

BRIGHTER DAYS!

in the presence of Jesus, our Lord and Savior

Courtyard Worship

Saturday, April 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 25 at 8:15 a.m.

Livestream Worship

Sunday, April 25 at 10:45 a.m.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

3525 Bee Caves Road Austin, TX 78746

www.shephills.org

4TH WEEK OF EASTER BRIGHTER DAYS

GATHERING MUSIC 5:30 + 8:15 Lisa Boatman

10:45

Morning Has Broken Arr. Malcolm Kogut

CALL TO WORSHIP *from McCormick Theological Seminary*

Leader: Come, let us dwell in God's shelter.
Let us dwell in God's work of art.

**All: Come, because the Earth is the Lord's,
And God's Earth is our home.**

Leader: We live in God's World; we are not alone.

**All: We share this life with the heavens and the earth,
With the waters and the land,
With trees and grasses,
With fish, birds, and animals,
With minerals and creatures of every form,
And with all our brothers and sisters.**

Leader: God is good and everything God makes is good.

All: Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn #733** vs 1-2 ***Great is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

*Please stand as you are able. 2

LITANY OF CONFESSION by Ralph Carl Wushke, adapted

Pastor: Creator God, we know that your love is the foundation of creation and all life. We know that all things are possible with love—that the least becomes the most important, the last becomes the first.

All: Yet we also know that we do not always show love, especially in our attitudes toward earth. We are quick to use the earth selfishly, for our own gain. We waste water and paper from your trees. We want the biggest or the best or the newest when we already have all we need.

(silence)

Pastor: Creator God,

All: forgive us. Help us to show—more actively—our love for our earth, your earth, your precious creation. Amen.

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, in the goodness of the original Garden, love was born; in the surprise of an Easter garden, love was reborn. May this love be born in our hearts, minds, and actions again this day.

All: Amen.

Song of Response #733** v 3 ***Great is Thy Faithfulness

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

WELCOME/LIFE IN COMMUNITY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING...I John 3:18-24 (NRSV)

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE 8:15 Bell Ensemble *Hyfrydol* arr Linda Lamb

5:30 + 10:45

#821 *Shout to the Lord*

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

SCRIPTURE READING... Acts 4:5-12 (NRSV)

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they

inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Pastor: Christ is Risen!

All: He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

MESSAGE *Brighter Days-- in God's Miraculous Power! Pr. Tom Grevlos*

***MESSAGE SONG**

In Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All-
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied:
For every sin on Him was laid-
Here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine-
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 4

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home-
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

***CREATION CREED**

We believe and trust in God, all-powerful Creator and Sustainer - who fashions the heavens and the earth and all that is in them - who calls us to partnership in caring for this world - who purposes to restore what is broken and retrieve what is lost.

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ - who shared with God the wonder and promise of creation - who was born like us, choosing to share our humanity with its joy and its pain - who lived an earthly life, affirming and celebrating the goodness of the physical world - who used the natural world to teach us more of God's nature - who modeled for us a pattern for living with integrity even though it cost him everything - who died and came back to life to show us that in sacrifice lie the seeds of freedom and hope - who reigns over earth and heaven with God forever.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit - who danced in the darkness at the dawn of time to bring light and life - who breathes life and purpose into all living things - who transforms our hearts and minds, empowering us to be faithful stewards - who will lead us home at the end of our age.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THANK OFFERING

- To make a gift to the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, go to shephills.org/give.
- Take a picture of the QR Code with your camera phone to give now.
- By mail, send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746



THIS MATTERS! HIGH-FIVE

Rev. Tim Anderson, Director of Community Development for Austin City Lutherans

Since March 2018, I've been blessed to serve in this position greatly supported by Shepherd of the Hills' This Matters! Capital Campaign. I'm grateful to God and to you!

In 2013, ACL opened Bread For All (BFA) Food Pantry at one of our member congregations, Prince of Peace. In 2017, ACL decided to directly address childhood poverty in SE Austin after seeing a number of children walk through BFA's food line with their mothers.

ACL had a noble vision but had neither property nor a building by which to educate and care for low-income toddlers. We did, however, have the financial support to figure out a way to establish this ministry – THAT MATTERED! Thanks to Shepherd of the Hills and the generosity shared through your capital campaign, and equal generosity shared by ACL member church Abiding Love Lutheran, Mariposa Family Learning Center (MFLC) came to be in 2019. Financial support kept coming and sweat-equity helped transform a building in the Montopolis neighborhood of SE Austin, a childcare desert, into Mariposa’s childcare center. Mariposa is located the same ZIP Code as Prince of Peace, closed in 2018.

