



Welcome to Worship with Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, whether you worship with us in-person or are online worshippers (live-streamed on Facebook @HSLCORinda or archived at www.holyshepherd.org.) In whatever way you join us, may you know God's grace as we worship.

Please Note though many indoor masking requirements have been lifted in Contra Costa County – in-person worshippers are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while indoors on our campus. Wearing face coverings is one way we can actively love our neighbors as ourselves!

Know that You Are Welcome! We share in Holy Communion during the context of this morning's service. This is the Lord's table. He is the host. We are his guests. He welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live!

Your Offerings While continuing pandemic restrictions discourage the traditional 'passing of the offering plate', know that we welcome your gifts to the work of our congregation both locally and globally. An offering plate is located in our entryway / narthex area if you would like to share a gift to support our efforts. Alternatively, we'd invite you to visit our website at www.holyshepherd.org and utilize Givelify, our online giving platform.

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Julie Hamre

WORDS OF WELCOME

▲ OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather here in this place in a spirit of honesty.
Just as we are, not just as we hope we might be.
Whole yet broken, filled yet empty, hopeful yet
hopeless.

C: **May God's Spirit of wholeness blow through our lives.**

L: We gather in a spirit of humility. Thankful that God has given us in Jesus Christ a gift which we could never obtain on our own.

C: **May God's Spirit of truth open our eyes to God's goodness.**

L: We gather in a spirit of unity. Side by side at God's table of grace, that we might be fed by the Bread of life.

C: **May God's Spirit of healing work in us and through us. May God's blessing alive in us become a blessing to those around us.**

▲ GATHERING SONG

ALL ARE WELCOME

Lyrics and Music by Marty Haugen / ELW #641 / Vss 1-3

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet
Here the love of God, through Jesus
Is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

▲ OUR OPENING LITANY

CALLED TO BE CHURCH
based on the Book of Acts

L: The last time Jesus was with His disciples, he told them: "When the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world."

C: **So we pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit.'**

- L: And the Spirit came among them.
- C: **And they began to speak to their neighbors about the amazing love of God.**
- L: And the Spirit stayed among them.
- C: **And they devoted themselves to learning and fellowship, to worship and prayer.**
- L: And the Spirit wove them together.
- C: **And they supported one another as they could, and were thankful for what they had.**
- L: The Spirit called them into action.
- C: **To speak the truth and to speak for God.**
- L: The Spirit challenged their assumptions.
- C: **And their eyes were opened to new possibilities.**
- L: The Spirit invited them to journey.
- C: **And wherever they went, they spoke of the mighty acts of God.**
- L: May the same Spirit which called, gathered, enlightened and sanctified those first Christians be present with us.
- C: **For we pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit.'**
- L: So let us pray
- C: **Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit, the early Church discovered that Your Kingdom was far more welcoming than they had previously imagined it to be. We humbly ask that you might pour your Spirit into your Church today, to the end that we too might welcome all into Your Kingdom. For we ask this in the name of the one who welcomed – and still welcomes – all. Amen.**

THE LESSON

Acts 15:1-11

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the gentiles and brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them

to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us, and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

A SONG OF PRAISE THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY
Lyrics by F. Faber / Music Trad. Amer. / ELW 588

***There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.***

***There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.***

***For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.***

***'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.***

***Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.***

THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH based on Acts 10:38-43

We are people who have heard the Good News.

- **How God anointed Jesus with the Spirit of Truth.**
- **How Jesus healed those he encountered along the way.**
- **How Jesus was killed by those who feared his goodness.**
- **How Jesus was raised from death by the Creator of all that is.**

We have been called to be witnesses to that Good News.

- **That God is the God of the living and the dead.**
- **That God offers forgiveness to all who would trust God.**
- **That God is better to us than we are to ourselves.**
- **That God calls us to respect God and embody God's love to our neighbors.**

**May we be Good News people this day and always!
Amen.**

A MUSICAL OFFERTORY DREAMERS AND DOUBTERS
Lyrics and Music by Joseph M. Martin

▲ THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit to manifest the Good News to the ends of the earth, we pray for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation, utilizing the prayer refrain "God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

▲ THE COMMUNION LITANY

L: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, you came to us as a tiny Baby born in danger and discomfort. You grew into a Man whom the world can never forget. You offered up your body and blood for the sake of our broken lives and our broken world. So come to us now in this bread and this wine. Unite us and strengthen us by your presence and through your Word, that we might be your faithful children in this world.

For together we remember that – on the night in which he was betrayed – our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And that same Jesus who called us to remember, and who is present with us now, is the One who taught us all to pray:

C: **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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

As we share in the gift of Holy Communion this morning, we invite you to come to the Altar Rail and kneel or stand as you are able. You are encouraged to remove your mask once you have arrived at the Altar Rail, and don it anew before returning to your seat.

During the serving of Holy Communion, you are invited to sing the following songs with our Worship Team.

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT
Lyrics and Music by Marty Haugen / ELW #465

Refrain
***As the grains of wheat
once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one
to become our bread;
So may all your people
from all the ends of earth,
be gathered into one in you.***

***As this cup of blessing
is shared within our midst
may we share the presence
of your love.*** (Refrain)

***Let this be a foretaste
of all that is to come
when all creation shares
this feast with you.*** (Refrain)

AMAZING GRACE

Lyrics by J. Newton / Music by W. Walker / ELW #779

***Amazing grace!– how sweet the sound–
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.***

***'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!***

***Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.***

***The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.***

***When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.***

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: Go now as witnesses to the love and grace and hope that we find in Jesus Christ. May God raise you from all that would entomb you; may Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you; and may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good.

C: **Amen!**

▲ THE SENDING SONG SON OF GOD, ETERNAL SAVIOR
Lyrics by S. Lowry / Music by J Röntgen / ELW #655

***Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrong, and help our need.***

***As you, Lord, have lived for others,
so may we for others live.***

***Freely have your gifts been granted;
freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty
held in solemn trust will be.***

***Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of Love, and Prince of peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion,
bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
by your silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
stem our selfish greed of gain.***

***Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race:
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done.***

▲ THE CHARGE

L: Go – in peace – to love God by serving your neighbor!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING MUSIC

Julie Hamre

Thank you to this morning's Worship Team for sharing their gifts of music with us today, including:

Bethany Valentine – Vocalist & Creative Director
Gretchen Koellermeier Stenson – Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist
Julie Hamre – Organist and Pianist

For those interested in reading ahead as we journey through the Book of Acts this summer, next week's text is Acts 16:6-15

Biblical passages are resourced from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.