



The 16th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 13, 2026  
10:30 a.m.



*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, a More Light and an Earth Care Congregation*

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Preaching: Rev. Steve Pharr  
Director of Music: Sally Gant  
Liturgist: Rev. Pat Fletcher

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**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

*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 for centering silence as we rest in the presence of God.

Call to Worship *(responsive)*

One: People of God, bless the Lord,

**All: bless God's holy name.**

One: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

**All: so great is God's steadfast love for us.**

\*Hymn #52

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land"

\*Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Loving God, we confess that we have failed to live in harmony with our sisters and brothers. We have been self-righteous in our attitudes, closed-minded in our beliefs, and judgmental in our opinions. We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand, and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions. Forgive our sins of discord and conceit, and heal our divisiveness and quarreling. Help us to be charitable in our regard for others, that we may dwell in peace with Christ.

*(silent confession)*

\*Words of Assurance *(responsive)*

One: Friends, the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

\*Response *(all singing)*

Hymn # 59

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning;

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.

\*Sharing God's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**HEARING THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

**Holy God, send your Spirit so that we might hear your word to us this day.**

First Reading: Exodus 14: 19-31

Setting: Rory Cooney

Steve Pharr, Cantor

Refrain: *(sung responsively)*

Cantor:

Sing the song of freedom!

God has won the victory.

Horse and chariot are cast into the sea.

**ALL:**

**Sing the song of freedom!**

**God has won the victory.**

**Horse and chariot are cast into the sea.**

**Final Refrain:**

Horse and chariot,

fear and loneliness,

death and emptiness.

Horse and chariot are cast into the sea.

**Horse and chariot,**

**fear and loneliness,**

**death and emptiness.**

**Horse and chariot are cast into the sea.**

Horse and chariot,

hate and prejudice,

chains and slavery;

Horse and chariot are cast into the sea.

**Horse and chariot,**

**hate and prejudice,**

**chains and slavery;**

**Horse and chariot are cast into the sea.**

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Second Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*Hymn #444

Stanza 1: Choir

Stanzas 2-4: All singing

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

\*Affirmation of Faith

From the Barmen Declaration

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God’s revelation.

As Jesus Christ is God’s assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God’s mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.

We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords—areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

(silent prayer followed by Pastoral Prayer and unison 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 debts as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

\*Doxology (all singing)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

praise Christ, all people here below;

praise Holy Spirit evermore;

praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Hymn #607

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

EMBODYING THE WORD

\*Hymn #435

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

\*Benediction

\*Response Celtic Alleluia

Hymn #587



THIS WEEK AT SHALLOWFORD

Sunday, September 13

11:30 am ~ Compass Group C - Library

11:30 am ~ D Lights Compass Group - Parlor

Sunday, September 20

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

9:30 am ~ Lectionary Bible Study - Parlor

9:30 am ~ Shallowford Singers - Sanctuary

10:30 am ~ Worship Service

11:30 am ~ Sunday Book Club - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 27

10:00 am ~ Annual Church Picnic - Jack Warren Park

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Shallowford Sunday Morning Book Group is starting a new book on September 20th. Our class meets on Sundays after worship in the fellowship hall. We will begin reading/discussing a new book, *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass on September 20th. For questions or additional information contact Jackie Rountree.
- The Children’s Sunday School Class, which meets in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m., and the Adult's Lectionary Class, which meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor, will resume on September 20th.
- The Mission Committee is offering yellow t-shirts with the Shallowford logo on the front and back. Cost: \$22, payable when you receive your shirt. To order, send your name and size to Christy Vance Bijkersma by September 20. A sign-up sheet is also available in the gathering space.
- Join us for our annual church picnic on Sunday, September 27th at Jack Warren Park! We’ll gather at 10:00 a.m., with worship at 10:30 a.m., followed by a covered-dish luncheon. Please bring one main dish and one side dish or dessert. Beverages will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

PRAYER REQUEST

We are saddened to share that Debbie Lacey, Pastor Sandy's sister-in-law, passed away last week. Her Memorial Service was held yesterday in Alabama. We ask that you pray for comfort, strength, and peace for the entire family. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Sherry Stafford ~ Brian & Zann (Davis House residents) ~ Elizabeth Reid ~ Lexi Moore ~ Bob Federchuck ~ James McHone ~ Linda Graham ~ Jackie Rountree ~ Dave Reid ~ Lara Cummings ~ Gary & Ann Pope ~ Pat Myslicki ~ Grace & Stewart Ellis ~ Max Toney ~ Jack Williamson (Grandson of Nancy McKay) ~ Georgia Evvie Denn (Granddaughter of Juli & Joe Doub)