

May 7, 2023

Shepherd of the Hills
Lutheran Church

GATHERING MUSIC *Now the Green Blade Rises*

CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 104 (from Canadian Foodgrains Bank)

Leader: O Lord, what a variety of things you have made!
 In your wisdom you have made them all.
 The earth is full of your creatures.
 Every one of them is dependent on you
 to give them what they need to survive.
 When you send out your breath, life is created,
 and the face of the earth is made beautiful
 and is renewed.

All: **May your glory endure forever, O God,
 and may you find joy
 in the splendor of your own creation.**

OPENING HYMN #556 *Morning Has Broken*

TIME OF HONESTY from unfoldinglight.net

Leader: Creator God, we confess we have not honored your
Creation;
we have not loved it as you have loved us.

**All: We have thought ourselves separate, not part of your
Creation.**

Leader: Forgive our ignorance and arrogance,
our greed and destructiveness.

**All: Bring us again into the oneness of your Creation;
forgive us, heal our fears and transform our desires,
and shepherd us to be good stewards
of the gift of life.**

Pastor: God the Creator, Jesus the Redeemer, and Spirit the
Sustainer forgives you and brings you to everlasting life, in
unity with all creatures.

All: Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSE

#835 vv 1-3 *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

(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

Above and Beyond Giving, Baby Care Kits, Celebrating Graduates

10:45 **COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS**

SCRIPTURE SONG WOV 671 *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

SCRIPTURE READING...1 PETER 2:2-10 NRSV

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

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Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house,

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to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

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For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

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To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."

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They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,

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in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL...JOHN 14:1-14 NRSV

[Jesus said,] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

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And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

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Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

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If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

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Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

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Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

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Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

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Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

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I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE SONG WOV 671 *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Earth Day Celebration

MESSAGE Pastor Tom Grevlos ***Can Stones Live?***

MESSAGE SONG #379 ***Now the Green Blade Rises***

CREATION CARE CREED © Lynda Taylor, adapted

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 gazes on his handiwork in love, pronouncing it 'very good'; who provides in generous abundance all that is needed for the whole of creation to thrive.

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, 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 died and came back to life to show us that in sacrifice lie the seeds of freedom and hope.

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 opens our eyes to injustice and points us to the truth; who calls us to join in the work of sustaining and renewing the earth; who will lead us home at the end of our age.

Amen.

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 Caring For God's Creation Team **Shepherd's Garden**

OFFERING MUSIC 8:15 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

10:45 Choir

***See the Land* by Alice Joran, text by Charles Kingsley**

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

8:15 Kristina Bishop, flute ***Now the Green Blade Rises*** Arr. Floeter

10:45 Bells ***An Easter Festival*** Sharon Elery Rogers

POST - COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

8:15 **COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS**

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG #879 vv 1,2, 5 ***For the Beauty of the Earth***

COMMISSIONING by Carlos Fernandez, adapted

Leader: As we return now to our homes, workplaces, and
communities, the Spirit opens our eyes anew.
May we hear, and smell, and see, and touch God's glory
evident in all of creation.

We go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord, sharing
the Good News with all of God's people!

All: Thanks be to God. And we will!

POSTLUDE *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Arr David Cherwein

PRAYERS

We pray for Mary Allison and Rodney Varner.

We pray for family and friends of Shepherd members:

Krista Bowers, niece of Herb and Kathy Palmer.

We give thanks for our Stephen Ministers and the ways they offer care and compassion. We pray for their ministry to continue to reach those who need companionship on the journey of faith and life.

Creator God, you make all things and weave them together in an intricate tapestry of life.

Teach us to respect the fragile balance of life and to care for all the gifts of your creation.

Guide by your wisdom those who have power and authority, that, by the decisions they make, life may be cherished and a good and fruitful Earth may continue to show your glory and sing your praises.

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

Flute Kristina Bishop (8:15)

Bells (10:45)

Choir (10:45)

Altar Flowers Given by Anita Knight in honor of Earth Day.

Altar Steward (8:15) Kitt Richter; (10:45) Linda Roesle

Assisting Minister (8:15) Nancy Etzler; (10:45) Karen Stern

AV Bill Dawson, Dave Wegner, Pete Forsberg, Jamie Nichols,
Peter Walsh, Jonathan Wolff, Erin Courtney, Devon Schueppert.

Bread Kitt Richter

Communion Assistant (8:15) Kitt Richter, Nancy Etzler;
(10:45) Melissa/Keaton Robertson, Linda Roesle, Karen Stern

Food For Fellowship Joan and Bob Vorkoper

Hosts (8:15) Larry and Sandy Smith;

(10:45) Anita Knight and Virginia Bosman

Tellers (10:45) Janice and Ronny Pinckard and Anita Knight

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