

4th Sunday in Lent March 30, 2025



# University Presbyterian Church 3240 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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Pastor: Mamie Broadhurst Organist: Christopher Cunningham Choir Director: Ross Cawthon Ministers: The people of this church Audio/Visual: Nora Broadhurst Williams/Sadie Knapp

## 4th Sunday in Lent March 30, 2025

Whether you are worshiping in the sanctuary or online, at any time in the course of the service, you are invited to light a candle signifying a concern, a desire for healing, a confession, or a prayer of thanksgiving that, though private, you would like to remember in the midst of our worship.

Please speak aloud the bold portions of the liturgy in the bulletin. The asterisk \* is an invitation for worshipers to rise in body or spirit as able.

## GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Unexpected and Mysterious I. Chorale by J. William Greene ©Lorenz Corporation, 2020

## WELCOME/CANDLE LIGHTING

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Arr. Robert J. Powell Concordia Press, 2012

Mamie Broadhurst

Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray, Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.

As Thou with Satan did contend, and did the victory win, O give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to conquer sin.

As Thou did hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, To die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy Word.

And through these days of penitence, and through Thy passion tide, Yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us, abide.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*) 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.**  **Connor Strain** 

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.

HYMN No. 801a (see p. 8) The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) God of us all, Sometimes we use labels like "lost" and "found" to declare people "out" and "in." We like to create clean categories, but you remind us that the truth is every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found. We all belong to you, and there is room for all of us.

## A TIME OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

God, if you are a shepherd who never stops seeking, let us be willing to be found - no matter how lost we feel. You are never far away. Forgive us for forgetting this good news. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (responsive)

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.

#### \*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Hymn 447 We are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (2x)

#### WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 15:1-7

SERMON

Jackie Cummings

#### WE RESPOND WITH DEDICATION

\*HYMN No. 173

A Woman and a Coin

The choir will sing the first verse. All are invited to join in singing beginning with the second verse.

#### OFFERING of GIFTS

Reflect on your response to the work of Christ in the world today, and consider making a commitment of time, talents, and resources. Online giving is available. See the announcements for more information.

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Praeludium Super Picardy

Kristin Savicki

Old Hundredth

by J. William Greene ©Lorenz Corporation, 2020

\*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) God of the lost and the found, You always come for us, and now we come before you, with everything we've got. We offer you our time. We offer you our talent. We offer you our treasure. We give it all with our thanks for keeping up the search. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Throughout Lent we will celebrate the Lord's Supper, also known as the Eucharist. All who wish to partake in Christ's table are warmly invited to join.

For those who prefer, communion will be served directly to your seat. The elements consist of grape juice and gluten-free bread.

All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of age or understanding. (PCUSA Book of Order W-3.0409)

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING God be with you And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to God. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, and everything in between...

Our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

All worshipers are invited to come forward (lectern/left side) or backward (pulpit/right side) by the center aisle, take the bread and dip it into the cup, and return to their pew by the side aisles.

#### ANTHEM

## The Love of God

Austin C. Lovelace Adrienne Tyndall, 1989

Let the love of God, pouring like a flood, Bring purity and peace, Within its depths of quietness are gems that heal and bless, And life that does not cease.

Let the love of God like a lovely bride Arrayed to wed her groom, So bless each heart with joy and grace that love will fill the place, And Christ find heavenly room.

Let the love of God be our staff and rod, Our law from heaven above. And this is God's one great command: to love, and understand That God Himself is Love,

That God is Love.

#### COMMUNION PRAYER

HYMN No. 649 vv. 1,3,5

## Amazing Grace

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION Believe that good news, and go in peace knowing that God is.... **Everywhere.** 

POSTLUDE

## excerpts from The Chariot Jubilee

by R. Nathaniel Dett ©GIA Publications., 2020

Many thanks to Nora Broadhurst Williams and Sadie Knapp for their work livestreaming the service this morning. 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.

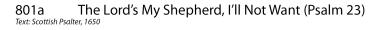
We were incredibly and graciously spared, having no flooding in our house or trees on our roof, so as soon as the storm relented, we headed out to find our friends and family by foot. As we walked through our small town, we found ourselves in a maze-like wasteland, changing our route every other turn 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>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.



<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.







#### LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE. ASK THE USHER IF YOU NEED A COPY.

Worship services at University Presbyterian Church are filmed. While most of the footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. If you have concerns, please speak with one of the ushers who can direct you to locations where being recorded is less likely.

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