

christmas 1

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, California
December 26, 2021

Welcome to Worship with Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. Amid these days of COVID-19, we welcome some of you in-person and others online (via Facebook @HSLCOrinda and our webpage www.holyshepherd.org.) In whatever way you join us, may you know God's grace as we worship.

Please Note that indoor masking requirements have been reinstated in Contra Costa County and thus all in-person worshippers are required to wear face coverings while in our Sanctuary. More importantly, wearing face coverings is one way we can actively love our neighbors as ourselves!

▲ indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able

GATHERING MUSIC

Julie Hamre

OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us worship the Triune God.

P: Let us worship the One, who spoke in the beginning and created something out of nothing.

L: Let us worship the Triune God.

P: Let us worship the One who took on the clothing of humanity to set those who were oppressed free.

L: Let us worship the Triune God.

P: Let us worship the One whose Spirit rests continually upon us, calling us out of ourselves and out into life.

▲ **GATHERING SONG** "ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY"
Lyrics by James Montgomery / Music by Henry Smart / ELW #275

*Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

Refrain:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born king.*

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,*

*God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.* [Refrain]

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.* [Refrain]

*All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.* [Refrain]

▲ OUR OPENING SENTENCES

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him.

L: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

P: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

L: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

P: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

L: So let us pray:

P: Glorious God, Help us to hear when your chosen voices proclaim the work of your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns in this world and the next. Amen.

A SONG OF CELEBRATION "YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD"
Lyrics by Hans Brorson / Music by Johann Schulz / ELW #286

*Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.*

*With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
That gave you birth, our soul's delight.*

*Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.*

*Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.*

THE LESSON

John 1:19-34

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.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

KIDTALK Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson

A SONG FOR THE SEASON "ON JORDAN'S BANK"
Lyrics by Charles Coffin / Music Traditional / ELW #249

***On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!***

***Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.***

***Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.***

***All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.***

SERMON Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson

▲ WORDS TO LIVE BY based on Philippians 2

As people of God, we find our hope and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE OFFERTORY "THE HANDS THAT FIRST HELD MARY'S CHILD"
Lyrics by Thomas Troeger / Music by Dan Forrest

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*(Utilizing the prayer refrain "God, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**" and concluding with the 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; and 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▲ THE BENEDICTION

▲ OUR SENDING SONG "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"
Traditional French Carol / ELW #289

***Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.***

Refrain:

***Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.***

***Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?*** [Refrain]

***Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.*** [Refrain]

▲ THE CHARGE

Go, in peace, to love God by serving your neighbor!
Thanks be to God!

SENDING MUSIC Julie Hamre

Thank you to this week's Worship Team, including:

Bethany Valentine – Vocalist and Creative Director
Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist
Julie Hamre – Organist and Pianist