

# LOST!

...sheep ...cash ...kids ...

~ Luke 15~



## CELEBRATING THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 7, 2021

**Park Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)**

3520 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock AR

501-753-9533 \* [parkhillpres@gmail.com](mailto:parkhillpres@gmail.com) \* [parkhillpres.org](http://parkhillpres.org)

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Video

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

- 1) Easter Interest Survey, March 28th 2pm outdoor singing service at the Pavilion
- 2) Caregivers Meeting Tuesday the 9th at 1:30pm

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Sandee Pinkstaff

What wondrous love is this? *Love that ate with sinners. Love that welcomed children.*

What wondrous love is this? *Love that searched out the lost. Love that ran to find the missing.*

What wondrous love is this? *Love that died for us. Love that rose for us. Love that still forgives and knows us.*

Family of God, we are in the presence of such wondrous love. Let us worship God.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Virtual Choir) #39

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*For today's prayer of confession, we will pray with our whole selves—mind, body, heart, and soul—through an embodied prayer with movement. I invite you to listen and follow along by actively responding to the prompts Sandee and I give during the prayers. Let us begin with open eyes and an open heart as we are guided through this prayer of confession.*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray: Jesus of Nazareth walked this earth seeing and giving to those in need—the Samaritan woman, the child, the blind man, the Pharisee—yet too often we close our eyes, allowing fear or prejudice to hold us back. If you have ever ignored someone who was in need, please close your eyes.

*Jesus modeled a life of grace, whispering from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Even with his example, we struggle to live lives of grace, often speaking words of hostility and shame over forgiveness or patience. If you have ever dealt harshly with someone, embracing hostility instead of peace, or shame instead of grace, please clench your fists.*

Jesus gave thanks before breaking bread, modeling a life of gratitude before consumption. However, we easily find ourselves in entitled mindsets and habits, taking this earth and God's creation for granted, consuming before caring. If you have ever chosen greed instead of gratitude, or comfort over care, please cross your arms.

*Jesus said from the cross, "Behold your son; behold your mother." It was a reminder that we belong together, as all of us are made in God's good image. However, too often we forget that we are worthy of belonging, denying God's image in ourselves or others. If you have ever been ashamed of who you are, or have denied the divine image in another, bow your head.*

Friends, this is what sin feels like—being cut off from others, closed off from the world, left in the dark, alone and disconnected from God. However, God knows us and loves us. Like a mother with her children, God will not abandon us! Thus, if you have ever seen someone in need and responded with care, open your eyes. (pause)

*If you have ever seen God in another, or trusted God’s promise that you are worthy of love, lift your head. (pause)*

If you have ever chosen forgiveness and grace over hatred and hostility, unclench your fists. (pause)

*And if you have ever chosen gratitude over entitlement, or willingly made a sacrifice for the care of someone else or God’s creation, uncross your arms now. (pause)*

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”#435

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.  
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If your eyes are still closed, open them. If your head is still bowed, raise it. If your fists are still clenched, release them. If your arms are still crossed, uncross them, for God’s grace is for all of us no matter who we are or what we’ve done or left undone. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: this is what the kingdom of God feels like—eyes open, heads up, connected and united in grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
*Thanks be to God! Amen.*

SHARING AND HEARING GOD’S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

LESSON

Luke 15:1-32

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

3 So he told them this parable: 4 “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? 5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7 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.

8 “Or what woman having ten silver coins,<sup>[a]</sup> if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

11 Then Jesus<sup>[b]</sup> said, “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with <sup>[c]</sup> the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

17 But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’<sup>[d]</sup> 22 But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have

been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fat-ted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father<sup>[e]</sup> said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

SERMON Rev. Marie Mainard O’Connell  
COMMENTARY by Mitzi J. Smith with [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org)

OFFERTORY Annabel Stavey  
“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER  
*Please follow along in this responsive prayer, saying aloud the words in bold.*

God of the search and God of the celebration, God of extravagant welcome,  
we give you thanks for your grace that leads us home, for your persistence that makes us whole,  
for your love beyond measure.

We remember this day those who have been left outside, feeling forgotten, pushed aside, left behind. We pray for the day when no one is considered expendable, the cost of doing business. We pray for when we can sing “all are welcome” and mean every word.  
We ask your comfort to surround those for whom no one is out looking,  
and those from whom we turn away our eyes. May they know true inclusion and hope.

We remember this day those who are so reliable we forget to notice them,  
and we give thanks for their steadfast faithfulness. We pray for strength for all who work behind the scenes, day in and day out, in church, family, community, business, and government. May they be encouraged and upheld by the whole community, and may they know our care for them.

We remember this day those who celebrate, and pray for those who have felt they must rejoice quietly, in the midst of a painful time, and for those who long for joy yet find none. May we truly be your body, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. Help us to pray as Jesus did, saying...

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, And the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

MOMENT FOR MISSION Vera Lloyd video

GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS AND TITHES  
We serve the Lord with freedom and we worship God with joy. In freedom and joy, let us present the offerings of our lives to the Lord. You may choose to give by mailing your offerings to the church, or giving online. Your gifts maintain our ministries, and make help to others possible. If you know of someone in need—physical, financial, emotional or spiritual... especially if it is yourself, please speak with our pastor or the elder for Congregational Care, Mary Henry.

Doxology video  
“A Lenten Doxology”  
**Praise God throughout these forty days. Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spirit who imparts God’s love in Christ into our hearts.**

Prayer

HYMN OF SENDING #215  
“What Wondrous Love Is This ”  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul,  
for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb,  
I will sing; To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while  
millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!

PASSING THE PEACE  
Please “pass the peace” in a phone call, letter, or text, saying to someone else,  
“May the Peace of Christ be with you.” “And also with you.”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION  
**“The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD’s face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”**

POSTLUDE