



Wednesday Lent Service

Everything [in] Between

7 PM

April 2, 2025

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406
Telephone: 717-755-6117
E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org
Website: www.mtzionucc.org

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

April 2, 2025

7:00 PM

Everything [in] Between: Lost and Found¹
Lent at Mt. Zion

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. 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. 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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THEME/POEM¹ *The Good Shepherd* Rev. Sarah Speed

PRELUDE *Abide with Me* by Monk

A PRAYER OF INVOCATION

L: God meets us in the night—

C: before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure.

L: God meets us in the light—

C: where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, where people gather around tables.

L: God meets us in between—

C: at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.

L: And if God meets us in all those places,

C: then surely God meets us everywhere— at the water’s edge, at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call.

L: We are not alone. God is all around. Let us worship the God of everything.

***OPENING HYMN NCH NO. 237** (see below)

In the Garden

In the Garden

C. Austin Miles

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, while the
2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with him, though the

4
dew is still on the ros - es; And the
sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the
night a - round me be fall - ing; But he

6
voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear, the Son of God dis -
mel - o - dy that he gave to me with - in my heart is
bids me go; through the voice of woe his voice to me is

9
- clos - es. And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he
call - ing.
call - ing.

12
tells me I am his own, And the joy we share as we

15
tar - ry there, none oth - er has ever known.

***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Together let us pray,

C: Shepherding God, You look for us. You search for us. You turn every corner and climb every mountain. You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray, find us in this moment. Look for us. And then surround us with your presence, so that we might feel you near. With hope we pray, with hope we listen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

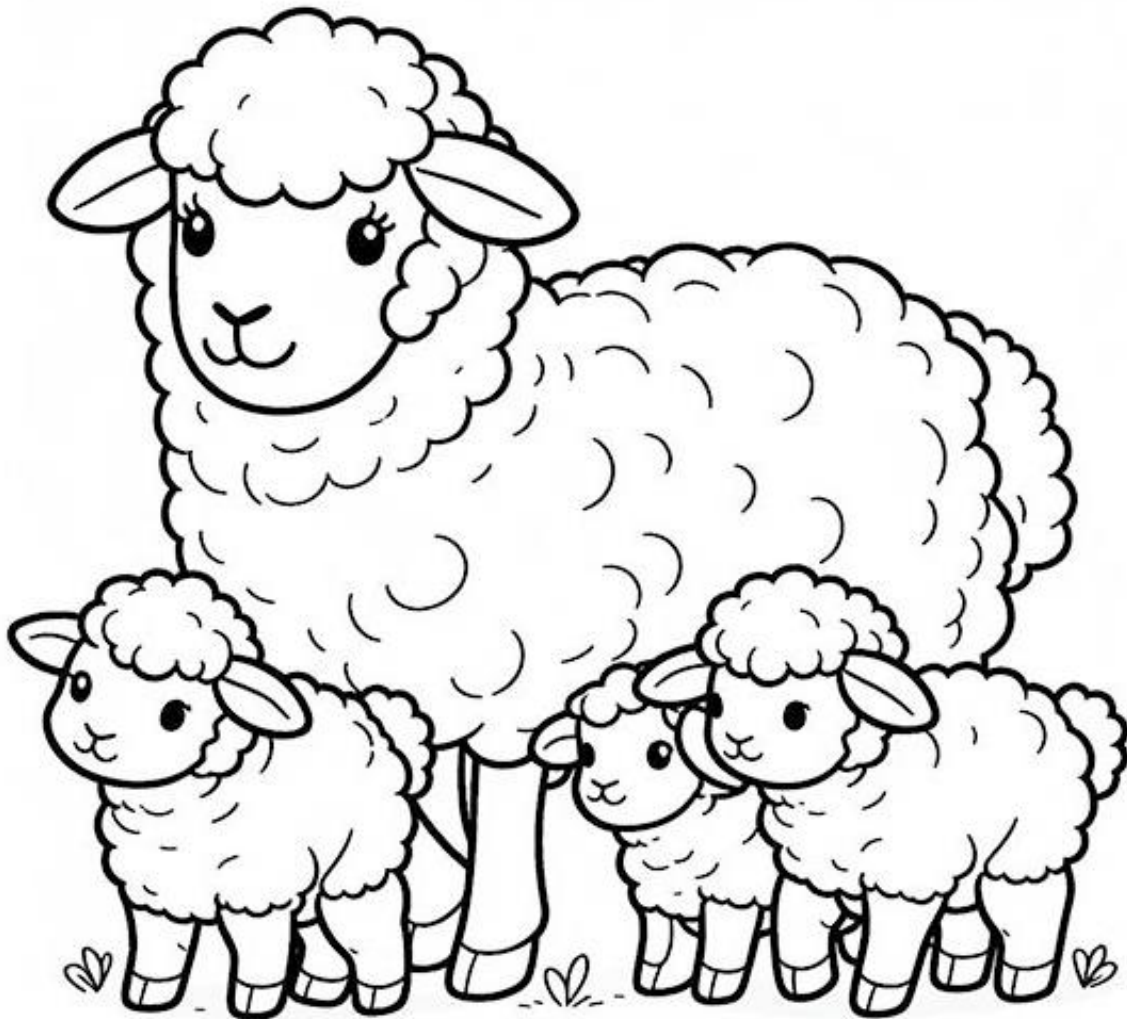
Luke 13:6-9 (The Message)

