

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

March 30, 2025

9:45 AM

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Everything [in] Between¹
Lost and Found

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Additionally, after the children's message, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
INTRODUCTION TO THEME

PRELUDE

Like a Shepherd

by Dufford

POEM

Gray

written by Cindy Hogentogler & read by Deb Herlocker

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: Our God is a shepherding God.

C: Our God knows us by name. Our God will never stop searching for us.

L: So if you feel lost,

C: then know that God is seeking you.

L: If you feel found,

C: then know that God will never leave.

L: This is the promise of scripture.

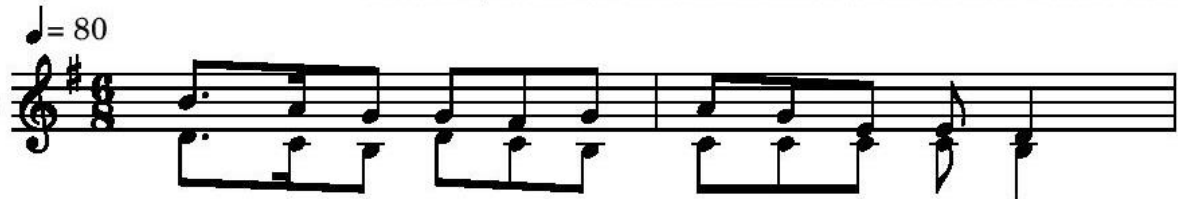
C: This is the promise of God's love.

L: Let us worship our with-us God.

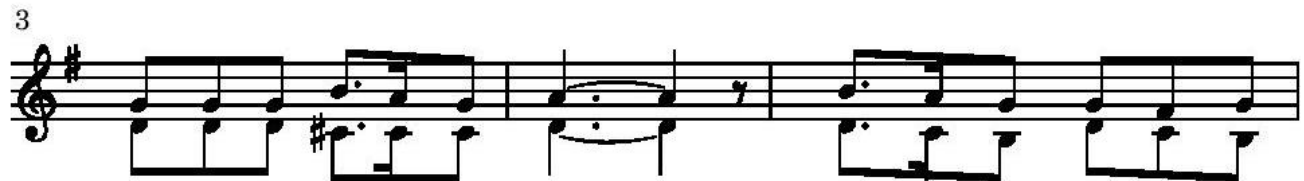
Softly and Tenderly

Will L. Thompson, 1880

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Piano 

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
2. Why should we tarr - y when Je - sus is plead - ing,
3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing,
4. O for the won - der - ful love Je - sus prom - ised,

3 

call - ing for you and for me;	See at the por - tals Christ
plead - ing for you and for me?	Why should we lin - ger and
pass - ing from you and from me;	Shad - ows are gath - er - ing,
prom - ised for you and for me;	Though we have sinned Je - sus

6 

wait - ing and watch - ing,	watch - ing for you and for me.	Come home, come
heed not God's mer - cies,	mer - cies for you and for me?	
death - beds are com - ing,	com - ing for you and for me.	
off - ers us par - don,	par - don for you and for me.	

10 

home,	all who are wea - ry, come home	Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly
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14 

Je - sus is call - ing	call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"
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*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: If God is a painter,

C: let us be the brush.

L: If God is a musician,

C: let us be the song.

L: If God is an architect,

C: let us be the tools. Let us be the hands. Let us be the builders.

L: But if God is a shepherd, who never stops seeking,

C: let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel.

L: Our God is never far away.

C: Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: 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:

C: 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.

***ACT OF PRAISE UM HYMNAL # 558** (refrain, v. 1, refrain, see below) *We Are the Church*

ALL SING: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building. The church is not a steeple. The church is not a resting place. The church is a people

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY DINGALINGS

The Old Rugged Cross

Traditional

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-7 (CEB)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (see next page)

Lost and Found

Lost and Found

Words: Anna Strickland, 2024

Carl P. Daw, 1989; Jack Schrader

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Piano 

1. In the flock I am sur - roun - ded by my sib - lings and my
2. The hor - i - zon starts to brigh - ten as I quiet - ly slip a -
3. As I wan - der down the quar - ry a fa - mi - liar voice cries

5 

friends. Safe at home and feel - ing groud ed with my shep - herd to de -
- way. I can feel my spir - it ligh - ten with each cau - tious step I
out. It's my shep - herd search - ing for me; reck - less love has tracked me

9 

- fend. But an ach - ing, long - ing feel - ing as the stars shine late at
take. Un - fa - mil - iar paths un - fold - ing as ex - cite - ment blends with
down. Though I left my place of re - fuge, he has fol - lowed all a -

13 

night draws me in, my dreams re - veal ing and I know I'm not quite right.
fear. All cre - a - tion now en - folds me like the flock I hold so dear.
- long. But I had to lose my - self to find my - self where I be - long.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

by Bradbury

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NCH NO. 547** (see below)

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

John Newton, 1725-1807

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4. My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

6

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

12

now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far. and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

**BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

Lenten Meditation

by Blake

References

¹The Worship Liturgy was by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

²The Poem *Gray* was written by Cindy Hogentogler

Thank you to our Lenten team for decorating the altar and providing the structure for our Lenten services. The Lent team members are Andrea Adams, Cindy Hogentogler, Sandy King, & Pastor Amy.

Welcome Team Members—John & Connie Wolfe, Jeff & Nancy Sleer

Liturgist—Jen Miller

Tech Team—Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch, John Schriver