

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

October 18, 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

Helen Carpenter

Strength is . . .

Commanding the wind and sea to obey,

Strength is . . .

Wielding a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.

Strength is . . .

accepting vulnerability from inside the boat,

Strength is . . .

standing in solidarity with the powerless.

Strength is . . .

turning a cheek,

Strength is . . .

loving an enemy.

We come to worship a God who redefines our vision of strength.

* Song

“Mighty to Save”

(see screen)

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

God of justice, God of mercy, as one we confess our failings: Under the guise of seeking unity, we force uniformity and reject all those who are just too different from us to fit in.

Convict us. Embolden us. Teach us the long road of repentance.

Under the guise of protecting the peace, we enable injustice, Appeasing the majority while the minoritized are thrown aside.

Convict us. Embolden us. Teach us the long road of repentance.

When our violence manifests in hateful words or striking hands, in guns leveled against the oppressed and walls erected against the stranger,

Convict us. Embolden us. Teach us the long road of repentance.

When our violence manifests in words swallowed, in hands tied, Standing by when we should jump in, holding our tongue when we should speak out,

Convict us. Embolden us. Teach us the long road of repentance.

When we do violence to our own spirits by allowing shame, or self-hate, or resentment to smolder unaddressed,

Convict us. Embolden us. Teach us the long road of repentance.

Friends, our remorse is a sign of God's grace already at work within us.

Assured of God's mercy, we are free to seek new ways of being together.

God forgives and redeems us.

Jesus teaches us how to live.

The Spirit revitalizes us for the journey.

Empowered by this good news, let us share God's love with one another.

Song

"Christ Has Called Us to New Visions"

(see screen)

Children's Blessing

People: "The Lord be with you!"

Kids: "And also with you!"

Sermon

"The Cross of Forgiveness"

Rev. John Asher

Scripture

John 11:49-52 NIV

Special Music

"Without His Cross"
(Joseph Martin)

Shepherd Choir

Prayers of the People

Lord this is our prayer/praise.

Lord hear our prayer/praise.

* Song "Give Me Jesus" (see screen)

Community Life

* Song "The Benediction" (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.

CCLI License # 1452675/ Streaming License CCLI#20581555

Attribution Notes: Call to Worship: Adapted from liturgy Katherine Hawker, 1997, and posted on Liturgies Outside. <http://liturgyoutside.net/>

Burden's Prayer: Adapted from a prayer by Avery Arden, as found at binarybreakingworship.com



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

Help Shape the Future of Our Children's & Youth Ministries!

As part of Shepherd's 2026–2027 Vision of Ministry, we are partnering with Ministry Architects for a two-day assessment on November 8–9. Our goal is to strengthen our growing ministries for children, youth, and families by listening to the experiences, hopes, and ideas of our congregation. The assessment will help us identify our three greatest needs and develop a plan for moving forward.

We want to hear from you! Parents, youth, volunteers, and members of the wider congregation are encouraged to participate in a listening session. Your honest feedback will help shape the future of these important ministries.

Sunday, November 8

- 8:30 AM – Children's & Youth Staff Listening Session**
- 10:00 AM – Worship & Sunday School Observation**
- 11:30 AM – Parents of Children & Youth Listening Session**
- 12:45 PM – General Congregation (Everyone Welcome!)**
- 5:00 PM – Youth Ministry Volunteers Listening Session**
- 6:00 PM – Youth Group Event with Listening Session w/Youth**

Monday, November 9

- 12:00 PM – Church Staff & Leadership Listening Session (Hybrid/Zoom Option)**
- 5:00 PM – Children's Ministry Volunteers Listening Session**
- 6:00 PM – God's Gang Observation**

You only need to attend one listening session, even if you fit into multiple groups. Whether you're directly involved in these ministries or simply care about their future, your perspective matters!

Learn more about our Vision of Ministry at sothpres.com/governance.