



4th Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community and the world beyond.

**A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Gracious God,
in love you open wide the doors
and welcome us into your presence —
saints and sinners alike.
You spread a table before us,
filled with the richest fare —
a feast of love and mercy
for the body and soul.*

*May your Spirit inspire our praise and thanksgiving,
our prayers and petitions
as we worship together in your presence. Amen.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you! Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church's virtual worship service. We invite you to use these materials in the way that is most meaningful for you. If you are worshiping by yourself, you may choose to read the Leader's (non-bold) lines silently and the People's (**bold**) lines aloud. If you are worshiping with others, you may decide to have one person read the Leader's lines aloud and have all who are gathered join their voices as one on the People's lines. We invite you to play the accompanying video for the elements of worship marked with ☩.

The activity pages included in this packet are provided by Illustrated Ministry. We hope you will print this off for children (and others who enjoy the contemplative practice of coloring) to use during worship!

We hope you will stay connected with our community of faith during this season of social distancing by subscribing to the Weekly Word through the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org), liking us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware>), or following us on Instagram (wpcdelaware).

Let us worship God!

GATHERING

We invite you to play our worship video by following the link posted at www.wpc.org.

☩ CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord Christ, open our eyes
 to see clearly the light of the world.
Holy Spirit, illumine our minds
 to perceive God's glory shining among us.
Almighty God, prepare our hearts
 to see, to trust, to worship the Messiah.

**Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**

**Come, thou incarnate Word,
merciful, mighty Lord,
our prayer attend.
Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
on us descend.**

At this time, we invite you to pause the video and continue worshiping on your own.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God calls us to bear fruit of goodness, justice, and truth.
We know what is pleasing to the Lord,
but we still live in sin's shadow.
Let us strive to live as children of light,
and tell the truth about the ways we have fallen short.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Wonder-working God,
forgive us when preconceived notions
cloud our vision and blind us
to your activity in our lives.
We watch for signs of your glory
in the successful and strong,
in pious acts and answered prayers,
in favorable outcomes and dreams fulfilled.
But you make yourself known in unexpected ways:
in shepherd boys lifted to the throne
and outcasts returned to community;
in death-haunted valleys transformed by your presence,
and ordinary pools made extraordinary by your grace,
through water and mud,
and a table prepared with sacrificial love.
We long for a salve that relieves our stubborn focus
on inconsequential questions,
and for water that heals our blindness
to revelations of your love.
Open our eyes,
illumine our minds,
and prepare our hearts,
to receive your amazing grace.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God, our Shepherd, leads us to restful waters
and restores our souls.
Indeed, goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days
and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now, I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me,
Spirit divine! Amen.

If you would like to reflect upon multiple passages of Scripture, we invite you to choose one or more of the day's lectionary readings to read silently or aloud. These texts are available at: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>. Be sure to select the readings for the fourth Sunday in Lent.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

PSALM

Psalm 23

SECOND READING

Ephesians 8:8-14

At this time, we invite you to continue playing our worship video.

✦ GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

✦ SERMON

"Healing Balm"

Sudie Niesen Thompson

✦ HYMN NO. 649

"Amazing Grace"
Vs. 1, 2 & 5

**Amazing grace,
how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that
grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days
to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

OUR GRATEFUL RESPONSE

✦ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Greg Jones

✦ 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**

✦ SENDING (Hymn No. 541)

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

Vs. 1

**God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

GOING FORTH: OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES TO GOD

With gratitude for the grace we have received, we go forth from worship to offer our time, our talent, and our treasure in service to God. One way we respond to Christ's call is by giving our financial gifts to further God's mission in the world. You may make an online offering to support the ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church by clicking "Donate Now" on the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org).

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14:27). We invite you to share signs of Christ's peace with those with whom you are gathered, or to pass the peace virtually by calling, emailing, or texting siblings in Christ.

PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
Sharon Babcock, Interim Director of Music
Song Leader: Jason Berger
Videographer: Roger Reinicker

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

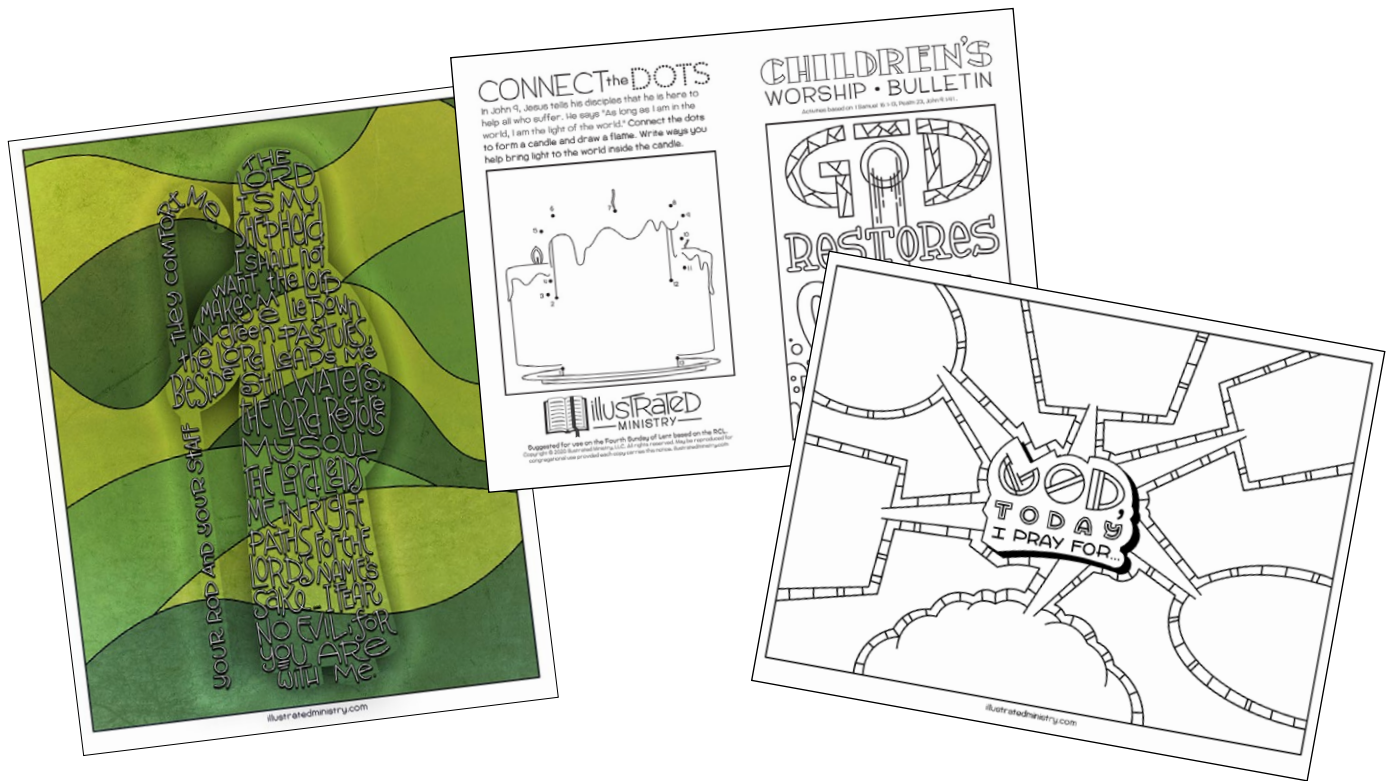
The Preparation for Worship is adapted from a prayer posted on Re: Worship: Scripturally-based Resources for Worship Planners and Leaders (<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/opening-prayer-matthew-22-1-14.html>).

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of God's Forgiveness were written by our own Associate Pastor, the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, and published in: "Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts," Volume 53.1: Lectionary Aids for 2019-2020, Year A, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long (Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)).

The Prayer for Illumination is the first verse of "Open My Eyes, That I May See" by Clara H. Scott, 1895 (No. 451 in *Glory to God*, Public Domain).

We are grateful to Westminster John Knox Press for making available the complete list of public domain hymns included in the *Glory to God* hymnal and to Illustrated Ministry (<https://www.illustratedministry.com/>) for providing free resources for children of all ages to use during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Faith Formation Resources for the Fourth Sunday of Lent





Resources provided by Illustrated Ministry, LLC. illustratedministry.com

Contributors: Alissa Ellett, Arianne Braithwaite Lehn, Corby Ortmann

Concept & Editing: Rebekah Lowe

Illustration + Founder: Adam Walker Cleaveland

Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

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RESOURCES FROM ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY

As the world struggles to adjust to life amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, necessary disruptions are affecting all aspects of our lives. Schools are closing, places of worship are canceling services, sports seasons are being suspended, and we are all adjusting to this new way of life. Illustrated Ministry hopes that these faith formation resources are meaningful and helpful to you.

