

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

May 4, 2025 – 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.

The Prelude to Worship

Sheri Martin

Welcome

Rev. John Asher

* Call to Worship

Dona Johnson

Come, you who are weary, you who are wondering, you who are waiting—

God meets us here with compassion and calm.

Come with your questions, your longings, your doubts, your praise—

God receives it all and offers grace.

This is not just another morning.

It is a holy beginning, full of promise.

Come, beloved of God—step into this new day,

We come to worship the One who creates, sustains, and restores.

* Hymn # 469

"Morning Has Broken"

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

O God, sometimes the journey is too much; we can't go on, and we complain that we are all alone. Nobody seems to care, not even you. Our strength is gone, and we are ready to give up. In those times, when we are consumed with self-pity and convinced there is no hope, send your Spirit into our hearts to remind us of your sustaining grace. Strengthen us at your Table and by the daily claiming of our baptism as your children. May we go confidently on our journeys, carrying out the mission you have given us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God hears the whispered prayers as clearly as the shouted ones. God meets us in our emptiness and gently restores us. No matter how lost, weary, or uncertain we may feel, we are held in mercy, forgiven in love, and strengthened for the journey.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song "Holy Forever" (see screen)

Children's Message *Rev. John Asher*

Sermon "You Make Your Path by Walking" *Brad Maxa*

Scripture 1 Kings 19:9-13; John 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 12:7b-9a

Hymn # 525 "Here I Am, Lord"

Welcome to the Table *Rev. John Asher*

The 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.

Breaking the Bread

Song "Wherever You Lead" (see screen)

Communion Prayer

Song "Send Me" (see screen)

Community Life

Special Music "Come and Go With Me to That Land" *Shepherd Choir*
(Kendra Friar)

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**

Attribution Notes:

Call to Worship: Written by Pastor John

Burden's Prayer: Adapted from writings by Dr. Tom Cheatham, a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He blogs at The Connection blog. <http://theconnection08.wordpress.com/>

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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.

We Welcome All

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.

(Adopted by Session, October 2020. Updated June 2023)
Shepherd of the Hill is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians.