

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Welcome

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



PRELUDE David Thoresen

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by Tim Graves)

Assisting Minister: We waited.

All: And imagined a savior.

Assisting Minister: We imagined power.

All: One like the world, but stronger and on our side.

Assisting Minister: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

All: We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

Assisting Minister: We imagined the work done for us through the
destruction of our enemies.

**All: We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation
and to love expansively.**

Assisting Minister: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

All: Praise be to God for the gift of love. Amen!

OPENING HYMN #275 *Angels, From The Realms of Glory*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WELCOME/LIFE IN COMMUNITY shephills.org/Events

Announcements: Epiphany kits, Events Resume

SCRIPTURE READING...ISAIAH 61:10-62:3 NRSV

Assisting Minister: 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.

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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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

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The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #300 Refrain ***The First Noel***

GOSPEL READING...LUKE 2:22-40 NRSV

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”),

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and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

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It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

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for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

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Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

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At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor Lauren Dow Wegner

MESSAGE SONG #288 vs 1-3 ***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!***

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.
- 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 #296 vs1-3 *What Child Is This*

OFFERING PRAYER

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.”*

Prayer Station

8:15 - Arlene Morris

10:45 - Carole Morgan

COMMUNION MUSIC David Thoresen

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER (Adapted from Kenneth G. Phiher,)

Pastor: Eternal God, before whom we are creatures of the day and
 children of the hour, we lift our prayers to you as we stand
 in the shadows of the waning year.

We are aware once more of the fleetingness of time, and the transiency of our being. So much has happened to us during the year so rapidly slipping away, so much of hurt and happiness, of loss and gain, of hope and fear. We did not expect the sorrow that was thrust upon us. We were surprised by the turn of events that changed our lives.

We look back. We remember how different life was a year ago. The slow, quiet erosion of the days has gone on, and we are not quite the same people as we were, for better or for worse. We have had a whole year to grow in love or to fall out of love, to turn our hands to constructive tasks, or to turn away in idleness. We have had a whole year, and now it is almost gone.

No matter what we have done or failed to do, O Lord, keep us from dwelling on it too much. If we have failed, help us put the failure behind us. If we have done well, help us be glad but not complacent. There are other hills to climb and new hopes to be realized.

We know, O God, you understand our need to look back for a while, wistfully peering at the past. But start us looking forward. We do not know what events are ahead, but we do know you are there, and we are grateful.

All: Amen.

SENDING SONG WOV #646 vs 1 & 5

We Three Kings

COMMISSIONING

Assisting Minister: The blessing which you have received from the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit be always with you.

All: Thanks be to God. And we will!

POSTLUDE David Thoresen

PRAYERS

We pray for Rodney Varner and Tom Felger.

We pray for family and friends of Shepherd members:

Katy Miller Sliwetzka & Michael Sliwetzka, daughter and son-in-law of Peter and Linda Miller.

God of Life, we pray for Stacia DeBill and family on the death of her husband, Walter DeBill. 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

Pastor	Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
Director of Worship/Arts	Kevin McClure
Accompanist	Andrei Zimbalist
Guest Accompanist	David Thoresen
Acolyte (8:15) Owen Wegner, (10:45)	
Altar Steward (8:15) Nancy Etzler, (10:45) Linda Roesle	
Assisting Minister (8:15) Nancy Etzler, (10:45) Jennifer Arndt	
AV Bill Dawson, Dave Wegner, Pete Forsberg, Jamie Nichols, Peter Walsh, Jonathan Wolff, Erin Courtney, Devon Schueppert and Vince Yokubaitis	
Bread Kitt Richter	
Communion Assistant (8:15) Nancy and Denny Etzler, Owen Wegner (10:45) Jennifer and Richard Arndt, Jeri Porter	
Food For Fellowship Sara Dawson and Jackie Grotrian Chedsey	
Hosts/Tellers (8:15) Terrie Thomas, (10:45)	
Admin & Community Life Coordinator	Amanda Forsberg
Campus Superintendent	Philip Perry
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Megan Getman
Communications Director	Dabney Gomes
Digital Ministry & IT	Dave Wegner
Executive Director	Bill Dawson
Finance Controller	Kevin Marlow
Program Ministry Coordinator	Joel Timmons
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