

## Centering

We are talking today about being found. About this church being a community where you can be found, seen, maybe even discovered.

Being found is a good thing.

but the hard truth embedded inside that thought is that we are found—we need to be found—because we are lost.

We—each of us—moves away, over and over again, from the place where we are at home, centered, fully ourselves. Away from God.

Sometimes we do it intentionally; ‘our place’ suddenly confines us, feels tight and limiting.

More often we wander unconsciously. Your head is down, you are focused on something; and suddenly you look up and find that the landscape is unfamiliar.

Perhaps you have tried to find yourself.

Tried to walk quickly in the direction you remember, or toward where you thought you were headed.

And found yourself even deeper in the woods.

The truth is, when we are lost, we cannot find ourselves. We can only be found. And perhaps that is the hardest thing of all: to let go of enough power and control to allow ourselves to *be found*.

In the silence of this moment, I invite you to speak silently—to yourself and to God—the places where you are lost. The ways you have been found.

Jesus said, This is how God sees things: If a shepherd had a hundred sheep, if even one of them wandered away and got lost, the shepherd would leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he found it. When he finds that lost sheep, he is thrilled. He picks it up and puts it on his shoulders, no matter how heavy or dirty it is, and carries it home.

You are never so heavy or dirty or far away that you cannot be carried home.

You are never so lost that you cannot be found.

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