

# Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church USA

September 14, 2025 – 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.

## The Prelude to Worship

### Welcome

#### **\* Call to Worship**

*Susan Boyles*

Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters.

**Here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.**

Here, we gather as those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown.

**Here, in this time, we remember all the ways God has graced us.**

Here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

**Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!**

#### **\* Hymn # 461**

**"God Is Here!"**

### Sharing Our Burdens Prayer

We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you wish. It is easy to love you with all that we are, except when you ask us to love our neighbor with all that we have. We find it hard to love our neighbor, and it is difficult to love anyone — even You — more than we love ourselves. Forgive us, Love Eternal. As you took a risk in creating us, help us to take risks to love others compassionately, to love ourselves genuinely, and to love you as completely as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. In his name we pray, amen.

In God's Kingdom, all are loved for who they are, not what they do;  
In God's Kingdom, all are forgiven for what they do, and don't;  
in God's Kingdom, all are welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.  
Forgiven, loved, sent forth— we are not far from God's Kingdom!  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Hymn # 376

**"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**  
(verses 1, 2 4)

Sermon

**"The Person in Front of You" *Rev. Bethany Benz-Whittington***

Scripture

**Matthew 25:31-46 NIV**

Hymn # 386

**"O for a World"**

Prayers of the People

*Ken Emly*

Affirmation – 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

\* Hymn # 343

**"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

Benediction

*Rev. Bethany Benz-Whittington*

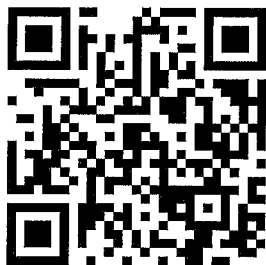
\* Postlude

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.

Call to Worship & Burden's Prayer: Adapted from writings by Thom Shuman.

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