We will be sending a weekly email during the COVID-19 pandemic which will include faith formation resources for all ages. We will be following the Revised Common Lectionary, and most of the resources will line up with the appropriate texts for each of the Sundays. If this resource was forwarded to you, and you would like to sign up to receive the weekly email in your inbox, you can sign up at: **illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve**

The weekly resource consists of a variety of resources, including children's worship bulletins, devotionals, and coloring pages. There are a variety of different ways you could use these resources at home:

- As a family, put together an order of worship. You can use this as an interactive piece to the scripture reading and message/sermon.
- Use this as an individual or family devotional to reflect on throughout the week.
- Get a group of friends together, color the coloring page and reflect on the scripture passage.
- While you watch your church's virtual worship service, your children can color the coloring page or do the activities in the children's worship bulletin.

We hope you enjoy this resource, and if you have any questions about it, you can always reach us at info@illustratedministry.com. If you want to connect with others and see how they are using our resources, you can also follow us on social media:

Facebook: fb.com/illustratedmin
Instagram: instagram.com/illustratedmin
Twitter: twitter.com/illustratedmin
Pinterest: pinterest.com/illustratedmin

Our Facebook Group is a growing community. If you're looking for ideas and suggestions for using this resource, you can request to join here:
fb.com/groups/illustratedmin

Peace,

The Illustrated Ministry Team

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 22

Describe a time when you've been out in nature, what was peaceful about it, where you were and how it felt to be there.

Note: If you are with a group, have each person take a turn sharing.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 (a Psalm of David)

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.*

Reflection

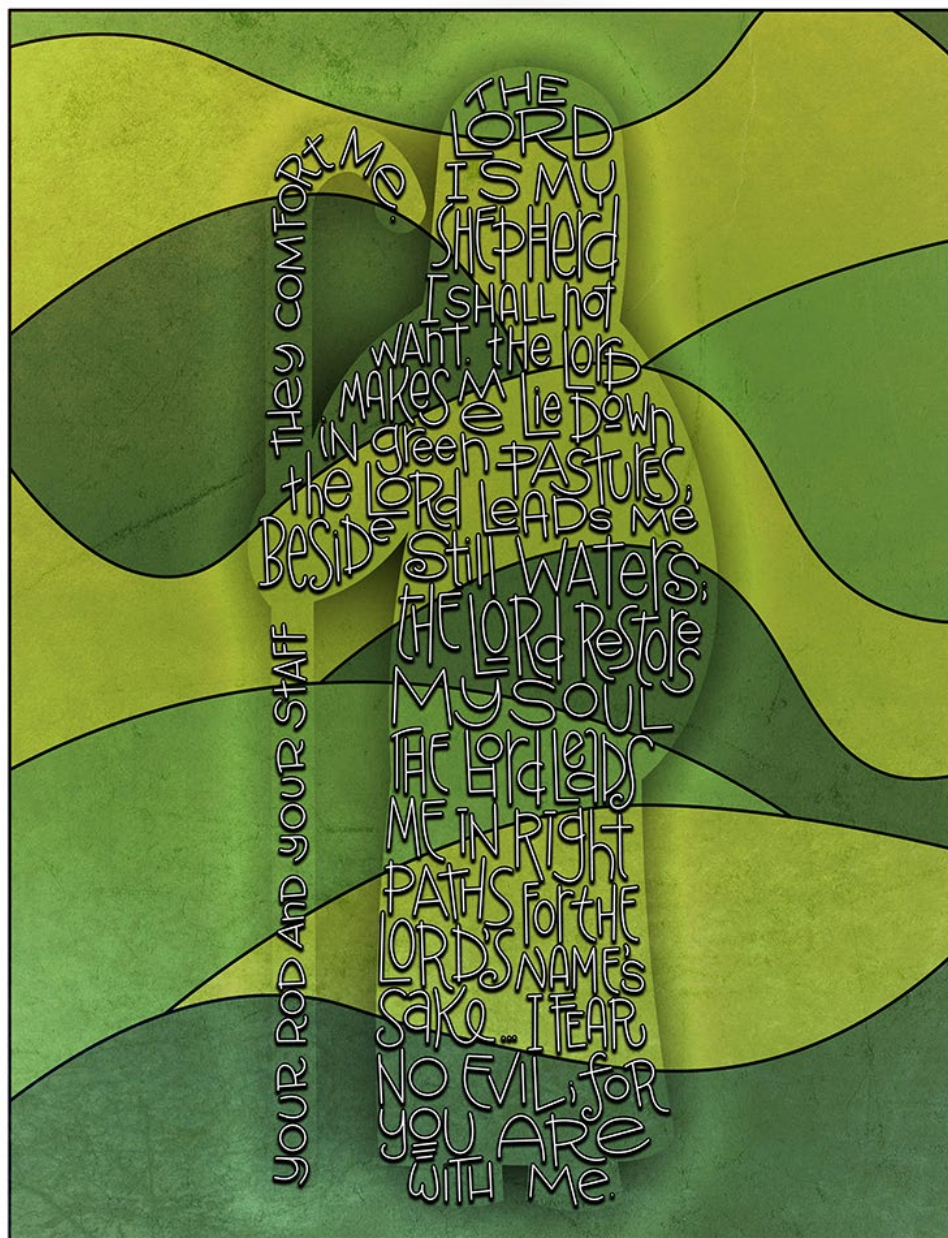
Today's scripture is from Psalms, an entire book of songs and prayers written to God. David, the author of this psalm, wrote many songs and prayers as a way to express his feelings to God about the things that happened to him - good things, difficult things, things he was thankful for, struggles he faced. He also wrote about how aware he was that God was always with him in every situation. He talked about how God has always been with God's people and will continue to be with us.

