



The 17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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

Stated Supply Pastor - Rev. Sandy Lacey
Director of Music - Sally Gant
Lector - Sue Weber

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: We live only by the goodness of the Lord,

All: who showers blessing on the just and unjust.

One: We boast only in the grace of Jesus Christ.

All: for the first will be last, and the last will be first.

Let us worship God!

* Hymn #624

"I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

***Prayer of Confession** *(unison)*

Holy and Grace-Giving God, we confess that we remain captive to sin. You shower your blessing upon us, yet we continue to complain. You give us more than we deserve, yet we resent your goodness to others. Forgive and liberate us, we pray. Let us be no longer bound by sin, but released, restored, set free to worship and serve you in freedom and purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(silent confession)* AMEN.

***Words of Assurance** *(responsive)*

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. God's mercy never ends.

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)*

**Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Open our hearts and minds to hear
your voice this day. AMEN.**

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

***Hymn #42**

Psalm 145

"Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure"

Second Reading: Matthew 20:1-6

Sermon

Opposite Day!

Rev. Sandy Lacey

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Anthem: "Heaven Shall Not Wait"

Setting: John L. Bell

Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:

Jesus is Lord; he has championed the unwanted;
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:

Jesus is Lord; he has shown the master's privilege;
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.

Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas,
Thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain;
Jesus is Lord; he has married word and action;
his cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another shore:
Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection;
his power and love are for now and then for evermore.

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***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*) adapted from Psalm 145:8-9, 13-14, 21
The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all and his compassion is over all that God has made. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. Our mouths will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless God’s holy name forever and ever. AMEN.

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*) 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. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

EMBODYING THE WORD

***Hymn #724** “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

***Benediction**

***Response** Celtic Alleluia Hymn #587



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THIS WEEK AT SHALLOWFORD

Sunday, September 20
11:30 am ~ Sunday Book Club - Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 21
6:00 pm ~ Stated Session Meeting

Sunday, September 27
10:00 am ~ Annual Church Picnic - Jack Warren Park

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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!
- **Following the church picnic, everyone is invited to help the Mission Committee pack 70 breakfast to-go bags for City with Dwellings.** We will assemble packaged snacks into paper lunch bags that will go to participants in the monthly foot and vision clinics at CwD. Since 2017, City with Dwellings in Winston-Salem has been dedicated to connecting with vulnerable neighbors year-round through outreach, resource navigation, programs at the Community First Center, and housing support.
- Lewisville will host a benefit concert for the **Lewisville Community Assistance Program (LCAP) on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Shallowford Square.** The Local Boys, a bluegrass/Americana band, will perform. Food trucks will be available. The concert is free. LCAP volunteers will collect donations of non-perishable foods at each entrance.
- Join us for **Shallowford’s annual Taizé Prayer service on Sunday, October 4th at 7:30 p.m.** a sacred time of candlelight, beautiful sung prayers, Scripture, and silent meditation. Several guest musicians will join us for this special service of prayer and reflection. Our outdoor Labyrinth will be open for walking before the service. A brief introduction to the sung prayers will begin at 7:25 p.m. Come pray for peace and reconciliation – and invite a friend!