



ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Shelby Presbyterian Church
March 27, 2022
10:00 a.m.

*Please rise as you are able.

PRELUDE: *"Wondrous Love"* (arr. Wood)

Emily Monroe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drew Mangione, Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Margie Trivett

Overjoyed are those who find their sin is forgiven, covered.

Our joy is great when the Lord is merciful, forgiving our iniquity.

The Lord instructs our paths, guides us and keeps watch over us.

Faithful love embraces all who trust in the Lord! Let us rejoice!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #1: *"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Margie Trivett

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. 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 Margie Trivett
The Peace of the Lord be with you! **And also, with you!**

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN Susan Carlisle Bell

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Margie Trivett
Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power of your Word, that we may see the world through the mind of Christ and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Margie Trivett

ANTHEM: *"Lenten Sanctus"* (Dengler) Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32 Susan Carlisle Bell

SERMON: "The Father's Love"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #:774 *"There Is Now a New Creation"*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Romans 8:1-4): **We believe there is no condemnation for those who walk in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**

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: *"Near the Cross"* (arr. Callahan)

*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 #802: *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* verses 1-4

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*POSTLUDE: *"Chorale"* (Gordon Young) Emily Monroe

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

Sound Board: Patrick Glenn

Ushers: Joyce Couey, Debra Haddock, Caja Ormand

Acolyte: Foster Warrick **Chimer:** Kesson Warrick

Childcare is available for infants through Kindergarten in

Room 102 and is staffed today by Tricia Butler and Holly Conner.

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 gift.**

GIVING THE MESSAGE on the Prodigal Son today is Susan Carlisle Bell, Art Professor Emeritas from Gardner-Webb University. She has a Masters in Christian Education. Susan enjoys combining her love of art and Scripture, both of which require an understanding of context as well as close observation of the work or passage itself. At Shelby Presbyterian, she has taught Senior High, Women, and Children's classes and painted the "Jesus and the Children" mural. She led a monthly Bible study called First Thursday for over 25 years and is a frequent speaker and workshop teacher. Susan has studied in over 40 museums in the States and abroad and her artwork can be viewed at Buffalo Creek Gallery. She is Meme to Elizabeth, John, Daniel and Anna Schwappe.

THESE DAYS devotional books for April-May-June are available in the narthex. Please take one for your family.

ACOLYTES AND CHIMERS: If your child is interested in being the acolyte or chimer for the worship service, please sign them up through the link: <https://bit.ly/2022acolytechimes>

USHER OPPORTUNITY: The Deacons are looking to have a mix of long-time and newer members to welcome everyone on Sunday mornings. To see the slots available and sign up, use this link: <https://bit.ly/2022ushers>

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE are partnering with Rainbow Connection Preschool in collecting food for Feeding Kids Cleveland. For the month of March, the Mission and Ministry Committee are asking for syrup donations. There is a table under the Elder and Deacon mailboxes where you can leave your donations. Thank you for your support!

EASTER CANDY: This year's Easter Egg Hunt is Sunday, April 10th, please bring candy to the office by Monday, April 1st. Thank you!

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE is held each Wednesday of Lent at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, at 12:00 in the sanctuary. The speaker this week is Rev. Candy Wilson, Aldersgate UMC.

THIS WEEK (MARCH 27 - APRIL, 2022):

Today	11:15 am	Bell Choir Rehearsal in Bell Room
	5:30 pm	Catechism & Confirmation in Youth Room
Monday		SENIORS – Scholarship Applications Due
	1:15 pm	Staff Meeting
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 100 in Scout House
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Lent Series on Mary Magdelene in Ellis Hall
	6:00 pm	Kids Wednesday Night

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS: Our Fellowship Committee would like your input on SPC Wednesday Night Supper. Please submit your opinions before April 3rd using the link: <https://forms.gle/CaFXTpFcGenPhGof6> Contact Elizabeth Schwappe 704-477-5686 with any questions about this form.

SPC FAMILY REUNION: Join your church family for a time of spiritual renewal and fellowship! Enjoy a weekend of activities together in a beautiful, relaxing setting. The weekend kicks off with dinner of Friday, September 16th and concludes after worship on Sunday, September 18th. For more information please take a brochure in the narthex.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER (also see ongoing prayer list in newsletter) . . .
Judy Becton, Myra Carpenter, Karen Carpenter, Lou DuBois (Sue Breen's brother), Debbie Ferrell, David Kelley, Jane McBrayer, Rick Steeves, Byron Wade, and the homeless of Cleveland and Gaston counties; the victims of Ukrainian conflict; all with COVID and those on the frontlines in healthcare; victims of natural disasters and war; all those serving in the military and their families; Food Ministry; Rainbow Connection; Our brothers & sisters of Monte los Olivos; John McCall in Taiwan; Christians around the globe who are persecuted for their faith.

The Prodigal Son

Rembrandt



The Prodigal Son – in the Key of F

Timothy E. Fulop

Feeling footloose and frisky, a featherbrained fellow forced his father to fork over his farthings. Fast he flew to foreign fields and frittered his family's fortune, feasting fabulously with floozies and faithless friends. Flooded with flattery he financed a full-fledged fling of "funny foam" and fast food.

Fleeced by his fellows in folly, facing famine, and feeling faintly fuzzy, he found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy foreign farmyard. Feeling frail and fairly famished, he fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from the fodder fragments.

"Fooey," he figured, "my father's flunkies fare far fancier," the frazzled fugitive fumed feverishly, facing the facts. Finally, frustrated from failure and filled with foreboding (but following his feelings) he fled from the filthy foreign farmyard.

Faraway, the father focused on the fretful familiar form in the field and flew to him and fondly flung his forearms around the fatigued fugitive. Falling at his father's feet, the fugitive floundered forlornly, "Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favor."

Finally, the faithful Father, forbidding and forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged the flunkies to fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.

Faithfully, the father's first-born was in a fertile field fixing fences while father and fugitive were feeling festive. The foreman felt fantastic as he flashed the fortunate news of a familiar family face that had forsaken fatal foolishness. Forty-four feet from the farmhouse the first-born found a farmhand fixing a fatling.

Frowning and finding fault, he found father and fumed, "Floozy and foam from frittered family funds and you fix a feast following the fugitive's folderol?" The first-born's fury flashed, but fussing was futile. The frugal first-born felt it was fitting to feel "favoured" for his faithfulness and fidelity to family, father, and farm. In foolhardy fashion, he faulted the father for failing to furnish a fatling and feast for his friends. His folly was not in feeling fit for feast and fatling for friends; rather his flaw was in his feeling about the fairness of the festival for the found fugitive.

His fundamental fallacy was a fixation on favoritism, not forgiveness. Any focus on feeling "favoured" will fester and friction will force the added facade to fall. Frankly, the father felt the frigid first-born's frugality of forgiveness was formidable and frightful. But the father's former faithful fortitude and fearless forbearance to forgive both fugitive and first-born flourishes.

The farsighted father figured, "Such fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivity for the fugitive that is found? Unfurl the flags and finery, let fun and frolic freely flow. Former failure is forgotten, folly is forsaken. Forgiveness forms the foundation for future fortune."

Four facets of the father's fathomless fondness for faltering fugitives are:

- 1) Forgiveness
- 2) Forever faithful friendship
- 3) Fadeless love, and
- 4) A facility for forgetting flaws