

# Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

March 1, 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

*Scott Pantaleo*

Tell me something good!

**God loves you more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.**

This is good news indeed!

**Let us worship our compassionate God.**

## \* Song

"God So Loved"

(see screen)

## Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

**Merciful God,**

**Did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?**

**Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?**

**Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?**

**Or did we cross the street?**

*continued . . .*

**Did we avert our eyes?  
Did we come up with every excuse in the book?  
God, we long to be people who love our neighbors  
with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.  
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.  
Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear  
get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.  
With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray, amen.**

Even when we act with judgment,  
even when we are guided by fear,  
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,  
God does not turn God's back on us.  
So join me in this good-news declaration:  
**We are seen.  
We are forgiven.  
We are invited to try again.  
Thanks be to God for this unending love.**

Song "Jesus Does" (see screen)

Children's Blessing

People: "The Lord be with you!"

Kids: "And also with you!"

Sermon "Great Love" *Rev. John Asher*

Scripture Luke 24:30-35 NIV

Hymn # 335 "Though I May Speak" (see screen)

Welcome to the Table

## 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

## Communion Prayer

## Shepherd Choir

**"Bless the Lord"**  
(Beethoven/Arr. Hopson)

## Mission Team Opportunities

*Sheri Martin*

## Community Life

### \* Song

**"Live Like Jesus"**

(see screen)

### \* Benediction

*Rev. John Asher*

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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: Adapted from writings by Richard Bott, and posted on Sharing Liturgy.  
<http://liturgy.richardbott.com/>

Burden's Prayer: Adapted from What Would the Good Samaritan Do? on the Baylor University website.  
<http://www.baylor.edu/christianethics/HealthStudyGuide6.pdf>



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

# The "Grounding" Trees

## Artist Statement

During a Worship Team meeting, Pastor John challenged me to incorporate the word "grounding" into our Lenten visual display.

To me, being grounded implies a firm connection with something. I have chosen to highlight the symbiotic relationship between trees and the fungi that is intertwined in their roots beneath the forest floor.

This "grounded" network enables trees to exchange nutrients with and sustain one another. Neither one can survive alone, each one survives through mutual care.

I see this hidden exchange as a reflection of how we take care of each other.

When one is nourished and supported the whole family grows stronger.

The trees will help us visualize how we are rooted together with God's unconditional love and should challenge us to share the Good News and love with families, friends, neighbors and communities.

Like tree roots, we are connected by God's Love and support in many other ways we may not always see.

Each week will bring changes to the trees to illustrate the different facets of the grounding that we will be addressing in the sermon messages on the Sundays of the Lenten Season.

- Valerie Emly