

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

~ Service for the Lord's Day ~

January 21, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

Bold print indicates congregational response.

The Prelude to Worship

Sheri Martin

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.

Welcome

Rev. John Asher

* Call to Worship

Susan Boyles

We gather this day, and much is visible:

Our smiles may show our joy; our eyes may speak of pain.

We come to this gathering, seeking signs of the living God:

We may sense something holy here; we may reach out to mystery.

Will we see God today? Will our living make God's love visible?

Let us worship God, Holy Mystery, Eternal Love.

* Hymn # 324

"Open My Eyes That I May See"

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

Susan Boyles

For the sake of ourselves and the world, we start our story with God.

In the beginning is a story, and the story is unfolding.

Jesus of narrative, teller of parables, bless our stories to unsettle our prejudices.

In the beginning is a story, and the story is upending.

Spirit who accompanies, inspire us with breath and boldness to speak our stories.

In the beginning is a story, and the story is unique.

God of unity, draw us together with curiosity and humility because our story is theirs and theirs is ours.

In the beginning is a story, and the story is universal.

We pray for a world relentless in the pursuit of justice, compassion, and kindness.

In the beginning is a story, and the story is unending.

Bless us with childlike imaginations so we can be wild in envisioning the possibilities of peace because nothing holy is tame.

In the beginning is a story, and the story is untamed.

We ask for wisdom to know there is more common ground than we expected.

In the beginning is a story, and the story is unexpected.

We ask for the wisdom to remember no amount of common ground will save us if we believe that difference is dangerous.

In the beginning is a story, the story is uniting.

May we challenge the poisonous narratives that uphold our violence and craft new stories of collaboration.

In the beginning is a story, and the story is the foundation to everything.

Divinity within us all, pour over us the patience and perseverance to hold with respect the experiences of those with whom we disagree.

In the beginning is a story, and the story is yours.

God of love, may we love ourselves enough to own our own stories with confidence and courage.

In the beginning is a story, and the story is mine.

In a violent and divided world, bless our differences to bear fruit rather than arms, for our humanity is bound together and our lives inseparably intertwined.

In the end there's still a story, and the story is everyone's.

In Jesus name,

Amen.

Song

“Thy Word”

CHORUS:

**Thy Word, is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

**Thy word, is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

**When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still you're right beside me.
And nothing will I fear, as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.**

CHORUS

**I will not forget, Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide, and hold me to Your side,
And I will love you to the end.**

CHORUS

Children's Message

Mattie Garcia

Children are welcome to remain in the service or follow the leaders to Sunday School.

Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5

Hebrews 4:12

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Bible is a Weapon”

Rev. John Asher

Song

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Protecting us with staff and rod, and power all prevailing.**

**What if the nations rage and surging seas rampage;
What though the mountains fall, The Lord is God of all,
The Lord of hosts is with us.**

(continued . . .)

**The waters of God's goodness flow throughout the holy city;
And gladden hearts of those who know God's tenderness and pity.
Though nations stand unsure, God's kingdom shall endure;
God's power shall remain, and peace shall ever reign,
The Lord of hosts is with us.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same;
And he must win the battle.**

Moment for Mission

Susan Boyles

Offering

Song of Offering

"I Love to Tell the Story"

(see insert)

* 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

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

(see insert)

* Benediction

* Postlude

Sheri Martin

Attribution Notes:: Call to Worship: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission. Burden's Prayer: "A Litany for Telling Stories to Bridge Divides and Build Empathy" is by author Michael T. McRay, and found in the book Rally: Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice. Music reprinted by permission CCLI#1452675 Music printed by permission One License #A-729350 We livestream 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.