

# Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



March 30, 2025

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, \* indicates please stand, if able

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God is a shepherding God.

**Our God knows us by name.**

Our God will never stop searching for us.

So if you feel lost,

**then know that God is seeking you.**

If you feel found,

**then know that God will never leave.**

This is the promise of scripture.

This is the promise of God's love.

**Let us worship our with-us God.**

### OPENING HYMN GTG 418

### Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are provided below the vocal line of each system.

*Refrain*

watch-ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea-ry, come home." Ear - nest-ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

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### CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, in the Christian tradition many have used "lost" and "found" labels to describe people "out there" versus people "in here." Many have used "lost" and "found" language to create a damaging dichotomy that Christians are found and non-Christians are lost.

But the truth is, each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd.

So join me in the prayer of confession, as people who know both ends of that spectrum. Join me as we go to God in prayer:

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If God is a painter, **let us be the brush.**  
If God is a musician, **let us be the song.**

If God is an architect,

**let us be the tools.**

**Let us be the hands.**

**Let us be the builders.**

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

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

Our God is never far away.

**Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.**

#### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

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:

**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.**

#### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

##### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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.**

##### RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;  
**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.  
**You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
**Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.**

Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.  
**Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jennifer and Judy

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:1-7

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

We proclaim Christ crucified— the wisdom and power of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Tim Gerarden

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

Through the grace of God, we have gifts in abundance and pour them out like perfume from a flask, not for our sakes, but to worship the One who lavishes love on the world.

*An offering plate is placed near the back of the room to receive your offerings and is available before, during the hymn of the day and shortly following the service.*

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Lost and Found



In the flock I am sur - roun - ded by my sib - lings  
The ho - ri - zon starts to brigh - ten as I quiet - ly  
As I wan - der down the quar - ry a fa - mi - liar



and my friends Safe at home and feel - ing groun - ded with my  
slip a - way I can feel my spi - rit ligh - ten with each  
voice cries out It's my shep - herd search - ing for me; reck - less



shep - herd to de - fend But an ach - ing, long - ing feel - ing  
cau - tious step I take Un - fa - mil - iar paths un - fold - ing  
love has tracked me down Though I left my place of re - fuge,





as the stars shine late at night Draws me in, my dreams  
as ex - cite - ment blends with fear All cre - a - tion now  
he has fol - lowed all a - long But I had to lose



re - veal - ing and I know I'm not quite right  
en - folds me like the flock I hold so dear  
my - self to find my - self where I be - long

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#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

You have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire. Now use these gifts— and use our lives— to liberate the oppressed, to break the bonds of injustice, to feed the hungry, welcome the poor, and unite the human family; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus as we pray for the world he came to save, saying: Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer...**

As we pour out our hearts in prayer, O God, lead us to pour out our lives in service to you— ever seeking your will, ever following your way; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father and Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your 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 let us not be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

# SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

\*CLOSING HYMN GTG 187

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.  
Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.





Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

As you leave this place,  
 may you find God in every messy middle.  
 May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.  
 May you trust that you are made in the image of God,  
 and therefore, you contain multitudes.  
 So may you move through this world with an open heart,  
 with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.  
 God is with you in the mountains,  
 in the valleys,  
 and everywhere in between.  
 Believe that good news, and go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
everything [in] between **lost & found**



## Lost & Found

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 15:1-7

*Newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing*

I began my artwork for this series by collaging torn strips of newspaper articles together, overlapping global headlines with photos of current events. Along the torn edges, I added gold leaf. Then I photographed the result, editing the photos in black and white. These photos would become the backdrop for my pieces, as I wanted my digital drawings to emerge within the noise of the world's deepest pains, divisions, and everything in between. The collage is also a reference to theologian Karl Barth's famous quote about reading the bible and the newspaper together.<sup>7</sup> I wanted the gold leaf to represent God's presence in the spaces in between the events and forces that tear us apart.

On September 27th, 2024, I began drawing the Good Shepherd with the lost sheep tenderly wrapped around his shoulders. As I worked, rain pummeled our roof, saturating the ground with an endless deluge as the wide bands of tropical storm Helene<sup>8</sup> reached our high-elevation town of Black Mountain, NC. The next day, winds roared and threw trees to the ground like dominos. We lost power, then water, then cell service. We didn't know it yet, but every creek and river had swelled with enormous force, sweeping away everything in their path. Landslides, sinkholes, and extreme flooding ravaged the entire region of Western North Carolina, taking homes, towns, and human lives.

