



ORDER OF WORSHIP
4th Sunday in Lent

Shelby Presbyterian Church
March 30, 2025
10:00 a.m.

*Please rise as you are able.

PRELUDE: *"O Sacred Head"* (arr. Krug)
"The Wondrous Cross" (arr. Krug) Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Drew Mangione

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 34:2-4, 6, 8) Cathy Burns

We find our glory in the Lord – let the afflicted hear and rejoice!

Let us glorify the Lord together and exalt the name of the Lord!

The one without status, wealth, or worth calls out and the Lord hears!

The Lord saves us from our troubles, our anxieties, and fear.

Taste and see that the Lord is good –

Blessed are all who take refuge in the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN #401: *"Gather Us In"*

CALL TO CONFESSION Cathy Burns

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Lord God, like the younger son, too often we leave you behind. We seek love through the worldly things that do not save us. Or like the older brother, we stay close, but we act as if your love is a limited resource, which we accept but do not share. We resist transformation with excuses for our own sin in comparison to others. Forgive us, Lord, make us like the father, and help us to love as you love, freely and without reservation. Amen. (silent confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, believe the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*GLORIA PATRI (sung): ***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.***

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The Peace of the Lord be with you! **And also, with you!**

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Carol Ann Hoard

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cathy Burns

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Psalm 32

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone" Peter Moore

(Song by Chris Tomlin) Lyrics (Hymn #649) and Refrain (below)

My chains are gone, I've been set free

My God, my Savior has ransomed me

And like a flood His mercy reigns

Unending love, amazing grace.

SECOND SCRIPTURE:

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Drew Mangione

SERMON

Struggling with Grace

***RESPONSIVE HYMN #415: "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)**

We believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 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.

CALL TO PRESENT TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory: *"Alas and Did My Savior Bleed"* (arr. Scholes) Handbell Choir

Directed by Peter Moore

DOXOLOGY (sung): *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN #22: *"God of the Sparrow"*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Drew Mangione

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: *"These Forty Days"* (Moser)

Chancel Choir

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

Lena Kate Dow

*POSTLUDE: *"Toccatà in e minor"* (Pachelbel)

Emily Monroe

Music Licenses: 1575277 (CCLI)/ A-739540 (One License)

Sound Board: David Grose & Joe Petrilli

Scriptures read in service are original translations, unless otherwise noted.

Feel free to read a familiar translation and listen for different word choices.

CHILDCARE is available for infants through preschool in Room 102, staffed by Lilly Hamilton and Maggie Hohne

In order to protect your children, please be sure they are accompanied at all times by a parent or responsible adult caregiver.

WE WELCOME all who worship with us this morning. If you are interested in more information or in becoming a member of our family of faith, please call the church office, 704-487-8503. If you have questions about our hearing loop system, please call the church office Monday-Thursday, 9:00-4:00, Friday 9:00-12:00. **After the service, all first-time visitors are invited to the back of the church where a church member will welcome you with a special greeting and gift.**

THE FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Dr. George Cribb by his family.

THANK YOU to the Handbell Choir for leading in worship today: Julie Bryan, Catherine Couch, Thomas Couch, June Hobbs, Anne Langley, Jennifer Niblack, Brett Niblack, and Lori Wehmueller; Emily Monroe, Director and Peter Moore, Choral Scholar

HEN AND ROOSTER PARTY to stuff eggs will be Monday, March 31st at 10:00 am in the Conference Room.

THE EASTER EGG HUNT is Sunday, April 6th at 2:00 at the home of Beverly Elmore (121 Lakemont Dr.) **Youth** need to meet at 12:30 to set up.

THIS WEEK (MARCH 30 – APRIL 5, 2025):

Sunday	5:00 pm	Youth Night in Youth Room	
Monday	9:30 am	Food Ministry in Ellis Hall	
	10:00 am	Hen & Rooster Party	
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 100 in Scout House	
	8:00 pm	AA in Ellis Hall	
Tuesday	10:30 am	Staff Meeting in Ellis Hall	
	7:00 pm	Worship & Music in Back Parlor	
Wednesday	12:00 pm	Lenten Lunch Service at Aldersgate UMC Rev. Eddie Padgett Menu: Chicken Chili w/Cornbread	
	5:40 pm	Growing in Grace children eat supper	
	6:00 pm	Wednesday Night Supper in Ellis Hall	
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room	
	Thursday	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast at Ken and Mary's
		11:00 am	Member Life in Back Parlor
Saturday	8:00 pm	AA in Ellis Hall & Al Anon in Back Parlor	
	1:00 pm	Ellis Hall Reserved until 5:00	