In Psalm 23, David describes God as a shepherd. Shepherds are like guides who give love, care always, and never leave their flock. He also describes being with God is like the feeling of lying down in a quiet green meadow or like walking by a quiet creek. Spending time with God, as David did, can help us to feel calm and safe when times are troubling, frustrating, and even a bit scary.

When we begin to worry, we can tell God all of our feelings and emotions like David did, because we know God is always with us, no matter what life brings. When we start feeling nervous or afraid, we can think of David's words in Psalm 23 and remember God is like our shepherd, guiding us and with us always.

Discussion Questions

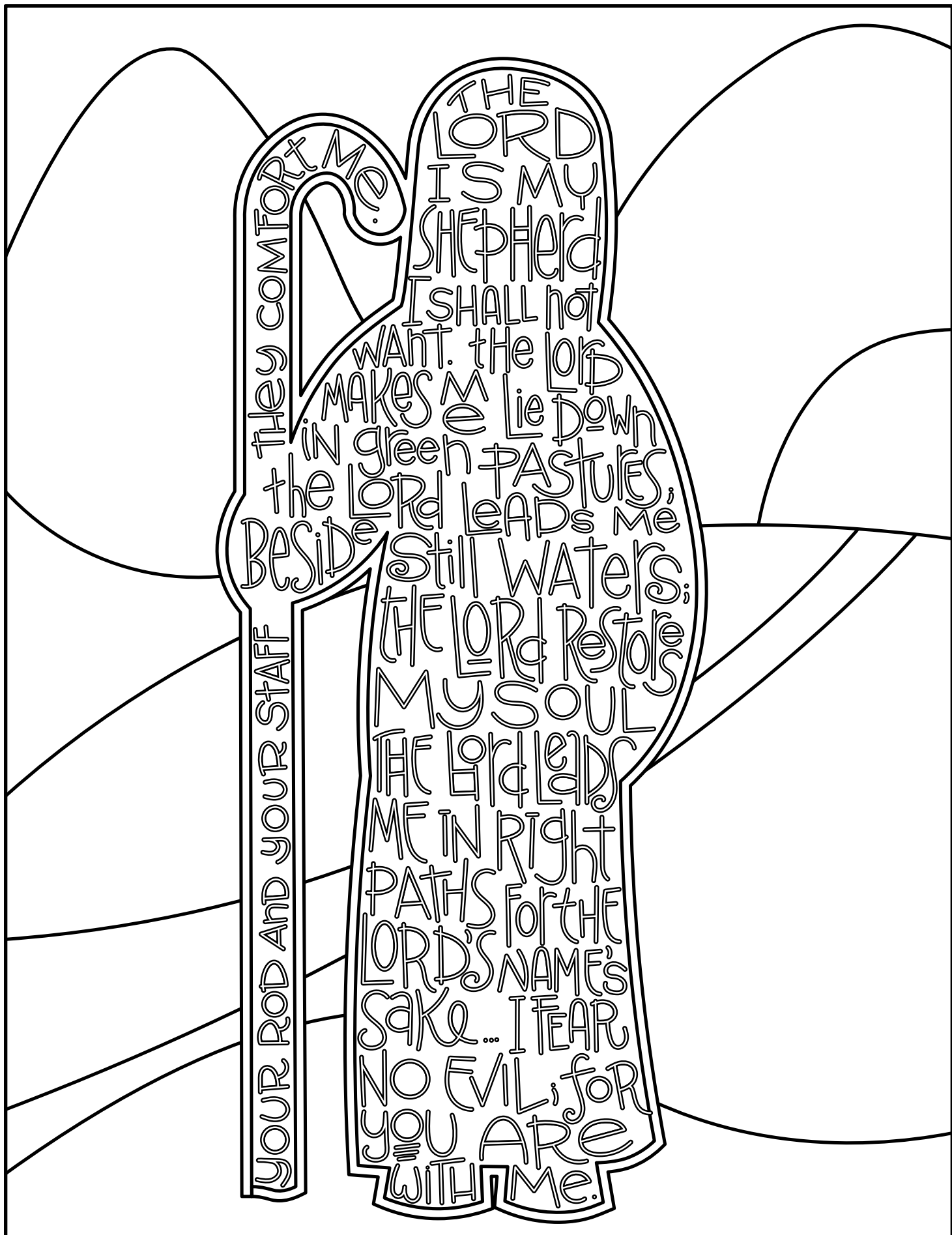
1. What it might be like to lie down in a green pasture? Or to walk along a quiet creek?
2. How do you express what you are feeling?
3. What can these feelings teach us?
4. What things help you feel really calm and safe?
5. How might our relationship with God help us feel calm and safe?



