

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

# Advent

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



**PRELUDE**      *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*      arr. G. Near

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**#257** v 1 solo, vs 1, 6-7 all      *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Soloist: 8:15 - Kevin McClure, 10:45 - Austin Eckermann

## **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.**

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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.**

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**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.**

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Pastor: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

**All: Amen.**

**SONG OF RESPONSE #253** vv1 & 4 ***He Came Down***

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

Announcements: Dec Events, Christmas Times, New Year's Eve

**MISSION MOMENT** Megan DeVaney

**ADVENT WREATH LITURGY** 8:15 Wegner family, 10:45 Hansen family  
"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 3

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

**SCRIPTURE READING...ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11 NRSV**

Assisting Minister: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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

## **GOSPEL READING...JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28** NRSV

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."

Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**MESSAGE** Reverend Adam Varner

## **MESSAGE SONG**

**#249** vv 1-2, 5 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

## APOSTLES' CREED

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## SHARING OF 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



Passing of the plates

## OFFERING SONG

8:15 #267      *Joy to the World*

10:45 Choir      *Comfort, Comfort arr. J. Ferguson*

## 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.*

*Hear these words:*

*Bread/wafer— “The body of Christ given for you”;*

*Wine— “The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

8:15

10:45 Bells

*Advent Meditation*

Douglas Wagner

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

Arr. Barbara Kinyon

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

## BENEDICTION

**SENDING SONG #239** vs 1, 3-4 *Hark, The Glad Sound!*

## COMMISSIONING

Assisting Minister: May our lives be a testament to the light that  
is coming as we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## POSTLUDE

8:15

*Lord Christ, the Only Son of God* J.S. Bach

10:45 Anderi Zimbalist

**Selections from the Nutcracker** Tchaikovsky

10:45 **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

## **PRAYERS**

**We pray** for Rodney Varner, Elin Watkins, and Kathy Gerhardt.

**God of Life**, we pray for Megan Koeneman and family on the death of her grandmother, Sue Park . Surround all who mourn with the peace and promise of resurrection.

**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 Family Learning Center, Bread for All and Upbring Ministries. 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>Preaching Pastor</b>	Rev. Adam Varner
<b>Director of Worship/Arts</b>	Kevin McClure
<b>Accompanist</b>	Andrei Zimbalist
<b>Bells (10:45)</b>	
<b>Cello</b>	Austin Eckermann (10:45)
<b>Choir (10:45)</b>	
<b>Acolyte (8:15)</b>	Owen Wegner; (10:45) Alicia Calvo
<b>Altar Steward (8:15)</b>	Sharon Collins; (10:45) Jennifer and Richard Arndt
<b>Assisting Minister (8:15)</b>	Nancy Etzler; (10:45) Sara Enochs
<b>AV</b>	Bill Dawson, Dave Wegner, Pete Forsberg, Jamie Nichols, Peter Walsh, Jonathan Wolff, Erin Courtney, Devin Schueppert and Vince Yokubaitis
<b>Bread</b>	Kitt Richter
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	(8:15) Nancy Etzler, Sharon Collins, Owen Wegner; (10:45) Alicia Calvo, Sara Enochs
<b>Food For Fellowship</b>	Helen and David Maidment
<b>Hosts/Tellers (8:15)</b>	Rick Burnight, Anita Knight; (10:45) Joe Spann, Anne McDonald
<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)