

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

February 22, 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

“We Are the People of God”
(Joseph M. Martin)

Shepherd Choir

Welcome

Rev. John Asher

* Call to Worship

Dona Johnson

The good news of the gospel is:

**manna in the desert,
water turned into wine,
love after loss,
forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive,
hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing,
and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in.

There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

* Hymn # 263

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

(see screen)

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

Loving God,

somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious.

We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.

We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.

We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.

But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed.

You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder:

Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The

Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.

God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be:

of course, of course, of course.

This is the good news of the gospel.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song

"Good, Good Father"

(see screen)

Children's Blessing

People: "The Lord be with you!"

Kids: "And also with you!"

Sermon

"Surprisingly Good"

Rev. John Asher

Scripture

John 2:1-11 NIV

Song

"More Than Able"

(see screen)

Prayers of the People

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

Community Life

* Song "This Is Amazing Grace" (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: Call to Worship & Burden's Prayer: Written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.



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*