CONGREGATIONAL TESTIMONY

Ron Miles

HYMN OF THE DAY NCH # 252 (see next page)

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us



Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

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Piano 

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us,
2. We are yours, in love be - friend us,
3. Let us al - ways seek your fa - vor;

3 

much we need your ten - der care; in your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us,
be the guard - ian of our way; keep your flock, from sin de - fend us,
let us al - ways do your will; Je - sus Christ our on - ly Sav ior,

7 

for our use your folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have
seek us when we go a - stray. Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear your
with your love our spir - its fill. Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have

11 

bought us, yours we are; Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have
chil - dren when we pray; Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear your
loved us, love us still; Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have

15 

bought us yours we are.
chil - dren when we pray.
loved us, love us still.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Let us affirm our beliefs this day—beliefs that allow room for the lost, the found, and everything in between.

C: We believe in a seeking God, a with-us and before-us God, a chasing-after-us God. We believe that no matter where we wander or what mountains we climb, this God—the God who walked the streets of Jerusalem, shook hands with lepers, patted children on the head, and told stories of love—is always close at hand. So on the good days and the hard days, on the mountains and in the valleys, we believe that we are always being found. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: As we journey through this Lenten season, we remember that our God is a loving Shepherd, always seeking the lost, calling the wandering, and rejoicing when even one soul returns to Him. With hearts open to His mercy, let us bring our prayers before Him.

L: You never stop searching for those who are lost—those weighed down by sin, those who have drifted from faith, and those who do not yet know Your saving love. In this season of repentance, draw them back to You. Break through the barriers of shame and doubt, and remind them that no one is beyond Your grace. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You have called us into Your fold and claimed us as Your own. Keep us from growing complacent in our faith. Strengthen us in our walk with You, and give us hearts that rejoice, not resent, when others find their way home. Teach us to be a people of grace, welcoming all who seek You. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Loving God, for those who feel caught between doubt and belief, for those who are searching but unsure, and for those struggling to trust You—be their guiding light. In this season of Lent, give them the courage to take steps toward You, knowing that You are already running to meet them. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of the lost and weary, You have entrusted Your Church with the mission of reflecting Your love to the world. Help us to be faithful in seeking the lost, patient in walking alongside the wandering, and joyful in welcoming home the repentant. Make our congregations places of refuge and renewal, where all can encounter Your grace. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: In this season of reflection and repentance, search our hearts. Show us where we, too, have strayed. Help us to turn back to You with humility and trust. Shape us into people who live out Your mercy, not only in word, but in action. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Merciful God, You rejoice when even one lost soul is found. You call us to turn from our own wandering and to celebrate Your boundless grace. As we continue our Lenten journey, keep our eyes fixed on You, the Shepherd of our souls. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who came to seek and save the lost.

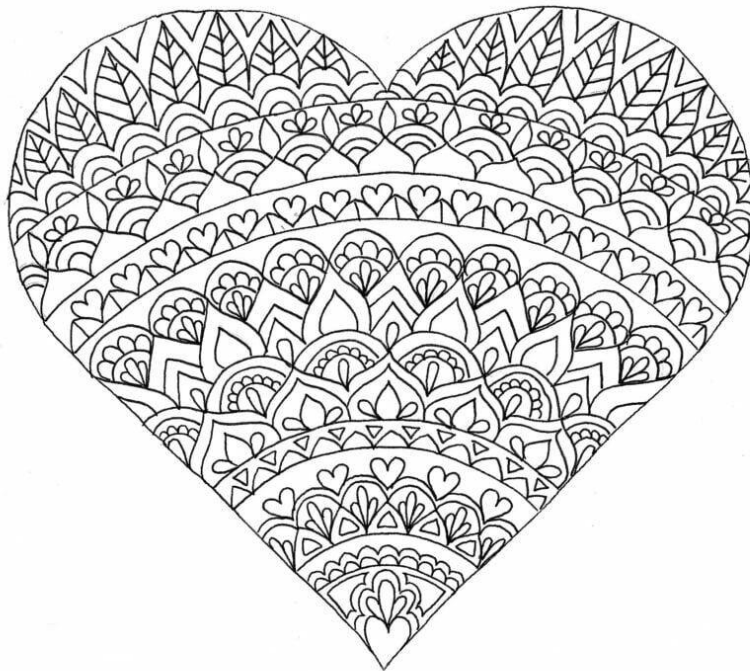
C: Amen.

L: Now may our voices join with all of God's children in praying the words that he taught us,

C: 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.

***CLOSING HYMN NCH # 223 (see next page)**

What Wondrous Love is This



What Wondrous Love Is This

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Piano

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

6



wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

11



this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heavy cross for my
Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

16



soul, for my soul, to bear the heavy cross for my soul!
sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

by Conkey

¹Liturgy and Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Thank you to Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, & Ron Miles for serving on the tech team. Thank you to Elaine Bevivino for serving as liturgist. 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.

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