

# Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

March 15, 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

*Susan Boyles*

God loves the field mouse.

**God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.**

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

**God loves the child who rocks and claps.**

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

**God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.**

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.**

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

**There is no bit of creation that God does not love.**

So let us worship this good-news God!

**Amen.**

## \* Song

“Above All”

(see screen)

## Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

**Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

**We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.**

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

**We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

**We confess, we have gate-kept the good news in unfair ways.**

Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

**By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives!

**Amen.**

## Song

"Jesus Loves Me (Allelu)"

(see screen)

## Children's Blessing

People: "The Lord be with you!"

Kids: "And also with you!"

## Sermon

"Protection & Care for the Vulnerable" *Rev. Gary E. Mathiesen*

## Scripture

Matthew 19:13-15 NIV  
Deuteronomy 24:17-22 NIV

## Hymn # 386

"O for A World"  
(women only on verse 3; men only on verse 4)

(see screen)

## Offering

### Special Music

"A Lenten Meditation"  
(Arr. Brett Michaels)

*Shepherd Choir*

## Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

## Prayer of Dedication

## Community Life

\* Song "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" (see screen)

\* Benediction *Rev. Gary E. Mathiesen*

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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.

## *We Welcome All*

**“We welcome all people to worship the living God...”**

**We want to care for, appropriately and effectively, anyone who wants Shepherd to be their spiritual home. This Spirit-led desire feels even more poignant when we consider those who have been disenfranchised, including those in the LGBTQIA+ community, those born in other places or of a different skin color, those experiencing economic hardship, and others.**

**To be inclusive means to accept all people as loved by God. We recognize that all who receive Christ belong in the community of faith. We also recognize and honor the rich complexity and diversity of people God calls to our faith community, including people who disagree with this statement. Though not all may agree, we find our unity in Christ who loves each of us and all of us together.**

**We welcome all people into all parts of the church's life and ministry, including ordained ministry as a Ruling Elder, Teaching Elder, or Deacon. We seek to appreciate the vital worth of each human being, and will intentionally work to provide welcome and inclusion of all people in the life of our congregation.**