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER: In January, your Session at SPC voted to renew our partnership for five years with our Guatemalan sister church Monte Los Olivos. We continue to pray for our sister church and provide funds for scholarships so that the children of this church can get an education. On April 2, the Guatemala Partnership Education Committee of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be joining us to share their experiences in Guatemala on March 20-27. We will be among the first to hear about this important trip. To celebrate, the menu will feature a traditional Guatemalan chicken stew, known as "Pepian de Pollo," which will be served over rice. This dish is gluten-free and tree-nut free, made with pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, dried peppers, tomatoes, and chicken. It's flavorful, but not spicy hot. Still, for the less adventurous, we will also have cream of chicken stew over rice available.

WANT TO HELP US BROADCAST OUR WORSHIP SERVICES? Each Sunday, it takes 2 volunteers to run the system to broadcast our message online and control the sound in the sanctuary. We could use a few more dedicated individuals willing to serve in this important role, and we'll teach you how! **No experience required!** Contact Media Chair Mystie Brotherton for more information, or sit with the AV operators in the balcony during worship to see what it's like.



LAST DAY TO ORDER EASTER LILIES: Will you help decorate the sanctuary with lilies for Easter Sunday? Each lily is \$15 and you can dedicate it in honor or memory of someone you love. After the Easter service on April 20th, you can take your lily home. Orders are due **TODAY**. Please use the order form below with your check payable to "Shelby Presbyterian Church" and drop it in the offering or at the church office.

I (We) would like _____ lily (or lilies) placed in the church on Easter.
Enclosed is \$_____ (**\$15 each** payable to SPC).
In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

By _____

REMEMBER IN PRAYER (also see ongoing prayer list in newsletter) . . .

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Margaret Almeida and family in the passing of her husband Tony on March 26, 2025.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Trip Boinest and family in the passing of his stepson Joseph McCraw on March 27, 2025.

Lyric Atkins, John Auten, Sid Bridges, JoAnn Callahan, Hannah Carpenter, Karen Carpenter, Myra Carpenter, Sandy Carpenter, Conway Carter, Rylan Carter, Lou and Judy DuBois, Al Eatmon, Debbie Ferrell, Tim Hamrick, Ina Harrington, August Hohne, Joan Hunt, Kevin Jones, Chuck Laughlin, Doug Little, Yvonne Couey Miller, Pauline Persing, Clay Pruett, Susan Reed, Lin and Blannie Robinson, Dot Roark, James Salvator, Larry Stern, Bill & Patty Thorne, Tiffany Timson, Amanda Warfield, Jackie Weathers, Jack Weller, Teresa Wingo, our homeless neighbors; victims of natural disaster and war, including in Ukraine and Gaza; all in military service and families; Food Ministry; Turning Point Academy, Rainbow Connection, our sister church, Monte los Olivos; Tenwek Hospital; John McCall in Taiwan; Christians worldwide persecuted for their faith.



Have you ever taught a child to hold their fingers inside their hands and say the rhyme, “here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people?” The wiggling fingers teach children, and adults, too, that the church is

not the building – the steeples, windows, or structure – but people gathering to worship God.

There’s something else in the children’s rhyme. As the child breaks open their hands to reveal the people, they move their fingers back and forth, often as fast as they can. This simple move reminds us that the church is the energy and actions that share the love of Christ.

- When disaster strikes, people give, volunteer, and pray so that those impacted receive help and hope, ***this is church.***
- When poverty and violence cause hunger and people join together to respond to the need and address its root causes, ***this is church.***
- When injustice falls on those who are vulnerable and people join hands with one another and lift their voices against the interests of power, ***this is church.***

The church is the Holy Spirit’s transforming power emanating into the world sharing the compassion, justice, love, and peace of Christ. Presbyterians join the movement of the Spirit into every corner of the Earth – and in this season, through our church-wide **One Great Hour of Sharing.**

We share – and church happens with women who were once trafficked for domestic labor and now own their own cooperative business.

We share – and church happens with people through land rights training and improvements to farming methods.

We share – and church happens with those whose homes have been washed away by flood, as the arms of comfort wrap around them, and hands pick up shovels to assist.

Join us for One Great Hour of Sharing [Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025.](#)

You can also mail your donation in and put “One Great Hour” in the memo line.