

# 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Orinda, California  
9:30am on August 21, 2022

**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](http://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](http://www.holyshepherd.org) and utilize Givelify, our online giving platform.

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

**GATHERING MUSIC** GOD OF WONDERS  
Lyrics and Music by Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong

## 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** THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH  
Lyrics and Music by Carl Daw / WOV #635

Refrain

**Surely it is God who saves me.  
I will trust in him and not be afraid  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
And he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say,  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name.**

(Refrain)

**Make his deeds known among the peoples;  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,  
and this is known in all the world.**

(Refrain)

▲ **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: **Gracious God, empowered by the Spirit, Paul and his companions told the story of Jesus in ways that people could hear. Fill us with that same Spirit, and give us both the will and the wisdom to tell of your grace and your goodness in ways that people might hear. For we ask this in the name of the One through whom you give us life. Amen.**

## THE LESSON

Acts 17:16-34

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this pretentious babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor

he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed, but others said, "We will hear you again about this." At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

## KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

## A SONG OF PRAISE

IN CHRIST ALONE

Lyrics and Music by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

***In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand***

***In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live***

***There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me***

***For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ***

***No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand***

## 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.

### ▲ 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.*

### MEET US HERE

Lyrics and Music by Mike Hohnholz

***Meet us here, in this place  
Come and fill us with Your power and Your grace  
We long to see, the nations one  
Let Your glory fall, Lord,  
Let Your Kingdom come***

### Chorus

***Holy is the Lord, Seated on the throne  
Sovereign King of all the Earth,  
We crown You Lord of all***

***Meet us here, oh gracious King  
Let us see You in Your beauty and Your majesty  
We long to see that glorious day  
When the ransomed and redeemed  
will join to sing Your praise*** (Chorus)

LORD, I LIVE BY YOUR WORD  
Lyrics and Music by Mark Altrogge

Refrain

**Lord, I live by Your Word.**

**Lord I live by every word from Your mouth.  
And I'm like a tree by a stream;  
I'm bearing fruit, my leaf is green;  
All that I do is prospering, O Lord,  
I live by Your word.**

**As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
And water the earth, and bring forth its fruit,  
So shall be Your Word which You are speaking;  
It shall not return . . . empty to You;  
It shall accomplish Your desire,  
It will surely succeed.  
Your word transforms the desert and  
Your word is changing me.**

(Refrain)

## 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                      THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE Traditional Lyrics and Music

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***

***Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine!***

***Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.  
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine!***

***Shine it all around the world, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Shine it all around the world, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Shine it all around the world, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine!***

#### ▲ THE CHARGE

L: Go – in peace – to love God by serving your neighbor!  
C: **Thanks be to God!**

#### SENDING MUSIC                      THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE (reprise)

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

**Tom Henry** – Guitarist, Vocalist and Creative Director  
**Elizabeth Humphrey** – Vocalist  
**Diana Riveness Young** – Vocalist  
**Bethany Valentine** – Vocalist  
**Marci Bauer** – Vocalist  
**Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson** – Vocalist  
**Ed Szaky** – Vocalist  
**Steve Swanback** – Vocalist  
**Bob Schmalz** – Vocalist  
**Pastor John Valentine** – Vocalist  
**Marc Levine** – Pianist

For those interested in reading ahead as we journey through the Book of Acts this summer, next week's text is Acts 20:17-35.

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