We were incredibly and graciously spared, having no flooding in our house or trees on our roof, so as soon as the storm relented, we headed out to find our friends and family by foot. As we walked through our small town, we found ourselves in a maze-like wasteland, changing our route every other turn due to downed trees or power lines, or washed-out roads. Progressively, we found family and friends, greeting them with great relief and urgent questions: "Do you have enough water to drink? Do you have water for flushing? Do you need any food?" It would be nearly 6 days before any emergency relief could arrive with food, water, and supplies. Meanwhile, neighbors survived by the help of their neighbors. Churches opened their doors. Firefighters and first responders persisted, despite perilous rescue missions. Helicopters air-lifted stranded people to safety.

When I began this artwork, I naively hoped to gain insight into Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. In that process, I did not wish to *become* the lost sheep and live through the greatest natural disaster to hit my hometown in over a thousand years. But as I read this parable again, now over 6 weeks after the storm, what strikes me is the pursuit of the shepherd, so singularly focused on the one who is lost, vulnerable, and at-risk. The Good Shepherd steadies the sheep on his shoulders and steps out of the frame toward us. His gaze finds mine, and I almost hear him whisper, "I will never stop searching for the lost. I will never stop rejoicing when one is found." —Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

<sup>7</sup> Karl Barth, 1886-1968, was a Swiss Reformed theologian. In a 1963 *Time Magazine* article, he urges young theologians to take the Bible and the newspaper and read both.

<sup>8</sup> At the end of September 2024, Hurricane Helene hit the Southeastern US, devastating many regions, particularly Western North Carolina. Catastrophic flooding caused billions of dollars of damage, took hundreds of lives, and left many lives unaccounted for.



Peggy McCarty is collecting empty paper towel tubes and toilet paper tubes. They will be filled with shredded paper and sent to Malawi to be used as a fire starter. Just the tubes are needed from CPC.

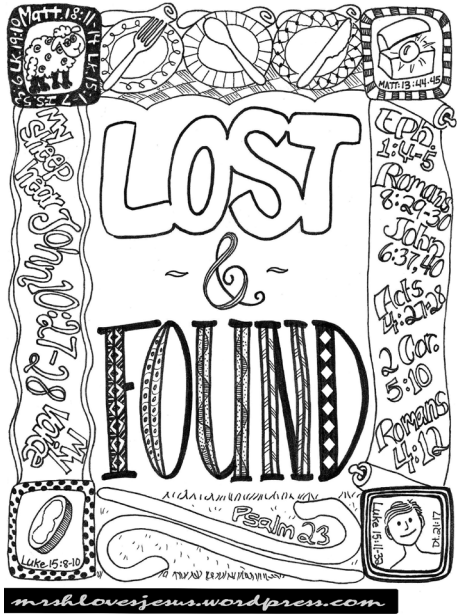


# The Good Shepherd

Jesus said, "Who among you wouldn't leave the 99? Who among you wouldn't look for the one?"

Someone in the crowd probably rolled their eyes. Someone squirmed and looked at their palms. Someone sighed and thought to themselves, "This man doesn't understand the business. What fool would leave 99 to look for one?"

But maybe God was not talking about us. Maybe God was talking about her own reckless love. Maybe God was talking about her own willingness to turn the world upside down for me.



**Embodying Solidarity with Indigenous People by Becoming Kin**  
A conversation with Sarah Augustine

Assisi Heights Spirituality Center  
Sunday, March 30, 2-4 pm  
Public welcomed!

# Community Presbyterian Church

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**Sunday, March 30**

**9:00 am Deacons Quarterly Meeting**

**9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online**

**2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios**

**Monday, March 31**

**6:00 pm Great Room Use: Med-City Tai Chi**

**Tuesday, April 1**

**12:00 pm Items for the Bulletin are due**

**7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network**

**Wednesday, April 2**

**9:00 am Prayer Group**

**6:30 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal**

**7:30 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursday, April 3**

**5:30 pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios**

**Sunday, April 6**

**9:30 am Worship with Communion  
- Onsite and Online**

**2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios**



Judy Leal

Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,  
especially daughters Jenny & Elissa

Nellie Brovold's mother, Jacqueline

Jennifer Hall and Sage Hall

Bill and Ronda Marshall and family

Shannon Cisewski

Amy Ward and family

*To be added to the prayer list, please contact the office: 507-280-9291 or via email: [office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org).*

## Serving in Worship Today

Guest Preacher	Rev. Tim Gerarden
Guest Pianist	Judy Kereakos
Liturgist	Peggy McCarty
IT Support	Louis Bouchard & Bruce Felger

## Church Staff

Music Director	Jennifer Taylor
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch