



# AVONDALÉ

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*where all are welcome* ... to *connect* with God and others.  
... to *grow* together in faith and love.  
... to *serve* the world for Jesus Christ.

## **Restrooms**

*If you need a restroom, exit the sanctuary through the door at the front to the right of the pulpit. The women's restroom is just off the foyer. The men's restroom is down the hallway from the foyer on the right.*

## **Nursery**

*We welcome children of all ages in worship; however, a nursery is available for infants and toddlers under four years old who may need it. Please see an usher for assistance.*

## **Hearing Support**

*We have hearing assistive technology that connects via bluetooth available. Check with an usher for an instruction card to help you connect.*

## **Visual Support – Large Print Hymnals & Bulletins**

*Large print hymnals and bulletins are available. The hymnals are located on the side table to the right of the pulpit at the front of the sanctuary. Ushers can help you locate both the hymnals and the bulletins as needed.*

## **Connect + Grow + Serve**



*Use this QR code (or [www.AvonUMC.net/HereIAm](http://www.AvonUMC.net/HereIAm)) to go online to let us know you're here, enter a prayer request, and/or make a contribution. You can also access volunteer opportunities, wish lists to support our local outreach, and/or sign up to provide flowers in honor/memory of someone one Sunday on the altar in worship.*

## **Floral Tribute**

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Disney and Malinda Weaver in honor of their anniversary.*



## Seventh Sunday of Easter | May 17, 2026

**Prelude**

*Improvisation on Darwall*

Healey Willan

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Choral Call to Worship**

*Hail Thee, Festival Day*

Ralph Vaughan-Williams

**Welcome & Opening Prayer**

Rev. Malinda Weaver

**\* Hymn of Praise No. 715**

*Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

**\* Affirmation of Faith**

Steve Thomas

**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<sup>†</sup> church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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\* Please rise as you are able in body and in spirit.

<sup>†</sup> universal

**\* Gloria Patri**

GREATOREX

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.

**\* Ritual of Friendship**

**Children's Moment**

Disney Weaver

*Following the Children's Moment, children will return to sit with their parents for the remainder of worship.*

**Act of Centering No. 162**

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Luke 24:44-53

This is the word of God, for us, the people of God ... **thanks be to God!**

**Anthem**

*Ascendit Deus (God Has Gone Up)*

Samuel Webbe

**Sermon**

Let the Chips Fly

**Pastoral Prayer with 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.

**Offering**

*Ascension*

Healey Willan

**\* Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\* Hymn of Praise No. 664**

*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

**\* Benediction**

**\* Choral Benediction**

*Psallite!*

Samuel Webbe

**\* Postlude**

*Finale Jubilante*

Healey Willan



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## **WOMEN'S COFFEE**

**Wednesday, May 20 | 9:30am**

Ladies—come as you are, bring a friend, and let's enjoy some great company together! Our coffee gatherings happen each month on the third Wednesday at General (3813 Clairmont Avenue, Birmingham 35222).

## **HAND TO HEART**

**Wednesday, May 27 | 10:00am-12:00pm**

Through stitches and prayer, Hand to Heart shares comfort with those in need. This prayer shawl ministry meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the archive room (first floor) and welcomes both experienced needleworkers and those who want to learn. If you know someone who would be blessed by a prayer shawl, contact Barb Walker (205.672.9687).

## **MINISTRY NEEDS FOR OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS**

Our Unhoused Neighbors often need items to take with them (*body wipes, toothbrushes/paste, underwear, etc.*). Drop off donations weekdays from 8–11am at Avondale Samaritan Place, bring them to worship on Sundays, or send them directly to us through our Amazon wishlist—just scan the QR code in your bulletin.

## **MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**

**Tuesday, June 9 | 6:30pm**

Join us each month on the second Tuesday at 6:30pm at the church to dive into thought-provoking reads that center around faith, spirituality, religion, and more. For June we're reading *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott. Come with an open mind, a curious spirit, and a friend or two.



## MUSIC NOTES

Healey Willan (1880-1968) was an influential English organist and composer who spent most of his working life in Canada. He composed more than 800 works including operas, symphonies, chamber music, and pieces for band, orchestra, organ, and piano. He is best known for his anthems and organ music, which demonstrate a unique and beautiful combination of styles: both an homage to the sacred music of five centuries ago and a reflection of the innovations of the Romantic/post-Romantic period in which he lived.

Our anthem for Ascension Sunday is by Samuel Webbe (1740-1816), a minor English composer primarily known for his songs and liturgical music. A practicing Catholic, he was organist/choirmaster at the chapel of the Portuguese Embassy, the only place in London where the Catholic liturgy was allowed to be publicly celebrated. His *Ascendit Deus* is an example of the English verse anthem, in which elaborate passages for soloists (verses) alternate with a repeating refrain sung by the full choir. While the verses are sung in English, the choral refrain is in Latin. The translation is as follows: *Psallite Deo nostro – Praise to our God*. The Call to Worship, *Hail Thee, Festival Day*, combines an ancient text from the 6th century with a tune by Ralph Vaughan-Williams, an English contemporary of Willan.

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