WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday March 30th

4th Sunday of Lent

Sanctified Art: Everything In-Between

Theme: Lost and Found

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*SONG OF WELCOME Open Doors

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Our God is a shepherding God.

**P: Our God knows us by name.**

L: Our God will never stop searching for us.

So if you feel lost,

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

L: If you feel found,

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

L: This is the promise of scripture.

**P: This is the promise of God’s love.**

L: Let us worship our with-us God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (liturgist)

L: God meets us in the night—

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

L: God meets us in the light—

**P: 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—

**P: 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, then surely God meets us everywhere—

**P: 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.

**P: Let us worship the God of everything.**

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Jesus Loves Me

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

ANTHEM

TIME OF PRAYER

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

 **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.**

PRAYER HYMN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (liturgist)

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.

\*LESSON Luke 15:1-7 CEB

**All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. 2The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”**

**3Jesus told them this parable: 4“Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn’t he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? 5And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. 6When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost sheep.’ 7In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.**

This is the Word of God for all people.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Lost and Found

\*HYMN Lost and Found

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

L: If God is a painter,

**P: let us be the brush.**

L: If God is a musician,

**P: let us be the song.**

L: If God is an architect,

**P: 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,

**P: let us be willing to be found,**

**no matter how lost we feel.**

L: Our God is never far away.

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

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

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:

**P: 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.**

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*UNISON PRAYER

 Almighty God,

giver of every good and perfect gift,

teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,

that we may praise you not with our words only,

but with our whole lives. Amen.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

**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.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE