

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

# Advent

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## PRELUDE

Aaron Lack & Vibetet

***Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas***

**Martin & Blane**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**#257** v 1 solo, vs 4-5 all ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Assisting Minister: Let us enter into a time of confession. Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

**All: Amen.**

--

Assisting Minister: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

**(Silence for reflection)**

Assisting Minister: Everlasting God,

**All: You love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty.**

--

**Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

## **SONG OF RESPONSE #253 vs 1 & 3   *He Came Down***

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

## **WELCOME/LIFE IN COMMUNITY** [shephills.org/Events](http://shephills.org/Events)

Announcements: Yoga, Dec Events, Christmas Eve/Cards

## **ADVENT WREATH LITURGY** 8:15 Johnson family, 10:45

"Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace."

## **SONG OF RESPONSE**

**#240 v 2**

***Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah***

## **SCRIPTURE READING...ISAIAH 40:1-11** NRSV

Assisting Minister: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

--

A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

--

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

--

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #262** 2X    ***Wait for the Lord***

**GOSPEL READING...MARK 1: 1-8** NRSV

Pastor:     The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

**All:            Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

--

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’ ”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

--

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

--

"I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE** Pastor Lauren Dow Wegner

**MESSAGE SONG #256**    *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**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



**GENEROSITY IMPACT** Upbring

Passing of the plates

**OFFERING SONG** Aaron Lack & Vibetet *City of Stars* Hurwitz

**PRAYER OF THANKS**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

10:45 Choir *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. T. Jefferson  
Aaron Lack & Vibetet

*O Little Town Of Bethlehem* Brooks & Redner

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG #266** v1 solo *All Earth is Hopeful*

**COMMISSIONING**

Assisting Minister: May we live in the peace of Christ as we go out to  
love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God. And, we will!**

**POSTLUDE**

Aaron Lack & Vibetet *I'll Be Home For Christmas* Gannon & Kent

## **PRAYERS**

**We pray** for Rodney Varner and Tamara Allen.

**We give thanks** for the saints who have gone before us in faith and now rest in eternal life, especially Mike Schrader, son of Inez Schrader. As we commend Mike to your love, we pray for comfort for Inez and her family as we trust together in the promise of resurrection life.

**O God**, our communities continue to be rocked by gun violence and fear, and we pray for your people here in Austin and San Antonio who were victims this week. We pray that those who are suffering from mental health challenges and isolation may receive the help and support they need for healing. We pray that violence may cease.

**God of unity**, we thank you for the many different people and perspectives that fill your world and our lives each day. We pray that our church may continue to live out true inclusion of all people, and that the welcoming love of Jesus may always be our message. As the root of conflict is so often misunderstanding and judgment of others, may we be instruments of your peace as you open our minds and hearts to see every person as your beloved.

**Holy God**, as war has once again broken out in the Holy Land, we lift to you prayers for peace and resolution to this age-old conflict among your people. Draw near to the victims, and inspire leaders to seek your will and your guidance.

**Almighty God**, you inspire and equip us to serve your people, both here in our community and around the world. We thank you for our mission partners of Austin City Lutherans and the ministries of Mariposa and Bread for All. We thank you for our sister congregation in Aurora 8 de Octubre, Guatemala and the ministry of ILAG. We thank you for the mission of Charis in Haiti. We thank you for our Butterfly Christian Preschool and the many young minds and hearts that are formed in faith here. May we be your hands and feet!

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

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

<b>Pastor</b>	Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
<b>Director of Worship/Arts</b>	Kevin McClure
<b>Accompanist</b>	Andrei Zimbalist
<b>Choir (10:45)</b>	
<b>Acolyte (8:15)</b> Sawyer Dertien; <b>(10:45)</b>	
<b>Altar Steward (8:15)</b> Sandy Wikelius; <b>(10:45)</b> Linda Roesle	
<b>Assisting Minister (8:15)</b> Larry Wikelius; <b>(10:45)</b> Alana Oehler	
<b>AV</b> Bill Dawson, Dave Wegner, Pete Forsberg, Jamie Nichols, Peter Walsh, Jonathan Wolff, Erin Courtney, Devon Schueppert and Vince Yokubaitis	
<b>Bread</b> Kitt Richter	
<b>Communion Assistant</b> (8:15) Dana and Sawyer Dertien, Larry Wikelius; (10:45) Alana and Charlie Oehler, Linda Roesle	
<b>Food For Fellowship</b> Anne and Michael Watt, Mark and Naomi Tate	
<b>Hosts/Tellers (8:15); (10:45)</b> Oehler family	
<b>Admin &amp; Community Life Coordinator</b>	Amanda Forsberg
<b>Campus Superintendent</b>	Philip Perry
<b>Children's Ministry Coordinator</b>	Megan Getman
<b>Communications Director</b>	Dabney Gomes
<b>Digital Ministry &amp; IT</b>	Dave Wegner
<b>Executive Director</b>	Bill Dawson
<b>Finance Controller</b>	Kevin Marlow
<b>Program Ministry Coordinator</b>	Joel Timmons
<b>Spiritual Wellness and Spiritual Director</b>	Rebecca Guengerich

***HAVE A BLESSED WEEK!***

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran  
3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin TX

[www.shephills.org](http://www.shephills.org)