

GATHERING

** Those who are able, please stand.*

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

Gathering Music: “Lord, Prepare Me”

Hymn # 701

Led by Scarlette Bijksma

Welcome and Announcements

Call To Worship from *Everything in Between* by: Sanctified Art

We come to worship because we long for mercy.

We long for community.

We long for God.

We come to worship because we need a good word.

We need connection.

We need moral reminders.

We come to worship because we are in between:

hope and grief,

faith and doubt,

joy and longing,

curiosity and conviction.

So we come to worship and God meets us here.

Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen.

***Hymn #503** “Lord, We have Come at Your Own Invitation”

*Prayer for New Beginnings

Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous,

show us mercy. When we fail to be merciful,

show us what is right. Again and again,

bring us closer to you. Again and again, show us the way.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

When we fail to be righteous,

God is merciful.

When we fail to be merciful,

God invites us to try again.

Again and again,

God moves closer to us.

Again and again,

God shows us the way.

Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Amen.

Sharing God’s Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

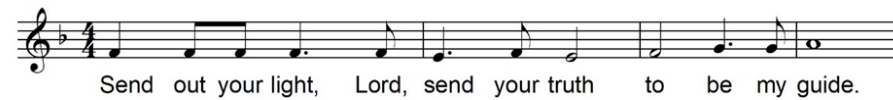
Time with Children

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

“Send Out Your Light” (All singing)

Iona Com



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Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43: 16-21

*Hymn #73

Psalm 126

”When God Delivered Israel”

Gospel Reading

Luke 19: 1-10

Sermon

Reverend Leigh Wisner

Anthem “Zacchaeus, Hurry and Come Down”

“Zacchaeus, hurry and come down,” you called beneath a tree.

“I want to stay with you today; come down and welcome me.
come near and welcome me.”

Descending then, Zacchaeus came and met you with delight, receiving
you into his home and setting wrongs aright.

He set old wrongs aright.

If we would see and know you, Christ, we also must draw near
when as a stranger, friend, or guest, you suddenly appear.

Among us you appear.

To seek and save the lost you came, a singer’s house you chose.

And now you summon everyone to whom God’s mercy flows.

To all, God’s mercy flows.

We hear you call to each of us, “Come near, do not delay.”

Your friendship is a priceless gift that can be ours today.

Let it be mine today!

Music: James. E. Clemens; Words: Delores Dufner, OSB, 2014
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*Affirmation of Faith

In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers,

Jesus loved by different rules.

He offered mercy.

He invited people to dinner. He told stories of love.

He chose to see the best in others.

**We believe that small acts of mercy
and compassion have ripple effects in our lives.**

**We believe that small acts of righteousness
and justice are integral to a life of faith.**

**So like Christ, we believe in offering mercy,
inviting people to dinner, telling stories of love,**

and choosing to see the best in others.

With God’s help, may it be so. Amen.

EUCCHARIST

Offering / Cents-Ability 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 Dedication

Invitation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Great Thanksgiving and Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal pg 35

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn: “Come to the Table of Grace”

Hymn #507

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

***Hymn #435**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

***Blessing**

***Response** (All singing) “Amen”

Hymn #574



ARTIST'S STATEMENT – Zacchaeus
by Lauren Wright Pittman. Inspired by Luke 19:1-10
Digital painting

I had a lot of fun discovering new layers to this familiar story. I learned that Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore fig tree, which was a food source for poor people because the fruit was bitter and generally undesirable. I had always imagined a fruitless tree, but the presence of fruit opened up interesting avenues to explore. The root word for sycamore tree is *συκον*, meaning “fig,” and as I did a study of other key words in the text, I noticed this same root word in *συκοφαντω*, or “defrauded,” which was used to describe what Zacchaeus did to his community. It was curious to me that the root word for “defrauded” was “fig,” so I dug deeper to find that the Greek word was from the phrase “fig-informer” or a person who would notify authorities if one was exporting figs from Greece without paying a tax. It seemed that these “fig-informers” would use the threat of exposure to extort money from fig farmers. This is where the word “sycophant” comes from, which evolved to more generally describe a “malignant accuser from love of gain,” which perfectly describes Zacchaeus.

Jesus calls Zacchaeus out of his identity as “sycophant” into his new identity as “repentant host” who invites Jesus into his home and redistributes his ill-gotten wealth. Zacchaeus’s clothing holds a repeated pattern of four figs and halves of coins, referencing the fruits of his transformation.

The area where Zacchaeus sat in the tree is fruitless and dying. His actions were destructive and oppressive to his own community. The crowd is correct in grumbling about him; their anger is righteous, but Jesus offers mercy. In this visual metaphor, Jesus removes him from the tree so it has a chance to heal and nourish the whole community. Jesus’ clothing is patterned with suns, representing righteousness, and water, representing mercy, because it is through his merciful actions that righteousness for the community is achieved. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

SANCTIFIED ART EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN: RIGHTEOUSNESS & MERCY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Easter Lilies:** If you would like to sponsor a lily in honor or in memory of a person or special event, please use the signup sheet in the gathering space or you may contact Christine Ratledge at 336-692-0237 or by email at office@shallowfordpresbyterian.org. We would like to have all orders in by Friday, April 11. Payment of \$13.50 each may be made to the church by mailing a check or you may pay online.
- **Service of Tenebrae:** “Shadows Lengthen Into Night” Good Friday, April 18, 7:30 pm. The word “tenebrae” comes from the Latin meaning “darkness.” Our Shallowford Singers have been preparing for several weeks the special music for this beautiful service that opens with a candle-lit sanctuary that will

be gradually dimmed as the candles are extinguished and scripture readings, musical meditations, hymns, spirituals, and anthems mark the events of Jesus’ trial and passion. In addition to the office of Tenebrae this service will include the receiving of Communion and conclude with the singing of the spiritual “Were You There when They Crucified My Lord?” before the people depart in silence to await our celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Shallowford’s outdoor Labyrinth will be open for walking and our Stations of the Cross will be available for viewing in the Sanctuary prior to the service. Tell a friend! Bring a Friend!

- Join us for an annual Lewisville Tradition! **On Sunday, April 20th, all are welcome to gather in Shallowford Square at 7am for a Community Sunrise Service.** We will worship the Risen Lord through word, song, and Holy Communion. A love offering will be collected to support the vital ministries of the Lewisville Community Assistance Program. Rain Location: Lewisville Baptist Church. Hosted by local churches in the Lewisville community.

THIS WEEK @ SHALLOWFORD

Sunday, April 6

11:30 am ~ Sunday Book Club - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 8

12:00 pm ~ Lunch & Labyrinth

Wednesday, April 9

10:00 am ~ Wednesday Morning Bible Study

7:00 pm ~ Shallowford Singers

Thursday, April 10

10:00 am ~ Women’s Circle

Friday, April 11

6:00 pm ~ Pizza and Game Night

Saturday, April 12

9:00 am to 2:00 pm ~ Earth Day Celebration (Jack Warren Park, Lewisville)

3:00 pm ~ Pilgrimage Ministry Session

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday

9:00 am ~ Music Rehearsal- Sanctuary

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

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

10:30 am ~ Worship Service

11:30 am ~ Compass Group B - Small Conference Room

11:30 am ~ Compass Group C - Library

11:30 am ~ D Light Compass Group - Parlor

3:00 pm ~ Shallowford Series



Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 6, 2025
10:30 a.m.



Image: Zaccaeus / Lauren Wright Pittman.
Sanctified Art Everything Between righteousness & Mercy



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
Jackie Rountree - Lector