

May 14, 2023

8:15 AM



GATHERING MUSIC David Thoresen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: And Jesus said, "Come!"
To all mothers and all children: he said, "Come!"
to the motherless and the childless: he said, "Come!"
to all who long to be mothered: he said, "Come!"
Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble of heart
and you will find rest for your souls."

OPENING HYMN *Praise to God, the World's Creator*

A LITURGY FOR MOTHERS' DAY

Pastor: Lord, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers. We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and

that they received the gift of life from your hands, and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth.

Leader: We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us.

Leader: We pray for older moms whose children are grown.

All: Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.

Leader: We pray for new moms experiencing changes they could not predict.

All: Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.

Leader: We pray for pregnant women who will soon be moms.

All: Grant them patience and good counsel in the coming months.

Leader: We pray for moms who face the demands of single parenthood.

All: Grant them strength and wisdom.

Leader: We pray for moms who are raising their children in poverty.

All: Grant them relief and justice.

Leader: We pray for step-moms.

All: Grant them patience and understanding and love.

Leader: We pray for moms who are separated from their children.

All: Grant them faith and hope.

Leader: We pray for moms in marriages that are in crisis.

All: Grant them support and insight.

Leader: We pray for moms who have lost children.

All: Grant them comfort in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Leader: We pray for moms who gave up their children for adoption.

All: Grant them peace and confidence as they trust in your providence.

Leader: We pray for adoptive mothers.

All: Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift you have provided.

Leader: We pray for all women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life.

All: Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.

Leader: We pray for those people present who are grieving the loss of their mother in the past year.

All: Grant them comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection.

(All mothers, women, and girls, here and on Live Stream, are invited to stand to receive a blessing through prayer.)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Pastor: Lord, we thank you for the gift of motherhood. We thank you for the many examples of faithful mothers in scripture, like Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Lois. Hear now the first names of other women who have inspired us by their motherly examples . . . We are mindful this day of all these women, and especially Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, who had the courage in faith to say "yes" to your calling. May these women gathered here today emulate these examples of faith.

And may they model for all the rest of us what it means to be your disciple. Bless them on this special day; in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE #419 vv 1 & 3 *For All the Faithful Women*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WELCOME/LIFE IN COMMUNITY

Graduation, Campus Cleanup, Beyond Giving

Altar Flowers: Given by Carole and Larry Morgan, In celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

SCRIPTURE READING...ACTS 17:22-31 NRSV

Introduction: *The Areopagus in Athens was the location of where the intellectually curious and philosophers debated ideas. St. Paul chose to be a part of this exercise by sharing the good news of Jesus' resurrection.*

In mentioning the resurrection, Paul risks rejection by his audience. After all, such teaching goes beyond reason and experience!

For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,

nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,

so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL...JOHN 14:15-21 NRSV

[Jesus said] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF RESPONSE *Halle-halle-lujah*

MESSAGE Pastor Lauren Dow Wegner

MESSAGE SONG #735 *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

EASTER STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in God.

The God who breathes life into all creation.

I believe in the God of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ,
the God who lived in my skin and tried on my shoes,

the God who walked in my ways, and knows of lights and shadows.

the God who was praised and condemned, kissed and spat on, loved
and hated.

the God who went to parties and funerals,

the God who laughed and cried.

I believe in God who sees all killing and desecration of human life,

the God who suffers with the children who are forgotten,

the God who weeps over the abuse of power over the marginalized,

the God who holds the hand of those in profound grief.

I believe in God who is still speaking

who sees a mother giving birth – a life born from pain,

who sees two children playing - a seed growing,

who sees a flower blooming out of the debris - a new beginning,

who sees the sun rising every morning - a time of opportunities.

I believe in God who sees all this ...

and is present,

because,

in it all, he gives us living hope.

— adapted from Gerardo Oberman

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THANK OFFERING

- To make a gift online to the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, use this link: 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



GENEROSITY MOMENT *Baby Care Kits Video*

OFFERING MUSIC *Create in Me A Clean Heart*

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 David Thoresen

POST - COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG #631 vv 1,2, 4 *Love Divine, All Love Excelling*

COMMISSIONING

Leader: God has blessed us all with the same name: Child of God.
We are God's offspring, God's beloved. We go out into the
world to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the love
we all share as one family.

All: Thanks be to God. And we will!

POSTLUDE David Thoresen

PRAYERS

We pray for Mary Allison, Rodney Varner and Deb Pollock Darnell.

We pray for family and friends of Shepherd members:

Krista Bowers, niece of Herb and Kathy Palmer.

Kathy Reese, sister of Tom Hudnall.

Ellis Thompsen, Butterfly alum.

We give you thanks for all mothers and mother figures in our lives, for all the faithful women who have taught and shared faith, for all who have nurtured us in our lives. Bless them and all of us who seek to help others grow and bloom in this world.

We pray for communities impacted by mass shootings, especially in Allen, Texas. Walk alongside all the families grieving the loss of loved ones. Give courage to leaders to respond in life-giving ways, and may we all be mindful of Jesus' call to be peacemakers.

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 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
Organist	David Thoresen
Acolyte	Austin Eckermann
Altar Flowers	Given by Carole and Larry Morgan, in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.
Altar Steward	Sharon Collins
Assisting Minister	Tim Stein
AV	Dave Wegner, Pete Forsberg
Bread	Kitt Richter
Communion Assistant	Tim Stein, Sharon Collins, Sophie Eckermann
Food For Fellowship	Wissman Family
Hosts/Tellers	Terrie Thomas and Tiffany Stein
Admin Ministry Coordinator	Amanda Forsberg
Campus Operations	Dave Wegner
Communications Director	Dabney Gomes
Program 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 BLESSED WEEK!

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran
3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin TX
www.shephills.org