

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

March 22, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

Bold print indicates congregational response.

We acknowledge that our church is on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe. The Puyallup people have lived on and stewarded these lands since the beginning of time, and continue to do so today. We recognize that this land acknowledgment is one small step toward true allyship and we commit to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the Indigenous people of this land and beyond.

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. John Asher

* Call to Worship

Kimmy Wadsworth

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

* Song

“Goodness of God”

(see screen)

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules.

We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice.

We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way.

You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.

You prioritize mercy over legality.

You prioritize people over tradition.

You prioritize love over everything.

Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.

Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.

Forgive us. Soften our hearts.

Root us in mercy, justice, and love.

With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

Church family,

In our scripture today, we will hear how Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our God is a God of mercy.

Our God is a God of compassion.

Our God is a God of grace.

We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.

Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.

Amen.

Song

“Made for More”

(see screen)

Children's Blessing

People: “The Lord be with you!”

Kids: “And also with you!”

Sermon

“Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness”

Rev. John Asher

Scripture

John 8:2-11 & Matthew 23:23 NIV

Hymn # 298

“There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy”
(Choir only verse 1; all repeat verse 1; all verse 2)

(see screen)

Welcoming New Members

Prayers of the People

Hymn # 399

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

Community Life

* Song

“Living Hope”

(see screen)

* Benediction

Rev. John Asher

* Postlude

We live stream each service. By your presence, you agree the church may publish, transmit, or telecast images that may be taken of you for use in communications related to the church. If you prefer to not sit in a visible area, we recommend the section on the right side of the sanctuary when entering. Please reach out to the office with any questions.

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Attribution Notes: Call to Worship & Burden’s Prayer: Written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.



We would love to share with you what’s happening!
Please scan the code and fill out the form to receive weekly email announcements.

The "Grounding" Trees

Artist Statement

During a Worship Team meeting, Pastor John challenged me to incorporate the word "grounding" into our Lenten visual display.

To me, being grounded implies a firm connection with something. I have chosen to highlight the symbiotic relationship between trees and the fungi that is intertwined in their roots beneath the forest floor.

This "grounded" network enables trees to exchange nutrients with and sustain one another. Neither one can survive alone, each one survives through mutual care.

I see this hidden exchange as a reflection of how we take care of each other.

When one is nourished and supported the whole family grows stronger.

The trees will help us visualize how we are rooted together with God's unconditional love and should challenge us to share the Good News and love with families, friends, neighbors and communities.

Like tree roots, we are connected by God's Love and support in many other ways we may not always see.

Each week will bring changes to the trees to illustrate the different facets of the grounding that we will be addressing in the sermon messages on the Sundays of the Lenten Season.

- Valerie Emly