

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*Mark your calendars for *Tuesdays Together*, a monthly dinner party for members aged 55+. Join us at Memorial Presbyterian Church on May 26, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. –7:30 p.m. with other local churches. Dinner costs \$18 per person plus a \$3 service charge. Register by May 19th; see the flyer and QR code on the bulletin board for details. **If you are able, and would like to include a friend, the cost and dates remains the same, \$18 plus \$3 service charge by 5/19/26 & dinner \$21.00; please attend.**

\***Saturday Morning Breakfast Experience Speaker Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>** is, **AARP/Rebecca Gilbert.**

\*ASSISTANCE NEEDED: If you are available for Sunday Services and/or available to assist on one or more Sundays from May 17<sup>th</sup> through the end of December 2026, please contact Barbara Carr or Laura Wallace after worship.

\***THESE DAYS: Don't forget to pick up your "These Days" in the office after service today, Tuesday or Wednesday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Church Office. Thank You.**

\***Text-Em-All Customer Team:** Messages that are incomplete and/or dropped, you may call **844-358-1565** to hear the last message. It was recommended that Support at Text-Em-All be notified if this continues.



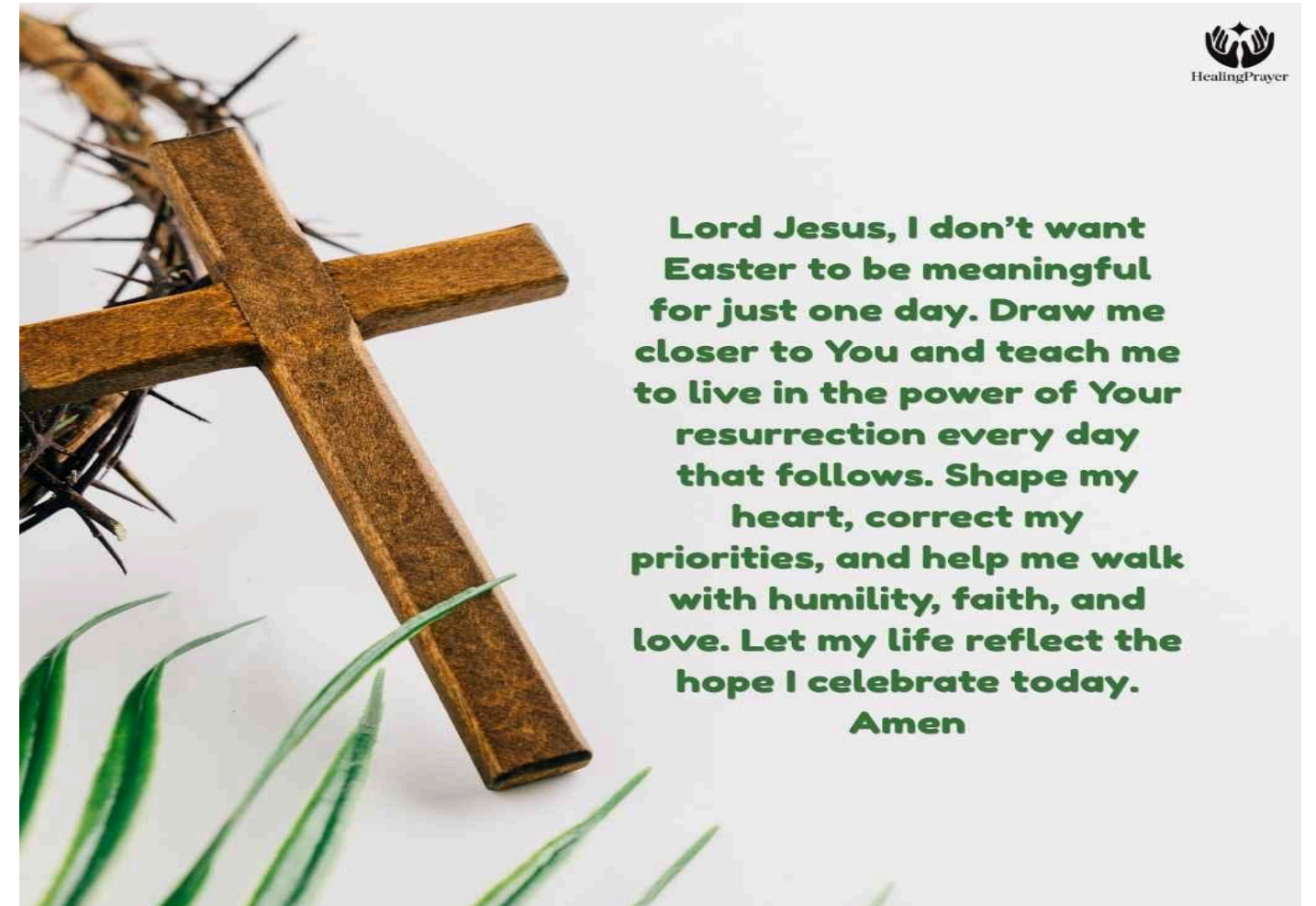
[QR Code](#)

