

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

December 7, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

**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

Choral/Congregational Introit “Of the Father’s Love”

(Joel Raney)

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

ev - er - more and ev - er - more, Em - man - u - el.

Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent

Jay & Ruth Kennon

During Advent, we wait for the one promised in scripture.

And he will be called Mighty God.

We wait for the one whose power has no limits and whose strength knows no end.

And he will be called Mighty God.

We wait for the one whose everlasting light can illuminate the darkest night.

And he will be called Mighty God.

We wait for the one whose mercy never ends and whose faithfulness endures forever.

And he will be called Mighty God.

Choral/Congregational Response

(see front)

Advent Prayer

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

Anne Bennett

Holy God, hear our prayer. You send prophets and saviors to help us, to save us, to raise us, and our response is to question you. You heal someone's beloved, and we ask, "Why not this one too?" You shower food upon some who hunger, and we complain that our stomachs are growling. Forgive us. Forgive us for our limited sight. Open wide before us the vista of your grace, and the expanse of your love, and the wonder of your healing power. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Beloved of God, hear the good news:

In every wilderness, a voice is already calling.

In every shadow, light is already dawning.

In every place our sight is limited, God's mercy stretches farther still.

Your sins are forgiven; you are free in Christ.

Alleluia! Amen.

Special Music

"Prince of Peace"

Praise Team

Children's Blessing

People: "The Lord be with you!"

Kids: "And also with you!"

Sermon

"Joy that Outlasts Fear"

Rev. John Asher

Scripture

Luke 1:26-45 NIV

Special Music

"The Divine Expectation"
(Joseph Martin)

Shepherd Choir

Welcome to the Table

Breaking the Bread

Hymn #41

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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

Song

"Run to the Father"

(see screen)

Community Life

Song

"Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)"

(see screen)

* Benediction

Rev. John Asher

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: Candlelighting: "Of the Father's Love" arr. by Joel Raney

Burden's Prayer: Adapted from writing by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'.

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The Advent Wreath

The circular shape of the wreath symbolizes the eternity of God, our everlasting life in him, and his infinite love.

Candles represent Jesus as the light of the world. The white candle represents purity, Jesus was without sin. It also represents the true fact that Jesus washes away our sins and makes us whole.

The purple candles symbolize prayer.

Holly leaves represent the crown of thorns Jesus wore when he died for us.

Red berries symbolize the drops of blood that cleanse us from sin.

Pine cones symbolize new life.

The beautiful table was designed and constructed by Bruce Carpenter. The legs of the table are made from the same wood as the spindles on the ramp railing. The top of the table is made in a sunburst pattern of several types of wood, and the center medallion has a carved dove. Many thanks to Bruce from all of us.



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