



Shepherd of the Valley Methodist Church

604 Seven Mile Road

Hope, Rhode Island 02831

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WORSHIP SERVICE MARCH 27, 2022

UMCOR SUNDAY

WE OFTEN BELIEVE WE ARE THE PROBLEM

Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy, Mary Hunter & Howard Gay

Acoylte: Casey

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Delbert Collins

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, God of Forgiveness, we call out to you and you surround us with deliverance. You love us infinitely more than we love ourselves or others. Open us this day to your counsel, helping us be more merciful, more grace-filled, so that we might rejoice in simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

BY: Worship Design Studio

Please stand in body or in spirit

MUSIC "This is a Day of New Beginnings" United Methodist Hymnal #383

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MUSIC "Good Enough"

Delbert Collins

Leader: Today we will hear how the Prodigal Son lives high on the hog and then famine strikes in the land of his dream vacation. And so he heads home, tail between his legs, expecting that he has lost it all. To his surprise, his extravagant failure is met with extravagant love and grace. We can be pretty hard on ourselves when things don't go as planned. Guilt, shame, and fear of being

seen as a failure can leave us wallowing in the pig pen. Our delusions of a perfectible life keep us disappointed in ourselves. Truth is, life is a big ole risk every single day and facing whatever each day holds is not only good enough, but worthy of love and grace. Do you find yourself being unrealistically hard on yourself? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from the Second Letter to the Corinthians: "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the guilt and shame of our past failings and our present unrealistic expectations. We are invited to rejoice that each day is a new beginning, so that we might enjoy, and not dread, the life before us. And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.

MUSIC "God of the Sparrow"

(choir)

PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

604 SEVEN MILE ROAD HOPE, RI. 02831
401-821-8217 www.sovumc.org/give-now

Please stand in body or in spirit

DOXOLOGY

United Methodist Hymnal #94

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

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah* Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah* I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

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

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. 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. 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. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 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. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 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! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 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. 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.’ 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. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 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. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father^[d] said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 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

Life Restored
Rev. Effie McAvoy

Please stand in body or in spirit

MUSIC “You Are My Hiding Place”

Faith We Sing Hymnal # 2055

CLOSING PRAYER

POSTLUDE

Delbert Collins

Website: 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.**