

## GATHERING

*Welcome, visitors! To learn more about our community, please place a completed Visitor Card in the offering basket. \*Please stand as you are able.*

### Gathering Music

### Greeting and Announcements

### Time of Centering Silence as we welcome the Holy Spirit

### Call to Worship

*from Sanctified Art, Tell me Something Good*

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

**Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.**

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

**Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.**

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

**Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.**

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

**This is God's house.**

You can make yourself at home here.

**Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!**

### \*Hymn #425

“Son of God, Whose Heart is Peace”

### \*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules.**

**We love clear answers. We love right and wrong.**

**We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way.**

**You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.**

**You prioritize mercy over legality.**

**You prioritize people over tradition.**

**You prioritize love over everything.**

**Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.**

**Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.**

**Forgive us. Soften our hearts.**

**Root us in mercy, justice, and love.**

**With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

### \*Words of Assurance

Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way.

Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion.**

**Our God is a God of grace.**

**We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.**

**Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.**

### \*Sharing God's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

### First Reading

John 8:2-11

### \*Hymn #445

“God, How Can We Forgive”

### Second Reading

Matthew 23: 23

### Sermon

Nathan Peifer

### \*Hymn: “The Day is Coming”

*[See insert]*

Choir / Congregation

### \*Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**It sounds like welcome and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,**

**so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**I have seen it alive in the world.**

And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,  
even when mercy feels out of reach,  
I remember the one who welcomed the children  
and led with nonviolence.  
I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable  
and inspired those around him.  
I remember that the good news really is good news,  
for I have seen it alive in the world.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Hymnal pg. 35

### THANKSGIVING

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 #435

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

\*Benediction

\*Response (All singing) "Amen"

Hymn #574



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Sunday, March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

The news is: Rooted in justice, mercy and faithfulness



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

We are a **Matthew 25, More Light & EarthCare** congregation

office@shallowfordpresbyterian.org - 336.766.3178  
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### WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching - Nathan Peifer

Director of Music - Sally Gant

Lector - Sue Weber

**\*Hymn: “The Day is Coming”**

Mark A Miller

Choir / Congregation

The lands in longing call out your name:  
the tongues are different, the prayer the same.  
With humble spirits can we believe  
that God is bigger than we conceive? Refrain: Choir

The day is coming, the Lord will move  
with the hand of justice and the heart of love.  
The will of heaven on this earth be done;  
the day is coming, oh let it come.

**Refrain: All singing**

Refrain

The day is com-ing, the Lord will move with the hand of  
jus-tice and the heart of love. The will of heav-en on this earth be  
done; the day is com-ing, oh let it come.

Words: Laurie Zelman. Music: Mark A. Miller  
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With willing spirits, Lord, let us dare  
to kneel with strangers and join in prayer.  
Grant in your mercy the hope that heals,  
the law of love your word reveals. **Refrain:** *(All singing)*

A barren wasteland we must reclaim,  
with hearts for bearing each other’s pain.  
Grant us the courage to make a place  
to plant tomorrow’s seeds of grace. **Refrain:** *(All singing)*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Join us for the final of our **Shallowford Series Concerts today at 3:00 p.m.**, with a program of spectacular music for the flute provided by artists from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts professor Tadeu Coelho. A reception will follow.
- We have extended and received acceptance of an offer for our next **part-time Stated Supply Pastor**, who will begin on July 1. As she is coming from outside Salem Presbytery, she must complete the presbytery’s approval process. More information will be shared soon.
- Several Salem Presbytery pastors are assisting with **pastoral care during our interim period**. If you have a serious illness, hospitalization, death, or other urgent pastoral need, please contact: M-F 9am-5pm call Christine Ratledge at 336-692-0237. All other hours call either Jackie Rountree at 336-416-1291 or Sue Weber at 303-263-4572
- To **sponsor an Easter lily** in honor or memory of a loved one, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering space or contact Christine Ratledge. All orders are **due by Monday, March 30**. Lilies will be available to take home following the Easter Service on April 5. The cost is \$14.50 per lily.

**THIS WEEK @ SHALLOWFORD**

**Sunday, March 22**

- 11:30 am ~ Sunday Book Club - Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 pm ~ Shallowford Concert Series

**Wednesday, March 25**

- 10:00 am ~ Wednesday Morning Bible Study - Zoom
- 6:30 pm ~ Shallowford Singers Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, March 27**

- 1:00 pm ~ Compass Group A

**Sunday, March 29**

- 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