If you are visiting with us today and would like to give *Gifts and Offering*, you may use your telephone and the QR Code listed above. The QR Code can be scanned from this bulletin and/or the Church Website.

Note: AA - African American Heritage Hymnal (Beige)  
BB - The Presbyterian Hymnal (Blue)

**STATESVILLE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
3435 NEVIN ROAD, CHARLOTTE, NC 28269**

**May 17, 2026**



7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
**Gary S. Blackmon, Pastor**  
**Camron Alford, Liturgist**  
**James Rogers, Jr., Director of Music**  
**704-596-4550**

[www.statesvilleavenuepresbyterianchurchusa.org](http://www.statesvilleavenuepresbyterianchurchusa.org)

## We Gather

**\*\*Prelude:** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

**\*\*Announcements & Welcome:**

**Lighting of Candles:**

**\*\*Introit:** “He’s Already Here”

**\*Call to Worship:**

L: O God, you went before your people through the wilderness; the earth quaked,

**P: and the heavens poured rain in your presence—the God of Sinai, the God of Israel.**

L: You sent abundant rain, restored your weary heritage, gave your flock a home, and in your goodness provided for the needy.

**All: Sing to God, kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.**

**\*Centering Prayer:**

**\*\*Opening Hymn:** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

464 BB

**Prayer of Confession: (Unison)**

Eternal God, you have loved us from generation to generation. You have shown your faithfulness more often than we can recall. The Bible tells us of your steadfast mercy. You even pray for us. Yet we live holding on to past hurts; we are not open to your new creation. We prefer the safety of what we know to the excitement of discipleship. Forgive us, we pray and make us again as you would have us be. We make all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will bring us with you into his presence.

**Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.**

Believe the promise of the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*Passing the Peace:**

**\*\*Special Selection:** “Peace Be Still”

**\*Please stand if you are able.**

**\*\*Worshippers may enter or exit.**

## The Word

**Prayer for Illumination:**

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all our hearts, be acceptable, even pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. **Amen.**

**Scripture:**

**John 17:1-11**  
Camron Alford, Liturgist

**Sermon:**

**“Stay With Us”**  
**Acts 1:6-14**  
Gary S. Blackmon, Pastor

## We Respond

**Invitation to Discipleship:** “I Want to Be a Follower of Christ”

**Prayers of the People**

**Choral Response:** “Thank You for Hearing Our Prayer”

**\*Affirmation of Faith (Unison):**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ our only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

**Tithes and Offerings:** “Look And Live”

503 AA

**\*Doxology:** “Glory Be To The Father”

579 BB

**\*Celebration Song:** “Go Ye, Therefore and Teach All Nations”

**\*Charge and Benediction:**

**Extinguishing of the Candles:**

**Postlude:** “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”