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Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being like a shepherd to us, helping us, and caring for us always. When we feel afraid or alone, remind us that you are always with us. **Amen.**



THEY COMFORT ME
THE LORD
IS MY
SHEPHERD
I SHALL NOT
WANT. THE LORD
MAKES ME LIE DOWN
IN GREEN PASTURES;
THE LORD LEADS ME
BESIDE STILL WATERS;

YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF

THE LORD RESTORES
MY SOUL
THE LORD LEADS
ME IN RIGHT
PATHS FOR THE
LORD'S NAME'S
SAKE... I FEAR
NO EVIL, FOR
YOU ARE
WITH ME.

PSALM 23 ACTIVITY

Write out your own version of Psalm 23 or draw out your own scenes of what Psalm 23 means to you.

Psalm 23

(translation from *The Inclusive Bible*)

YHWH, you are my shepherd
I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in
green meadows;
You lead me beside restful waters:
You refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures
For the sake of your Name.
Even if I'm surrounded
by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger,
for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff,
They give me courage.
You spread a table for me
In the presence of my enemies,
And you anoint my head with oil
My cup overflows!
Only goodness and love
will follow me
all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in your house,
YHWH,
For days without end.

PSALM 23 • LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina is a way of prayerfully reading scripture that slows you down, creates space to listen, reflect, and respond to God as you center yourself on a scripture passage. This practice can be done by yourself or in a group and at your own pace. You can use the inclusive language translation provided or any translation you enjoy.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 – a Psalm of David

(translation from *The Inclusive Bible*)

*YHWH, you are my shepherd, I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in green meadows;
You lead me beside restful waters: you refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures, for the sake of your Name.
Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff, they give me courage.
You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies,
And you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in your house, YHWH, for days without end.*

Lectio Divina

Prepare to listen. Find a comfortable sitting position and take a few moments to prepare your heart, mind, body, and soul to listen to the Word of God. This might mean doing some breathing exercises to quiet your mind and slow your body down, lighting a candle, or saying a prayer.

Slowly, read Psalm 23 aloud. Notice any words, phrases, sentences that stand out to you or resonate with you now. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

