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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

September 14, 2025

9:45 AM

### **Blanket Sunday Offering**

*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! This Sunday there is no Sunday School due to the Family Retreat, but re-starting next Sunday kids are invited to join in Sunday School following the Children's Message.*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

BLANKET SUNDAY VIDEO

## **PRELUDE**

*Like a Shepherd*

by Dufford

## **GATHERING LITURGY**

L: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**C: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.**

L: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

**C: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

L: God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home; God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us and waste the gifts we have been given.

God calls and welcomes us back to worship this day;

**C: let us celebrate and rejoice in God's presence forever; let us worship God together.**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 23 NCH** (black hymnal, see next page)

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

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-186

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**Piano**  $\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 120. The score consists of five lines of music, each with a measure number (4, 8, 12, 15) at the beginning. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some lines having two verses. The music ends with a double bar line at the end of the fifth line.

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness  
2. For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

4  
of the sea; there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than  
of our minds; and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won - der -

8  
lib - er - ty. There's no place where earth - ly sor-rows are more felt than  
ful - ly kind. If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad - ly

12  
in God's hea - ven; there's no place where earth - ly fail - ings  
trust God's word; and our lives would show thanks - giv - ing

15  
have such kind - ly judg - ment given.  
for the good - ness of our God.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## **\*TIME OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: God of wisdom,

**C: we confess the foolishness of our ways, and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships –with you and with others. We have gone astray; we feel lost. We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others. We have failed to be generous with the poor, and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice.**

**We feel the stains of our sins, God; have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Wash the sinfulness out of us, and help us to live more faithfully as your servants. We seek your unfailing grace and ask for your guiding hand on our lives. You are the immortal, invisible One; to you be honor and glory forever; Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Merciful and loving God, we thank you for never losing hope for us. When we are lost, you are there on the look-out for us, bringing us back to you like the good shepherd that you are.

**C: This day we remember that in you, we are found, we are loved, we are forgiven.**

P: Your Word tells us of the joy in heaven that awaits us. May this joy flow into our lives each day, and be faithfully reflected into the world around us.

**C: Thanks be to God, our Great Shepherd. Amen.**

**WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM**

*We Are Yours Lord*

by Price & Besig

**SCRIPTURE**

*Luke 15:1-10 (CEB)*

**SERMON**

*Dave Firestone*

**HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 549 NCH** (black hymnal, see next page)

*Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*

<sup>1</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

Richard Gillard, 1977

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Piano  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Won't you let me be your ser - vant,
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney,
3. I will hold the Christ - light for you
4. I will weep when you are weep - ing;
5. When we sing to God in heav - en
6. Won't you let me be your ser - vant,

3

let me be as Christ to you?  
 we are trav - elers on the road;  
 in the shad - ow of your fear;  
 when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
 we shall find such har - mo - ny,  
 let me be as Christ to you?

5

Pray that I may have the grace to  
 We are will hold to my help each - oth - er  
 I will share your joy out to you,  
 I will of all we've known and sor - row  
 Born of that I may have the geth - er  
 Pray that I may have the grace to

7

let you be my ser - vant, too.  
 go the mile and bear the load.  
 speak the peace you this long to hear.  
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
 of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.  
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Loving God, you are the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to seek the one who is lost. You are the woman who searches carefully until the lost coin is found. You are the God who rejoices when all are gathered close to your heart. With trust in your mercy, we pray together:

**C: God of the lost and the found, hear our prayer.**

L: For the joys we carry—the people, places, and moments that remind us of your goodness—we lift our gratitude to you.

*(the congregation is invited to lift aloud the joys of their hearts)*

L: Hear the thankfulness and praise of our hearts.

**C: God of joy and celebration, hear our prayer.**

L: For the ministries of this church, for the ministries done by Mr. Sandy's Homeless Veteran's Center, and for the ministries of Church World Service, as blankets and supplies are shared with neighbors near and far, may they be signs of your warmth and protection.

**C: God of mercy and service, hear our prayer.**

L: For the courage to seek the lost, to welcome the stranger, to cover the vulnerable, and to rejoice in every return home.

**C: God of love and justice, hear our prayer.**

L: For those who are hurting, suffering, or wandering in grief, we hold them close before you.

*(the congregation is invited to lift aloud those who they hold in heart for prayers of healing)*

L: Hold tenderly those who need you this day.

