMH 885

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

arr. Rick Massengale

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and glo - ry be to the Son and glo - ry be to the

6 Ho - ly Ghost; Sing Glo - ri - a sing Glo - ri - a! As it was in the be - gin - ing is now, and e - ver

12 shall be, world with-out end \_\_\_\_\_ A - men \_\_\_\_\_ A - men, A - men. A - men.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:*

*“The peace of Christ be with you.” “**And also with you.**”*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Thaxton

**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.**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

arr. Mark Hayes

Becky Slagle Mayo, guest pianist

*Fairest Lord Jesus; Ruler of all nature, O Thou of God and man the Son.  
Thee will I cherish; Thee will I honor, Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows; Fairer still the woodlands, Robed in the blooming garb of spring.  
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer; Who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine; Fairer still the moonlight. And all the twinkling starry host.  
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer Than all the angels heaven can boast.*

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine!*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100th

**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.**

**\*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Rev. Thaxton and People

**Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**\*SCRIPTURE LESSON**

*Acts 4:32-35*

Rev. Thaxton

*<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.*

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Becoming Like Christ: Sharing*

Rev. Lawrence

**\*HYMN**

*Forward Through the Ages*

ST. GERTRUDE

*Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
move the faithful spirits at the call divine;  
gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,  
manifold the service, one the sure reward.*

*(Chorus)*

*Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.*

*Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light;  
for it we must labor, till our faith is sight.  
Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified,  
poets sung its glory, heroes for it died.*

*Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;  
in each loss or triumph lose or triumph all.  
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,  
move we on together to the shining goal.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Lawrence

**POSTLUDE**

*Ein Feste Burg*

Dietrich Buxtehude

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

*Please exit by the chancel only.*

*Place bulletin in recycling bin or take it with you.*

**Please remember in your prayers:**

Marlene Amos  
Van Askew  
Annelle Burch  
Joe Byers  
Richard Clayton  
Anne Free

Margaret Grainger  
Martha Hale  
Ada Hewell  
Tangie Hubbard  
Cindy Jennings  
Doris Kerlin

Jake Murphy  
Lurlene Perry  
Claudia Rhodes  
Nancy Riccardi  
Andrew Rose  
Sue Sheddan

Jon Wade  
Mabel Wilbanks  
Brad Wilkinson

**Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with**

Paul and Janet Gazaway upon the death of Janet's father, Grady Hatchett, on April 7.



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Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version

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