

***Fourth Sunday of Easter***  
**April 25, 2021**

**Prelude**

Christopher A. McCroskey

**Centering Words:**

When we love with our lives, we become reflections of God for all to see.

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**Call To Worship:**

*Live in Charity*

Dan Greshel

Live in charity and steadfast love,  
live in charity; God will dwell with you.

From *The Faith We Sing*. Copyright 2000, by Abingdon Press, 2179.

**Opening Prayer:**

Strong covenant God, save us from being self-centered in our prayers, and teach us to remember to pray for others. May we be so bound up in love for those for whom we pray that we may feel their needs as acutely as our own, and intercede for them with sensitiveness, with understanding and with imagination. This we ask in Christ's name who taught us to pray:

From *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. Copyright 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House, 518.

**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. 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.

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayer of Illumination:**

Open our ears that we may hear and our hearts and minds that we may receive your word O Lord our rock and redeemer.

New Testament Reading Acts 4: 5-12

Psalm 23

Gospel Reading

John 10: 11-18

Special Music

Epistle Reading

1 John 3:16-24

Sermon

*We Know Love by This*

**Hymn:**

*Abide With Me*

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.
5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.  
From *The United Methodist Hymnal* Copyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, 700.

**Benediction:**

Go now to love, even when love involves risk. Go now to care, even when caring is hard, Go now to love, in truth and in action, by this we are known as children of God. Amen.

From *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*. Copyright 2019 by Abingdon Press, Used by permission, 103.

**Response:**

*God Be with You till We Meet Again*

God be with you till we meet again;

by his counsels guide, uphold you,

with his sheep securely fold you;

God be with you till we meet again.

From *The United Methodist Hymnal* Copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House, 673.

## Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Assistant: *K. C. Warble*  
Choir Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey* Soloist: *Dan Greshel*  
Church Musician

**“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...”**

Kathy Aiello Oren Edwards Patsy Shuler Dean Frye Lynn Martin  
Steve White Latson Lewis George Taylor Steve Aiello Kelsey Tolliver

**Shut-Ins:** Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Carolyn Hardee; Francis & Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Wayne Tallon; Irvin Wells

**Family and Friends:** *Lisa Baghdady (a friend of Edwa Meek); Chip Hooker (Wayne Hooker's father); Robert Bradley (Business Associate of Simon Ross); Dave Burrell (Business Associate of Tommy Gleaton); Gene Odom (grandfather of Mark Branham); Gary Becton (friend of Mark Branham); Audrey Cassidy (sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson); Rusty Browning (friend of Erin Derrick); Monnie Tiller, Mrs. Miles, Jerry Fowler (friends of Chris Derrick); Donna Walker (coworker of Jack Stevens); Kelly Knapp (wife of Laurie Knapp's nephew); Paul Kidney (son-in-law of Charles & Jackie McNeill); Ruby Pennington (friend of Laurie Knapp); Rick Baldwin (nephew of Tommy Johnson); Judy Bauer (cousin of Marty Johnson); Iris Turlington (aunt of John Zeigler); Betty Jean Newton (sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); Tonya Spires (friend of the Derricks); Linda Hargett (stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); Brenlee Carnes; Danielle Spotts (co-worker of Kathy White); Vickie Edwards (neighbor of Kathy White); George Duke, Brenda Grier (friends of Lynn Martin); Heather Stevens, Erma Ruff, Mark Leonhart, Ty Moore, George Dorn (friends of Kay Jordan); Teddy Derrick (uncle of Arvan Derrick); Haidee Baehr (friends of Ruth Frady); Dianne Schmotzer (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); Dan Connor, Denise Paul (cousin of Gale Frady); Billy Johnson, Max Johnson (friends of Gale Frady); Ray Culbreth's Group House; Nellie Gantt (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); Amelia Zinski (great-niece of Linda Maloch); Wayne Blair (son of Dot Johnson); Xavier Crane (grandnephew of John Ballentine); Janet Beck (friend of Jo Ann Heiting); Michael Carter (son of Esther Carter); Adam Lavender (son of Phil Lavender)*

**If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).**

### OUR PRESENCE ...

**In-Person Attendance 04/18 Worship: 34**

### OUR GIFTS ...

**General Fund 04/18 \$ \$ 3,855.00**

### OUR SERVICE ...

**OUR WITNESS.”**

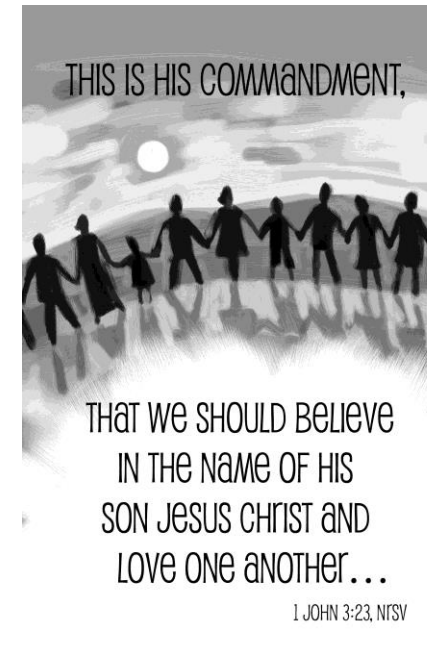


**Ministers**  
Pastor  
Resident Bishop  
District Superintendent

**The Congregation**  
John D. Jordan  
Jonathan Holston  
Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson

***Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

***Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform***



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1 John 3: 16-24

The Elder, the writer of the Johanne epistles, reminds the community of the command Jesus gave to the disciples prior to the crucifixion. This command was to believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus the Christ, and love one another.