Sheila Pharis came on board to lead Mariposa as director in November 2019. We opened our doors to the community on January 30, 2020, replete with a prayer blessing and a good-sized gathering of ACL supporters. Some of you were there! The Covid pandemic made us close its doors on March 13.

A wide-range of ACL partners and churches, a PPP loan, positive resolve from Mariposa’s governing board led by Pastor Tom, and continued support from This Matters! helped Mariposa reopen the first week of August!

Mariposa is now a beehive of activity every weekday. The majority of our clientele is classified as “low-income” and all families receive childcare services and are invited to participate in parent education and support programming. Because Mariposa works with toddlers and their parents, we refer to the entire program as “2-Gen(eration).” Research shows this approach to be the best way to fight the devastating effects of generational poverty.

Socially, we know that poverty ends up hurting those struggling with it and costing society economically in the long run. We know that reaching toddlers now with high-quality childcare and family support prepares them for success in kindergarten, which in turn is a stepping stone for success later in adolescence and adulthood.

Biblically, we are called to see other people as neighbors. As so many reel from the effects of the pandemic, Mariposa is a refuge of welcome, support, and encouragement for all of our families. THIS definitely MATTERS! Thanks for your support for Mariposa – “butterfly” – that it might spread its wings in SE Austin and beyond.

www.mariposalearningcenter.org

OFFERING SONG

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!

PRAYER OF THANKS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

PRAYERS

Please pray for Kristen Murray, Walter Buell, Lauren Paulson, Don Gaskin and Ken McDonald

Please pray for Geneva Robertson, mother of John Robertson

Please pray for Andrea Evilsizer, daughter of Don Cadenhead

Prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of Cosmo McNeil, son of Michael and Rachael McNeil, grandson of Thom and Marcy McNeil

We pray for the children of this world, the youngest among us. We pray for children who are caught in circumstances that are frightening and beyond their control. We pray for children who are abused and neglected, and for those who serve them and work to heal them from trauma. We pray for children of immigrants at borders, for children who are orphaned, abandoned, and forgotten. We pray for your Spirit to bring peace and wholeness to the most vulnerable in our country and world.

We pray with heavy hearts for an end to violence inflicted on one another in the name of revenge and hatred. We ask for your comfort especially for the communities of Indianapolis and our own city of Austin. Give us love, respect, and care for all of your people. Fill our hearts with peace that passes all human understanding. Help us know the way forward from here.

We continue to pray for all those affected by COVID-19, and for those caring for them. We give thanks for the hopefulness we are experiencing with more and more vaccinations each week. We look forward to the continued movement toward the end of this pandemic, and we pray for therapeutics and medical care to tend to those who fall ill.

Please pray for our global ministries: Rev. Karen Castillo in Guatemala; Iglesia Luterana Augustina Virgen del Rosario, Aurora 8 de Octubre, Guatemala; Malcolm and Joy Henderson and the ministry of CHARIS in Haiti

Please pray for our local ministries: Mariposa Family Learning Center, Bread For All and Upbring Ministries

Please pray for our faith community, that we may be a church without walls and live out loud...faithfully!

**Prayers for family and friends are listed for 2 weeks, unless we are notified otherwise.*

WORSHIP TEAM

Pastors

Preaching Pastor

Director of Worship/Arts

Bell Ensemble

Piano

Guitar

Altar Flowers

AV

Bread

Hosts

Leader

Creative Media

Director of Digital Media Arts

Admin Ministry Coordinator

Pr. Tom Grevlos, Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner

Pr. Tom Grevlos

Kevin McClure

8:15 + 10:45

Maria Lyapkova and Charlie Hills

(5:30 + 8:15)Lisa Boatman, 10:45 Laura Hills

Given by Pete and Amanda Forsberg in honor
of our beautiful courtyard space

(5:30 + 8:15)Jamie Nichols, Peter Walsh

and James Enochs

(10:45) Bill and Sara Dawson

Kitt Richter

(5:30) Hansen Family,

Larry and Sandy Wikelius;

(8:15)Judy and Bob Haugen, Rick Burnight

(5:30) Larry Wikelius, (8:15) Joel Timmons,

(10:45) Larisa Takats

Dabney Gomes

Dave Wegner

Amanda Forsberg



Resuming
Sunday, May 2 at 8:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Worship

Registration is not required, but will help us plan.
Sign up on Realm under Events for May 2!

Shepherd's Garden Work Day

Saturday, May 1 from 9 - 11 a.m.

All ages welcome!

A great way to celebrate Earth Day with your family



**VOLUNTEERS
— NEEDED —**

All Church Serve!

Sat. May 22 from 9-11 a.m.

SHEPHERD'S