

January 29, 2023

# “Lights! Action!”

**GATHERING MUSIC** The Shepherd Band *God Is For US* CityAlight

**CALL TO WORSHIP...PSALM 8** (The Message)

Leader: God, brilliant Lord,  
yours is a household name.  
Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you;  
toddlers shout the songs  
That drown out enemy talk,  
and silence atheist babble.  
I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous,  
your handmade sky-jewelry,  
Moon and stars mounted in their settings.  
Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,  
Why do you bother with us?  
Why take a second look our way?  
Yet we've so narrowly missed being gods,  
bright with Eden's dawn light.  
You put us in charge of your handcrafted world,  
repeated to us your Genesis-charge,  
Made us stewards of sheep and cattle,  
even animals out in the wild,  
Birds flying and fish swimming,  
whales singing in the ocean deeps.  
God, brilliant Lord,  
your name echoes around the world.

## OPENING HYMN

*God of Wonders* Third Day

## TIME OF HONESTY

Leader: We hear the words of Jesus to “Let our Light shine...”

**All: But, we confess that we like to hear these words on our own terms... when it is convenient, when I have time, when I feel like I can succeed.**

Leader: Forgive us Lord for all the excuses we make to hide the Christ-light.

**(time of silent reflection)**

**All: You know me God and you search my heart. Give courage and faith when fear and despair take us away from the light of your path.**

Leader: Covered by Your grace and mercy, we give thanks for your Light that shines in the darkness of our lives, in the dark places of this world. May the assurance of your forgiveness empower us to “let our Light so shine...”!

## SONG OF RESPONSE *Goodness of God* Bethel Music

(You are invited to the Baptismal font to touch the waters of God’s presence of love and grace.)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

## WELCOME/LIFE IN COMMUNITY

Whitney Myers, Souper Bowl of Caring, Q&A @ 9:30am, Congregational Meeting

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** Megan Getman *Journey with Jesus*

**SCRIPTURE READING...I CORINTHIANS 1:18-25** The Message

The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hell-bent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out.

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It's written, I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head, I'll expose so-called experts as crackpots. So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense?

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Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered dumb—preaching, of all things!—to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.

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While Jews clamor for miraculous demonstrations and Greeks go in for philosophical wisdom, we go right on proclaiming Christ, the Crucified. Jews treat this like an anti-miracle—and Greeks pass it off as absurd.

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But to us who are personally called by God himself—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one.

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Human wisdom is so tiny, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's "weakness."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL...MATTHEW 5:1-12** The Message

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions.

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This is what he said: “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

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“You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

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“You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

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“You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

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“You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

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“You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

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“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

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“You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

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“Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.

You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SONG OF RESPONSE**     *Lord, I Need You*     **Matt Meyer**

**MESSAGE** Pr. Tom Grevlos     *A Blessed Adventure*

**MESSAGE SONG**     *Great Is the Lord*     **Michael W. Smith**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**GENEROSITY IMPACT**

**THANK OFFERING**

- To make a gift online to the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, use this link: [shephills.org/give](https://shephills.org/give).
- Scan the QR Code with your camera phone to give now.
- By mail, send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746



**OFFERING RESPONSE #692**     *We Are An Offering*

**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.

### **COMMUNION INVITATION**

*As we celebrate this sacrament, all are invited to receive the Risen  
presence of Jesus.*

*God is really present—in bread and wine—forgiving sins and  
promising new life.*

*Bread/wafer— “The body of Christ given for you”;  
Wine— “The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

***King of Kings* Hillsong Worship**

### **POST - COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **SENDING SONG**

***God Is For Us CityAlight***

## **COMMISSIONING**

Leader: Blessed for the journey of faith and life, equipped by the love of God, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us go out to love and serve the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God...And We Will!**

## **POSTLUDE** The Shepherd Band

***God Is For US CityAlight***

## **PRAYERS**

**We pray** for Rodney Varner, Callie Ray Bell, Jane Tackett and Sandy Wikelius.

**We pray** for family and friends of Shepherd members:

Marie Lindstrom, sister of Linda Fiandaca.

Linda and Tom Ferris, sister and brother-in-law of Jennifer Arndt

Carmen Nuernberg, mother of Peter Nuernberg.

Glenda Rumble, cousin of Terrie Thomas.

**We pray** for Renee Larson and family on the death of husband, Steve. We give thanks for Steve's life and witness and pray for comfort and peace to surround all the family and friends of Steve.

Merciful and Loving God, as war and violence rages in Ukraine and other parts of the world, we pray that leaders of the world will practice peace-making, bringing together people of every tribe and race under the umbrella of your amazing grace.

**We pray** for the communities recently traumatized by mass shootings. We pray for the end of senseless violence, including the violence of abuse, the violence of words that spread lies and destroy reputations, and the violence of attitudes toward other people who are different than ourselves.

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

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

**We 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** Pr. Tom Grevlos, Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner  
**Director of Worship/Arts** Kevin McClure  
**The Shepherd Band** Charlie, Laura and Rachel Hills, Josh Norem  
**Acolyte** (8:15) Austin Eckermann, (10:45) Alicia Calvo  
**Altar Steward** (8:15) Elnora and Ken McDonald;  
(10:45) NextGen Youth  
**Assisting Minister** (8:15) Tim Stein; (10:45) Herb Palmer  
**AV** Bill Dawson, Dave Wegner, Jamie Nichols, Peter Walsh,  
Jonathan Wolff, Vince and Jake Yokubaitis  
**Bread Intinction**  
**Communion Assistant**  
(8:15) Elnora and Ken McDonald, Tim Stein;  
(10:45) Alicia Calvo, Lila Bishop and Herb Palmer  
**Food For Fellowship** Sara Dawson  
**Hosts** (8:15) Kitt Richter; (10:45) Jeri Porter and Auby family  
**Tellers** (10:45) Jeri Porter and Amanda Land Palmer  
**Admin Ministry Coordinator** Amanda Forsberg  
**Campus Operations** Dave Wegner  
**Communications Director** Dabney Gomes  
**Student Ministry Coordinator** Joel Timmons  
**Executive Director** Bill Dawson  
**Finance Controller** Kevin Marlow  
**Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator** Megan Getman  
**Spiritual Wellness and Spiritual Director** Rebecca Guengerich

***HAVE A GREAT WEEK!***

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran  
3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin TX  
[www.shephills.org](http://www.shephills.org)