

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

December 22, 2024 8:15 & 10:45 AM

GATHERING MUSIC O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CALL TO WORSHIP O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #257 vv. 7 & 8

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: God of mercy,

All: We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

Pastor: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

All: Amen.

SONG Wait for the Lord #262

ADVENT WREATH

Leader: We are a people who seek to be brought together by the love of Christ.

All: Our faith teaches us that God gives us unconditional love and forgiveness.

Leader: Acknowledging God's free gift of grace, we light the Candle of Love.

Written by Rev. Jolene Cadenbach

SONG Wait for the Lord #262

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Assist: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Assist: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

WELCOME/LIFE IN COMMUNITY

Guestbooks

Announcements: Christmas Eve, Epiphany, Tim Anderson Visit

Website: shephills.org/EVENTS

Altar Flowers: Jan Wilson, in honor of her parents and sister

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5

Reader: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Advent Alleluia

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor: In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,

the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Advent Alleluia

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Megan Getman

MESSAGE

Pastor Lauren Dow Wegner

MESSAGE SONG

Savior of the Nations, Come

#263 vv. 1, 3, 5-6

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition... Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

GENEROSITY IMPACT

Video: Upbring

THANK OFFERING

To make a gift online to the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, use this link: shephills.org/GIVE. By mail, send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746.

Passing of the plates.

OFFERING MUSIC

Wexford Carol
Bob Cannon, trumpet

arr. John Dempsey

OFFERING SONG

Joy to the World

#267 v. 1

OFFERING PRAYER

Assist: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW Setting 4

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 4

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION INVITATION

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Hear these words: "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you." Prayer Station: As you leave the communion table, a prayer minister is available to offer prayers of thanksgiving or healing prayers for the burdens and ills you carry.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting 4

COMMUNION MUSIC

10:45

O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort

J. W. Franck

Choir

8:15 & 10:45

Lo, How A Rose

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Assist: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. Strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Canticle of the Turning

#723 vv. 1-4

COMMISSIONING

Assist: In hope and expectation, we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God, and WE WILL!**

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

J. S. Bach

WORSHIP TEAM & STAFF

Senior Pastor	Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
Associate Pastor	Pr. Ryan Dockery
Director of Worship & Arts	Kevin McClure
Instrumentalists	Sissel Wilson, flute; Bob Cannon, trumpet
Assisting Minister	8:15 – Tim Stein 10:45 – Cindy Nelson
Reader	8:15 – Larry Wikelius 10:45 – Carole Morgan
Acolyte	8:15 – 10:45 – Christina Davies
Altar Steward	8:15 – Tiffany Stein 10:45 – Diane Peterson
Communion Bread	Sherry Morgan
Communion Servers	8:15 – Tim & Tiffany Stein, Larry Wikelius 10:45 – Cindy Nelson, Christina & Jonathan Davis
Food For Fellowship	Alison Cannon
Hosts/Tellers	8:15 – Terrie Thomas, Kathy Mayberry 10:45 – Pam & Jeff Petterson
Prayer Ministry	8:15 – Sandy Wikelius 10:45 – Carole Morgan
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry	Joel Timmons
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Megan Getman
Accompanist	Andrei Zimbalist
Admin & Community Life Coordinator	Amanda Forsberg
Executive Director	Bill Dawson
Finance Officer	Hilary Russell
Communications Director	Dabney Gomes
Campus Superintendent	Philip Perry
Digital Media & IT	Dave Wegner
Sound & Video	Pete Forsberg, Jamie Nichols, Devin Schueppert, Vince Yokubaitis, Will Coulson, Bjorn Martinsson

PRAYERS

We pray for:

- Marie Fortune
- Hunter Clark
- Lydia Perkunas
- Dana Dertien

We pray for family and friends of Shepherd members:

- Drew Officer and Kate Sheeran, friends of Kathleen Macaulay
- Emma Katherine Phillips, sister of Hilary Russell
- Linda Maidment Meyers, daughter of Helen and David Maidment
- James Dunn Russell, Sr., grandfather of Hilary Russell
- Winnie and Brad Nelson, sister and nephew of Mary Macaulay
- Taylor Schobey, daughter of Deanna Schobey
- Steph and Gina Geller and family, friends of Dee Jackson

God of love, we give you thanks for the marriage of John Turman and Danny Ramirez. Bless their life together, as they witness to your love and faithfulness.

O God, we thank you for our ministry partnerships, both local and global. We lift up ILAG in Guatemala, especially our sister congregation in Aurora, and Charis ministry in Haiti. We also pray for the ministries of Upbring, especially New Life and BeReal. Bless our mission together in sharing your love with all people.

God, we give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us in faith and now rest in eternal life. We commend them to your never-ending love as we trust in the promise of resurrection life in Christ.

**To add a prayer request, email sheep@shephills.org. Prayers for family and friends are listed for 2 weeks, unless we are notified otherwise.*

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran
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www.shephills.org