The first part of the command, to believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus, has more to it than what appears on the surface. On the surface it appears that the command is to believe the basic Christian proclamation, that Jesus is God's Son. However, the phrase is a little more nuanced than simply having belief that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the first usage verb form of the word translated as believe in the epistle. As we look closer, we see that the adjective form of the word is used back in 1: 9 which has the meaning of faithful or loyal. This is in reference to God, "he who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

So, to believe in the name of the Son, Jesus, is to be faithful to him as he is faithful to us. Faithful, in this context, means to be completely trusting. We are to be as completely trusting in Jesus and in obeying his commands as he is in trusting us to keep his commands. We obey Jesus' command to love each other because he first loved us. We can only love each other because we completely trust that Jesus loves us.

This love we are commanded to have is not just a good feeling. It is not warm fuzzies. It is not an emotive word. It is a verb. We are to love with our actions not our feelings. It is not enough to say we love someone, we are to show love by helping those in need. As Clarence Jordan puts it in his *Cotton Patch Gospel* translation, "My little ones, let's not *talk* about love. Let's not *sing* about love. Let's put love into *action* and make it *real*." (his Italics) Real love is love that is put into action. It is not enough to say to someone who is in need that they are in our thoughts and prayers. Real love takes action to alleviate their need. Real love takes action to find solutions to the causes that put people in need. Real love does not just give to the poor, it also seeks to rectify the causes of poverty.

How are we to know love? How do we truly enact the love that Jesus gives to us? How do we enact the love that God gives us? To do this we must consider what God did for us. God gave the Son, Jesus, to us in order that the world might be saved and we could have eternal life. This salvation was fulfilled as Jesus laid down his life for us. Jesus laid down on a rough Roman cross and had nails driven into his hands (or more likely his wrists) and feet, then was lifted up to be mocked and die. Jesus enacted the love of God by laying down his life for us, dying for us.

So, we should lay down our lives for one another. But how often do we have opportunities to lay down our lives for others? Does that mean that we can only enact this love if an active shooter comes in and we take a bullet for someone else? Most of us will live our whole lives without even having the remotest chance of enacting love if laying down our lives like Jesus is the only way.

The word translated as "lay down" can also be translated as "put aside". Consider that Jesus put aside whatever might have been his will to do the will of the Father. Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus talks of doing the Father's will. Jesus relates in our Gospel reading that the Father loves him because he puts aside his will for the will of the Father.

When the Elder says that we should lay down our lives for one another, the meaning is that we should put aside our self for others. This means when we see someone in need, we do what we can to alleviate that need. When we see someone suffering, we do what we can to alleviate that suffering. This may mean that we give up, put aside, what we have in order to enact love.

We may think of this in terms of economics. For example, I may be called to use the money I was saving for a new car to help a friend repair his car so they can get to work to feed the family. But we may enact love by putting aside our self for others in other ways.

We may put aside our time that we were going to go to the pool, to take a neighbor to a doctor's appointment. We may put aside our time to volunteer in a soup kitchen or at God's Helping Hands. We may put aside our time to serve others in some way.

This may mean that we put aside our opinions at times for the sake of others. For example, one may feel that wearing a face covering to worship is not necessary, especially as people are getting vaccinated, but there may be those who may not feel comfortable, in these times, around people who are not wearing face coverings. We may wear a face covering, even though we may not think it continues to be necessary, to enact love so the one who thinks wearing a face covering is necessary may feel comfortable.

I believe I mentioned last week that I had read a survey of why people quit going to church. One person responded that they went to church at the height of the pandemic and only five of the 150 people present, were wearing face coverings. They said they would not go back, not just because they felt uncomfortable, but because they felt that the church did not show love and concern for others.

We may need to put aside our own opinions at times for the sake of others. We may need to put aside our time for the sake of others. We may need to put aside our money for the sake of others. We put aside our own selfish will to live according to the will of God, as Jesus put aside his will for the will of God. This is how we know love.

It is not so we may feel love for the other person but that the other person may feel loved by us. It is not necessary that we love the other but that we enact God's love for them so they may feel loved, so they may know God's love.

As we keep the commandment to love by putting aside our lives, our wants, our desire, to enact God's love for others, then God abides in us and we abide in God. Again, I go to the *Cotton Patch*, "The person who faithfully follows his instructions keeps company with God and God keeps company with him." God wants to keep company with us, and we keep company with God as we keep God's commandment to love, putting aside our life for others as Jesus put aside his life for us.

May we always keep the command to love one another by enacting God's love for us, at all times and in all places, so we may abide in God as God abides in us.