



# Shepherd of the Valley Methodist Church

604 Seven Mile Road

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## WORSHIP SERVICE MARCH 20, 2022 LOTS OF THINGS CAN BE MEDICINE

Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy, Mary Hunter & Donna Faria  
Acolyte: Paige

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE                      Delbert Collins

### OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, Our Balm, Our Feast we lift our hands and call your name, in need of healing—thirsting and hungry. Your steadfast love is better than life. Open us this day to your nourishment in the songs of the land, in the beauty of the sky— in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

*Please stand in body or in spirit*

**MUSIC**    “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”    United Methodist Hymnal #480

### CHILDREN’S MOMENT

**MUSIC**                      “Good Enough”

### REFLECTION

Leader: In our Gospel scripture today, we will hear about the unproductive fig tree. Oh, the shame of being unproductive! Cut it down! Make room for a more dedicated and hard-working fig tree! Who among us is living up to our fullest potential? The productivity experts these days can diagnose what’s wrong and sell us the antidote in 3 amazing sessions for a low-low price that is guaranteed to turn our lives around. But the gardener offers an alternative medicine—nurture it slowly, letting it soak in the manure all around until it can get the good stuff out of it. Lying fallow and



## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord, these gifts are not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Isaiah 55:1-9**

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

### **Psalms 63**

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I

think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD-**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**SERMON**            “Quench Our Thirst, Oh God”  
                            Rev. Effie McAvoy

*Please stand in body or in spirit*

**MUSIC** “God The Sculptor Of The Mountains” Faith We Sing Hymnal #2060

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Website: [www.sovumc.org](http://www.sovumc.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/shepherdofthevalleyri>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq6OxG9rThiQ9GeUqekdEjQ>

Rev. Effie McAvoy, Pastor  
Sandy Knapp, CLM  
Delbert Collins, Interim Music Director  
Lisa Marciniak, Family & Children’s Coordinator  
Mary Hunter Lay Leader

Worship and Sunday School at 10:00 AM  
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

**VISION STATEMENT**

**We are a multi-generational Christ community  
seeking to sing God’s spirit into the world  
by inviting all, serving all, loving all.**

