

## GATHERING

*\* Those who are able, please stand.*

*A time of centering silence is observed as we prepare our hearts for worship.*

### Gathering Song

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” Traditional

### Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship** from *Everything in Between*

Our God is a shepherding God.

**Our God knows us by name.**

Our God will never stop searching for us.

So if you feel lost,

**then know that God is seeking you.**

If you feel found,

**then know that God will never leave.**

This is the promise of scripture.

**This is the promise of God’s love.**

Let us worship our with-us God.

**\*Hymn # 475** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

### \*Prayer for New Beginnings

If God is a painter,

**let us be the brush.**

If God is a musician,

**let us be the song.**

If God is an architect,

**let us be the tools.**

**Let us be the hands.**

**Let us be the builders.**

But if God is a shepherd,

who never stops seeking,

**let us be willing to be found,**

**no matter how lost we feel.**

Our God is never far away.

**Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.**

### \*Words of Assurance

Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found.

We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves.

We leave the flock and lose our way.

But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God who is always by our side.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**No matter how far we wander,**

**we can never wander from the bounds of God’s grace.**

**We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### \*Passing of the Peace

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River” African American Spiritual

### Time with the Children

## THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture Reading** 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

### Anthem:

“When You Wonder, When You Wander” Sally Ann Morris

When you wonder, when you wander,  
seeking anything, everything,  
in the searching, in the longing,  
God is holding you still.

In your caution, in your questions,  
asking honestly, fervently,  
in your wrestling, in your straining,  
God is holding you still.

And anywhere you may go, God will go with you.  
And anywhere you may go, you are God’s child.

Through your speaking, through your singing,  
praying constantly, carefully,  
in this seeking, in this finding,  
God is holding you still

With the wondering, with the wandering,  
blessing anyone, everyone,  
in your sharing, in your loving,  
God is holding you still.

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**Gospel Reading** Luke 15: 1-7

### Sermon

Rev. Leigh Wisner

**Solo:** “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Thomas A. Dorsey, George N. Allen

### \*Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a seeking God,  
a with-us and before-us God,  
a chasing-after-us God.**

**We believe that no matter where we wander  
or what mountains we climb, this God—  
the God who walked the streets of Jerusalem,  
shook hands with lepers,  
patted children on the head,  
and told stories of love—  
is always close at hand.**

**So on the good days and the hard days,  
on the mountains and in the valleys,  
we believe that we are always being found.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

## THANKSGIVING

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer** Page 35

### Offering

**\*Doxology** (All singing) Hymn # 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below.  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

## SENDING

**\*Hymn # 649** “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

### \*Blessing

**\*Response:** (All singing) Hymn # 700  
“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

### Postlude

“So What” Miles Davis  
“What a Wonderful World” Thiele & Weiss  
“The Best Things in Life Are Free” Ray Henderson

Sanctuary Listening Devices - Listening devices for the sanctuary are available for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

Recycle Your Bulletin – A collection basket has been placed in the Gathering Space to receive your used bulletins.

### ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Lost & Found by Lisle Gwynn Garrity; Inspired by Luke 15:1-7  
Newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing

I began my artwork for this series by collaging together torn strips of newspaper articles. Along the torn edges, I added gold leaf. Then I photographed the result and edited the photos in black and white. These photos became the backdrop for my pieces, as I wanted my digital drawings to emerge within the noise of the world's deepest pains and divisions.

On September 27th, 2024, I began drawing the Good Shepherd with the lost sheep tenderly wrapped around his shoulders. As I worked, rain pummeled our roof, saturating the ground with an endless deluge as the wide bands of tropical storm Helene reached our high-elevation town of Black Mountain, NC. The next day, winds roared and threw trees to the ground like dominos. We lost power, then water, and cell service. We didn't know it yet, but every creek and river had swelled with enormous force, sweeping away everything in their path. Landslides, sinkholes, and extreme flooding ravaged the entire region of Western North Carolina, taking homes, towns, and lives.

We were miraculously spared, with no flooding or trees on our roof. As soon as the storm relented, we set out to find friends and family by foot. We walked through our town which had become a maze-like wasteland, changing routes due to downed trees, power lines, or washed-out roads. When we found loved ones and neighbors, with relief and urgency, we asked, "Do you have enough water? Do you need food?" It would be early 6 days before any emergency relief arrived. Meanwhile, neighbors survived by the help of their neighbors. Churches opened their doors. Firefighters persisted, despite perilous rescue missions. Helicopters air-lifted stranded people to safety.

When I began this artwork, I naively hoped to gain insight into Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. I did not wish to *become* the lost sheep and live through the greatest natural disaster to hit my hometown in over a thousand years. Now, over 6 weeks after the storm, what strikes me is the shepherd's singular pursuit of the lost and vulnerable. He steadies the sheep on his shoulders and steps out of the frame toward us. His gaze finds mine, and I almost hear him whisper, "I will never stop searching for the lost. I will never stop rejoicing when one is found." —Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity. © A Sanctified Art LLC

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **We welcome today** our friends Diana Tuffin, vocalist; Matt Kendrick, string bass; Dave Fox, piano; Larry Carman, drums; Dave Reid, clarinet

and saxophone, and our friends Karen Yoak Lewis, Julianne Angel, and Debbie Clark singing with the Shallowford Singers!

- **Easter Lilies:** If you would like to sponsor a lily in honor or in memory of a person or special event, please use the sign-up sheet in the gathering space or you may contact Christine Ratledge at 336-692-0237 or by email at [office@shallowfordpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@shallowfordpresbyterian.org). Dedications will be published in the church newsletter and Easter Sunday's bulletin. We would like to have all orders in by Friday, April 11. They will be available to take home following the Easter Service on April 20. Payment of \$13.50 each may be made to the church by mailing a check or you may pay online.
- **We welcome our new member, Sherry Stafford.** Sherry moved to our area from California this past year to be with her daughter and granddaughter and has been attending worship at Shallowford for the past several months. She says that she was seeking a small Presbyterian Church, which happens to be us, and she felt immediately welcomed. Sherry has been participating in our Wednesday Morning Bible Study and the Women's Circle and is looking forward to helping with our Community Garden as it gets back up and running this spring. We look forward to the ways that Sherry's faith, gifts, and interests will become a part of Shallowford's fellowship and ministries in the coming years.

### THIS WEEK @ SHALLOWFORD

#### Sunday, March 30

11:30 am ~ Listening Session

#### Tuesday, April 1

12:00 pm ~ Lunch & Labyrinth

#### Wednesday, April 2

10:00 am ~ Wednesday Morning Bible Study

7:00 pm ~ Shallowford Singers

#### Thursday, April 3

6:00 pm ~ Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

#### Saturday, April 5

8:00 am ~ Men's Breakfast @ Clemmons Kitchen

10:00 am ~ Community Garden

#### Sunday, April 6

Communion & Cents-Ability Offering

9:30 am ~ Children's Sunday School Class - Fellowship Hall

9:30 am ~ Lectionary Adult Sunday School Class - Parlor

9:45 am ~ Shallowford Singers - Sanctuary

10:30 am ~ Worship Service

11:30 am ~ Sunday Book Club - Fellowship Hall



**4th Sunday in Lent**  
**March 30, 2025**  
**10:30 A.M.**



Image: Lost and Found / Lisle Gwynn Garrity. A Sanctified Art LLC.



**Shallowford Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community dedicated to spiritual growth and service to all in the manner of Jesus Christ.**

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### WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Leigh Wisner – Stated Supply Pastor  
Sally Gant – Director of Music  
Lector – Elizabeth Reid