

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

December 28, 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.

Prelude

Welcome

Janice Duvall

* Call to Worship

Pat Williams

We are here because we have heard a promise of peace

and we have faith its day will come

we have heard a rumour of justice

and we have faith its day will come

we have heard a whisper of hope

and we have faith its day will come

we have heard a hint of love

and we have faith its day will come

we have heard of the birth of the Christ-child

and we have faith his day is here.

Welcome to worship

Let us worship Christ our King!

* Hymn # 40

"Joy to the World"
(Verses 1, 2, 4)

(see screen)

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

Pat Williams

Gracious God, we confess the times we fail to plant seeds of faith in the lives of others; the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours; and the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised. Lord Jesus Christ, we know that when we become disconnected from you, our lives grow parched and unfruitful, and our faith becomes dry. Bless and renew us, we pray, so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places, bearing the fruit of your mercy, your love, and your undying life. In his name, amen.

Hear the good news:

In Jesus Christ, God comes near—
entering our weakness, meeting us in our need,
and offering mercy that restores and renews.

In Christ, we are forgiven, made new, and invited to follow the One
who chose a manger over a throne,
love over power,
and grace over condemnation.

Hallelujah! Amen!

Song

"How Many Kings"

(see screen)

Blessing Younger Congregants

Liam Chynoweth

People: "The Lord be with you!"

Kids: "And also with you!"

Sermon

"Weeds in the Times of Round-Up"

Kathy Johnstone

Scripture

Matthew 13:24-30, Matthew 13:36-43 NIV

Hymn # 44

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

(see screen)

Prayers of the People

Pat Williams

Lord this is our prayer/praise.

Lord hear our prayer/praise.

Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic* Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

*meaning the universal Christian church—all believers in Jesus Christ

Special Music

"Joseph's Song/Mary Did You Know?"

Craig Snider

Community Life

Janice Duvall

* Hymn # 29

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

(see screen)

* Benediction

* 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 writings by Cheryl Lawrie, on her blog [hold this space] <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>

Burden's Prayer: Adapted from writings by Moira Laidlaw, and posted on Liturgies Online. Visit that site for many other lectionary-based worship resources. <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>



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.