

INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

I lay my burdens down, Lord. Take my regrets. Grant me peace.

***SCRIPTURE READING Hosea 4:1-3; 5:5-6**

*** OPENING HYMN: #103Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are sinners. And as sinners we suffer. But God seeks our return for restoration and forgiveness.

People: We deserve more punishment than we have received for our sins. But God is so merciful.

Leader: Let us return to God with sincere love and repentance that we may be forgiven and accepted.

People: We commit ourselves to Christ, trusting in God's grace to restore us.

*** Let us pray (Congregation):**

Gracious Lord, whose invitation to return is a continual plea to your wayward children: Reveal to us our waywardness and our superficial expressions of faith that we may return with sincere repentance into the shelter of your love. We pray through Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

*** LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

#128 He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought (vs 1 & 3)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)**

We have been so sincere in our devotion, O God. And then other things occupy our minds, and our love seems like the morning dew which vanishes. Forgive us when our love becomes an outward demonstration of emotion without coming from an inner consecration of our total being. Receive us as children who are torn by sin and heal our lives with your love and grace. Guide us in our devotion that we may be steadfast in our expressions of love. We pray in our Savior's name. Amen.

*** LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

#473..... Lead Me, Lord

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (LUKE 15:7)

Jesus said, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

My friends, experience God's forgiveness and joy-gifts that leads to new life! *(Karin Ellis)*

***SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 15:1-10**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: **“Let’s go and find them”**

*** RESPONSE TO THE WORD: #474 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns**

*** PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

CLOSING HYMN: #402 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (vs 1 & 4)

***DISMISSAL BLESSING**

1st Scripture Reading: Hosea 4:1-3; 5:5-6

Hosea 4:1-3; 5:5-6 (NKJV)

4 Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord *brings* charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. ² By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed. ³ Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

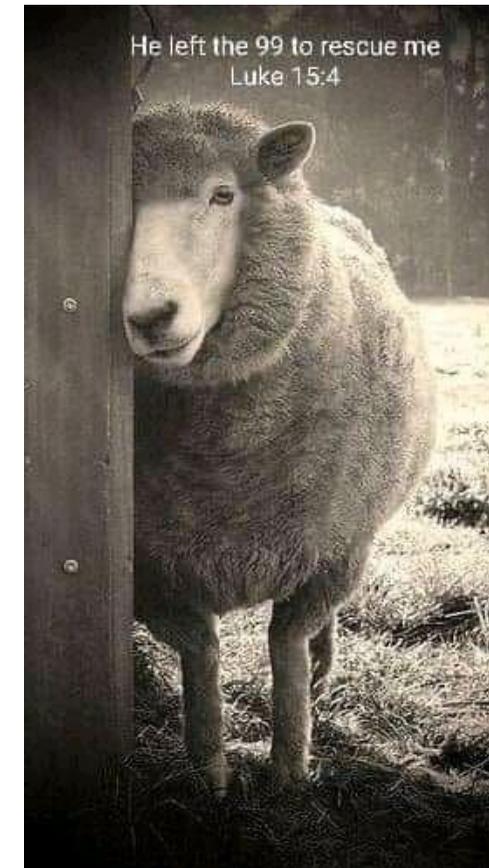
⁵ The pride of Israel testifies to his face; therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them. ⁶ "With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the Lord, but they will not find *Him*; He has withdrawn Himself from them.

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-10

15 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. 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 which was lost!' ⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds *it*? ⁹ And when she has found *it*, she calls *her* friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' ¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."



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