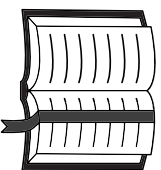
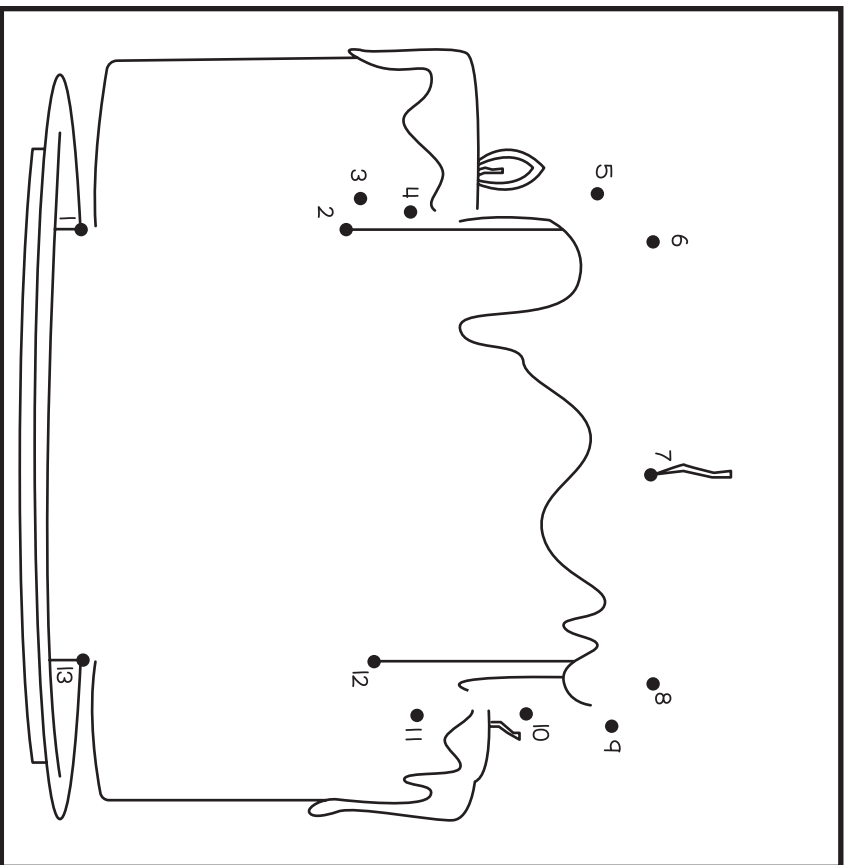
Read Psalm 23 aloud again. Draw your focus to the words, phrases, or sentences that stood out to you. Reflect on and be curious about why they resonate with you. You can even write or color in the phrases on the provided coloring page. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

Read Psalm 23 aloud again. As you hear the words, phrases, or sentences that stand out to you, offer up any emotions, feelings, thoughts you have to God as a response of prayer. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

Read Psalm 23 aloud one last time. This time, reflect on what was meaningful to you as you read or listen to the scripture. Allow for a few moments of quiet, and then offer a prayer to God as you end your Lectio Divina time.

CONNECT the DOTS

In John 9, Jesus tells his disciples that he is here to help all who suffer. He says "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Connect the dots to form a candle and draw a flame. Write ways you help bring light to the world inside the candle.