**C: God of compassion and comfort, hear our prayer.**

L: Shepherding God, gather us in, send us out, and fill us with the joy of your kingdom. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, who came to find and to save the lost—and it is in the name of Jesus that together we pray--

**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.**

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*Shepherd Medley*

arr. Tate

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\*CLOSING HYMN UM HYMNAL NO. 252** (see below)

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

# Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

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**Piano**  $\text{♩} = 80$

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.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Sheep May Safely Graze*

by Bach

### References

<sup>1</sup>The opening liturgy includes the writing the **Presbyterian Church in Canada** website. <http://presbyterian.ca/worship/> and by Nancy Townley, and posted on the *Worship Connection* page of the **Ministry Matters** website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3623/worship-connection-march-6-2016>. Both accessed with permission on September 4, 2025

<sup>2</sup>The Confession and Forgiveness was shared for use on the **Presbyterian Church in Canada** website. <http://presbyterian.ca/worship/>. Accessed with permission on September 4, 2025

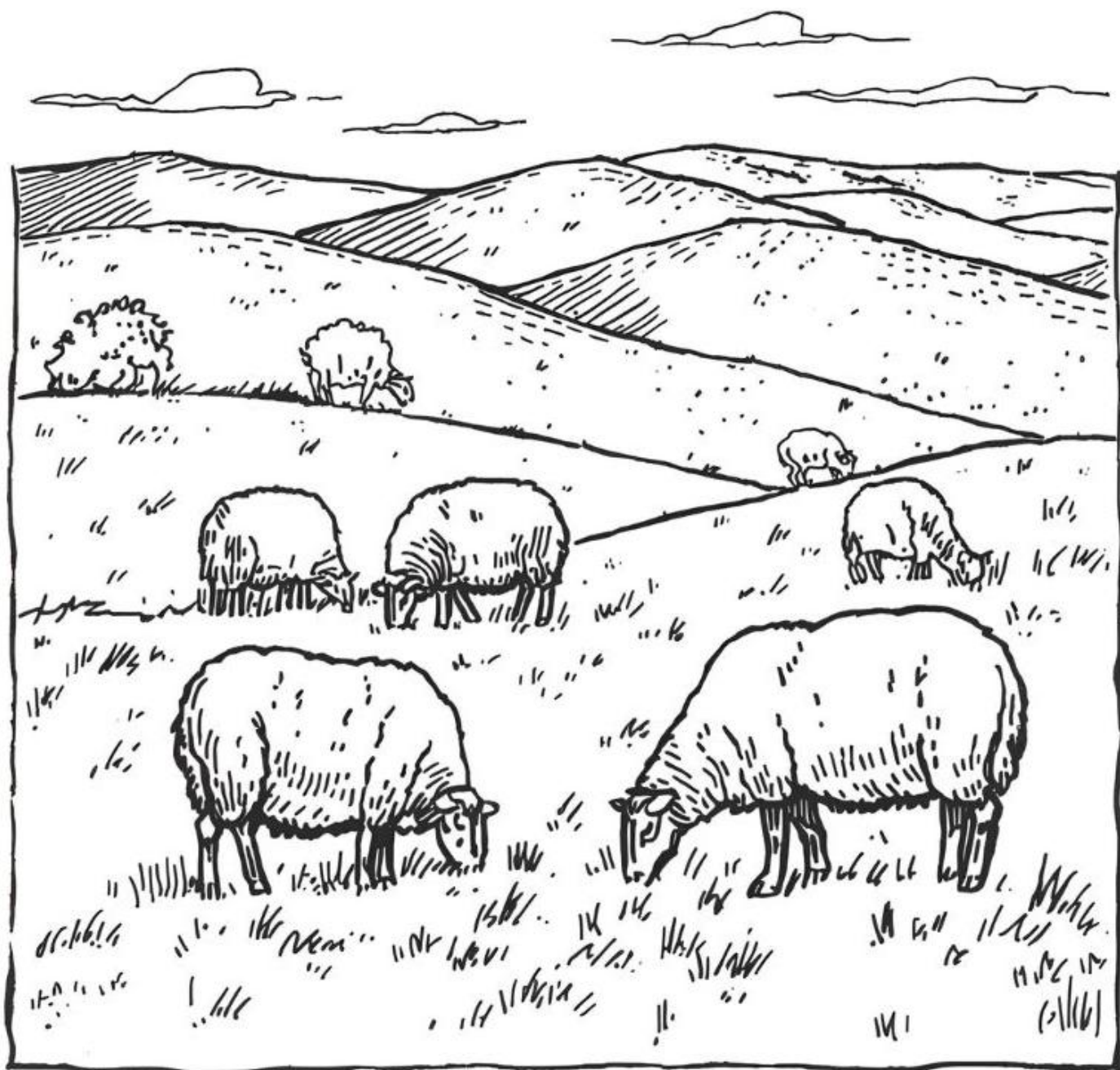
<sup>3</sup>The Time of Offering is adapted from resources offered by Church World Service in celebration of Blanket Sunday.

**Welcome Team Members—**Bob & Kathy Ensminger, Connie Wolfe

**Liturgist—** Tori Everhart

**Tech Team—** Ron Miles, Joe Vacante

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.



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