

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

~ Service for the Lord's Day ~

January 28, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

Bold print indicates congregational response.

The Prelude to Worship

Sheri Martin

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.

Welcome

Rev. John Asher

* Call to Worship

Anne Bennett

With friends and strangers, with family and neighbors, we gather:

Come among us, Healing God, with that love which never ends.

With faith reaching out to touch, with hearts straining to trust, we hope:

Come among us, Friend of the broken, with your compassion which makes us whole.

With word and wonder, with silence and song, we wait:

Come among us, Dryer of our tears, to lift us to our feet to follow you.

* Hymn # 464

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

Anne Bennett

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things — our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

Song

“Lord I Need You”

Lord I come I confess, bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart, you're the one that guides my heart

CHORUS:

Lord I need You, oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more, where grace is found, is where You are
And where You are, Lord I am free, Holiness is Christ in me

So teach my song to rise to You, when temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You, Jesus You're my hope and stay

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God how I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Children's Message

Rev. John Asher

Children are welcome to remain in the service or follow the leaders to Sunday School.

Scripture

Jeremiah 8:14-9:1
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Bible is a Critic"

Rev. John Asher

Song

"Run to the Father"

I've carried a burden, for too long on my own
I wasn't created to bear it alone
I hear Your invitation, to let it all go
I see it now I'm laying it down, And I know that I need You

CHORUS:

I run to the Father, I fall into grace
I'm done with the hiding, no reason to wait
My heart needs a surgeon, My soul needs a friend
So I'll run to the Father, Again and again

You saw my condition, had a plan from the start
Your Son for redemption, the price for my heart
I don't have a context, for that kind of love
I don't understand, I can't comprehend
All I know is I need You

CHORUS

My heart has been in Your sights, long before my first breath
Running into Your arms, Is running to life from death
I feel this rush deep in my chest, Your mercy is calling out
Just as I am You pull me in, and I know I need You now

CHORUS

I run to the Father, I fall into grace
I'm done with the hiding, no reason to wait
My heart found a surgeon, My soul found a friend
So I'll run to the Father, Again and again
And again and again, Oh oh, oh, oh
Again and again

Community Life

* Hymn # 436

“We Are Your People”

* Benediction

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We Welcome All

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.

(Adopted by Session, October 2020. Updated June 2023)