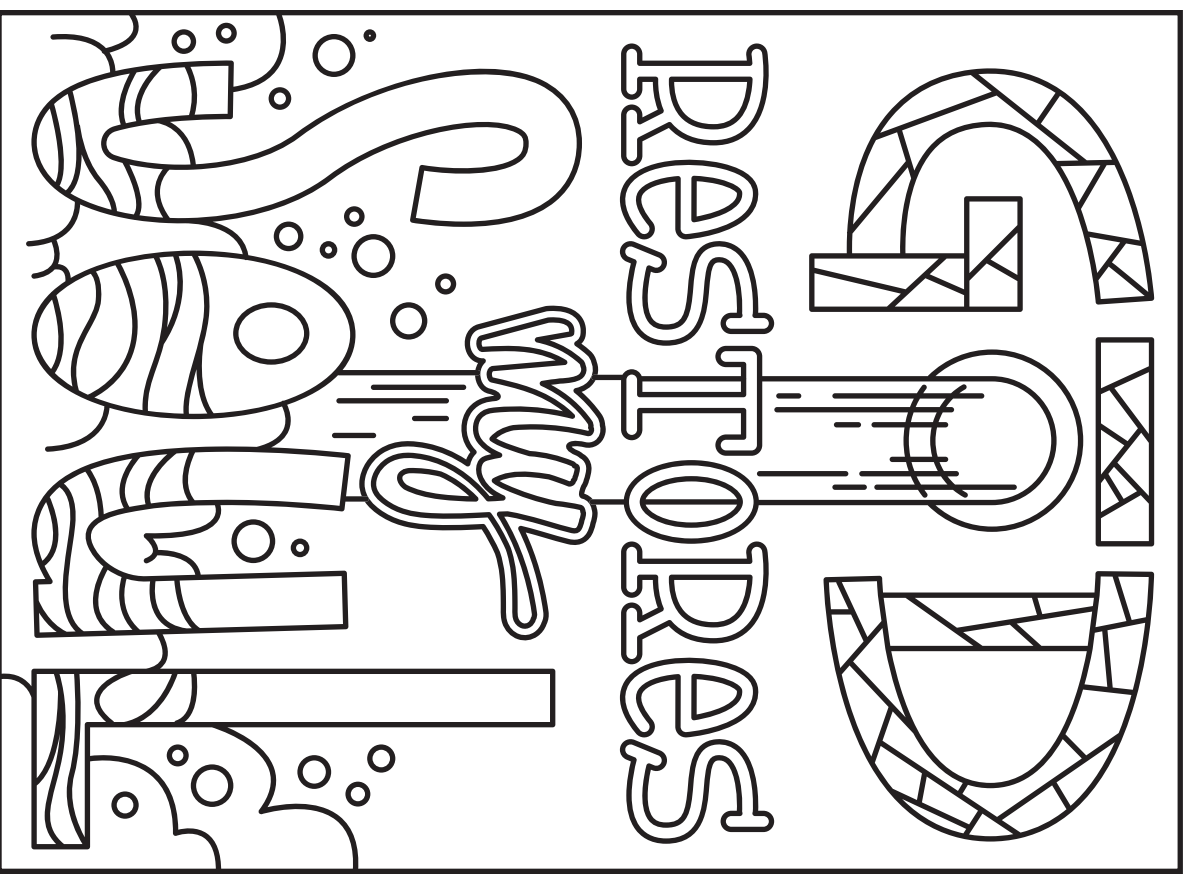


Illustrated
— MINISTRY —

Suggested for use on the Fourth Sunday of Lent based on the RCL.
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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, John 9:1-41.





DRAW IT

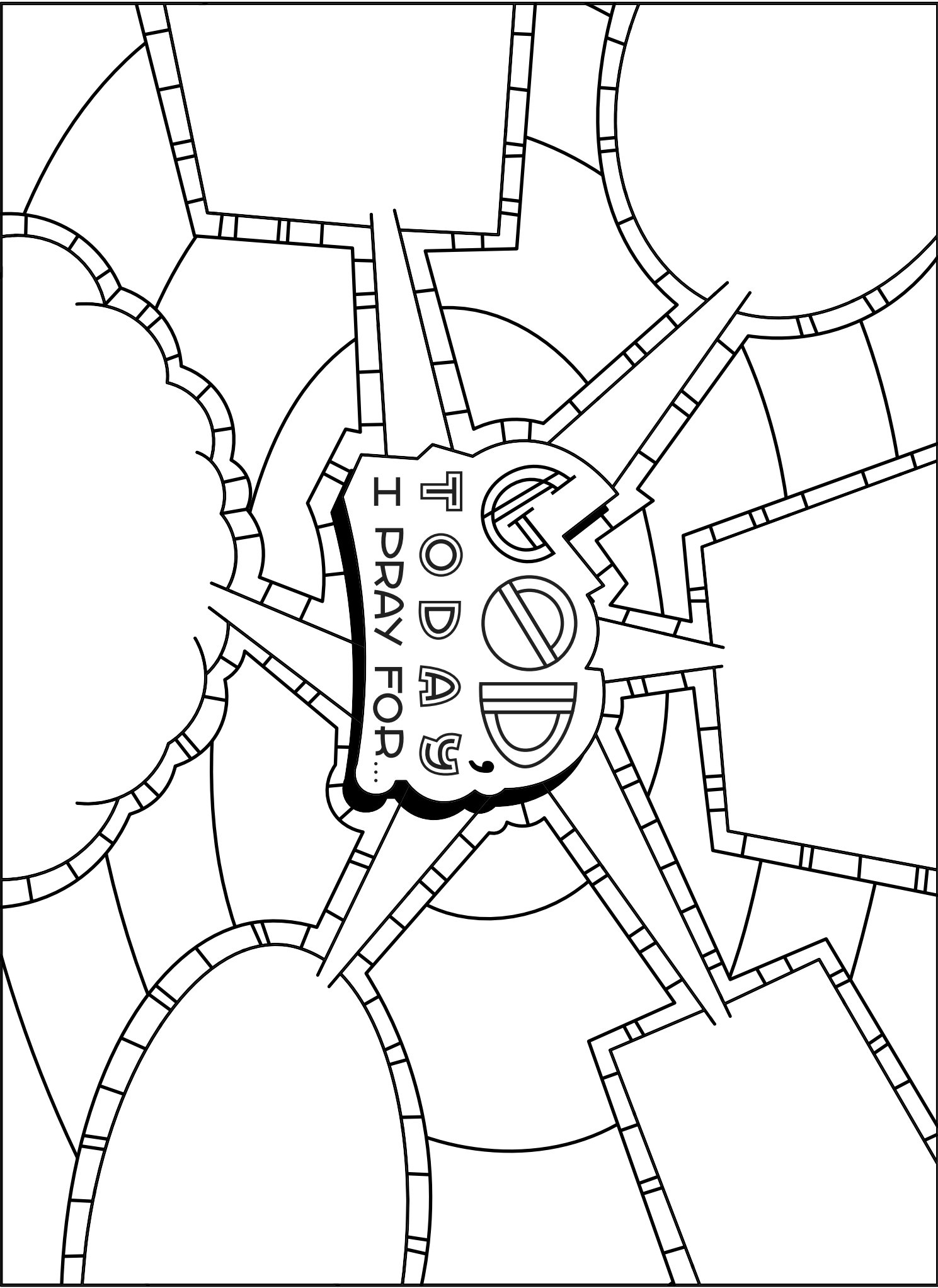
When God tells the prophet, Samuel, that God has chosen a new king, Samuel expects God has chosen one of the strong, older sons of a man named Jesse. But instead, God completely surprises Samuel. God had chosen David, the littlest brother, to be the next king. God doesn't look at outward appearances and what people normally see. God looks at a person's heart. Draw the kind of leader you think God looks for.

WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Psalm 23 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

E K L F F A T S K C V H G F S
G L A U R A V H A J R H F W P
B A I D O V K S K W J F O G Z
M W R H S S Y C L O R D O G S
H C D D Q E U R J U A O O I H
Q F O I L P I R V E D O K D O
L R A A L Y F R M M N D D I W U
F K A H A D L O E K S D D C S
M V I Z T O R S T E N D I M H E
N D L U Y T S E E E E T F C
J D N T A B L E H J C A C Q B
Z Z L J N Z I F X P P T N N Y
Z S R E T A W Y B C E F Z R Y
A B W A F Q D F H X R H M C V
J M I Z T A K U F M Q U S Q Y

LORD	GOOD	TABLE
SHEPHERD	WALK	ENEMIES
MEADOWS	VALLEY	OIL
WATERS	ROD	CUP
SOUL	STAFF	GOODNESS
PATHS	PROTECT	HOUSE





ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

ALISSA ELLETT has worked in ministry for fifteen years, serving in churches across California. She earned her Masters in Christian Education from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Currently based in Fresno, California, when she's not writing curriculum for Illustrated Ministry, she's immortalizing moments and seasons in others' journeys through her photography business, Waypoint Photography (waypointphotography.com).

ARIANNE BRAITHWAITE LEHN is a mother, one half of a clergy couple, writer, and ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church (USA). As a South Dakota native, Arianne originally planned on Law School until God called her to Taiwan where everything changed. She later graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago). She and her family live in Wilmette, Illinois. Arianne is the author of *Ash and Starlight: Prayers for the Chaos and Grace of Daily Life*. You can connect with Arianne and her writing at her website ariannebraithwaitelehrn.com.

CORBY ORTMANN is a digital illustrator and animator, whose work includes caricatures, graphic design, children's books, and animated commercials/music videos. He currently lives in Fargo, North Dakota with his wife and daughter, who help him to step away from the art table every so often. You can find more of his work at www.corbyortmann.com.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

REBEKAH LOWE, a local of Kansas City, Southern California, and Austin, Texas, earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies with a minor in Leadership Studies and a minor in Hebrew at Azusa Pacific University and served as the Director of Children's Ministry at Brentwood Presbyterian Church (USA) in Los Angeles, California, for over five years. She resides in Austin, Texas with her husband and their two daughters.

ABOUT ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY'S FOUNDER + CEO

ADAM WALKER CLEVELAND is an artist, pastor, pastor's spouse, and father of four (two living). Adam is an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and after doing youth ministry for over 15 years, he founded Illustrated Ministry, LLC. He resides in Racine, Wisconsin with his wife and children.