

# Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

January 4, 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*

Again and again,

**We come to this space.**

Again and again,

**We gather as a community.**

Again and again,

**We move closer to God.**

And again and again,

**God is here.**

We are met.

**We are heard.**

We are shown the way.

**So again and again,**

**Let us worship our holy God.**

## **\* Hymn # 461**

**"God Is Here!"**

**(see screen)**

## Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

*Helen Carpenter*

Holy God—

We know that you are near,

For you are always here, gathered among us, just a breath away. And despite knowing your nearness, we still stumble over ourselves, unsure of how to pray.

**Bring our hearts into the room.**

So often we talk to you like a stranger,

Praying prayers of small talk about the weather and surface level concerns.

We keep genuine fear and doubt tucked into corners, out of sight, out of mind.

**Bring our hearts into the room.**

And so often we try to think our way to you,

As if we could use logic or our minds alone to explain your great unknown.

We forget what we knew as children; we forget how to feel our way to you.

**Bring our hearts into the room.**

And too regularly, we limit our experience of you to one hour a Sunday,

Missing your constant invitation into the holiness all around us.

Forgive us. Guide us.

**Bring our hearts into the room.**

We are here, God. We want to begin again.

**Bring our hearts into the room. Amen.**

Friends, whether you are standing at the door of a deeper faith journey,

Unsure of what comes next,

Or running your way through that threshold,

You are claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

**Again and again, we are forgiven.**

**Again and again, we are loved.**

**Again and again, we are invited in.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

**Amen.**

Song

“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”

(see screen)

Blessing Younger Congregants

People: “The Lord be with you!”

Kids: “And also with you!”

Sermon

"The Meaning of Life, and Worship"

*Rev. John Asher*

Scripture

Romans 12:1-8 NIV

Song

"Here I Am to Worship"

(see screen)

Ordination and Installation of New Officers

Welcome to the Table

*Rev. John Asher*

Breaking the Bread

Hymn # 513

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

(see screen)

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.**

Communion Prayer

Community Life

\* Song

"You Are My All in All"

(see screen)

\* Benediction

Rev. John Asher

\* Postlude

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Attribution Notes: Call to Worship and Burden's Prayer: Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).



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