

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
Orinda, California
9:30am on August 28, 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.) 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

"COME, THOU FOUNT"

Lyrics by R. Robinson / Music by J. Wyeth / ELW #807

**Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

▲ 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, by the witness of your apostle Paul you caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

THE LESSON

Acts 20:17-35

From Miletus, Paul sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. When they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus. And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace.

"And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears.

"And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

A SONG OF PRAISE

THE SUMMONS

Lyrics by John Bell / Music Trad. Scottish / ELW #798

***"Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"***

***"Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"***

***"Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,***

***And admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?"***

***"Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?***

***Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?***

***Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"***

***Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.***

***Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.***

***In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.***

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 MUSICAL OFFERTORY

HOW BEAUTIFUL

Lyrics and Music by Twila Paris

▲ 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.

WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST

Lyrics and Music by Ray Makeever / ELW #479

***We come to the hungry feast,
hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
The love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.***

***We come to the hungry feast
hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind,
the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.***

***We come to the hungry feast
hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay with us; still
We come, we come to the hungry feast.***

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

Lyrics by K. Hankey / Music by W. Fischer / ELW #661

***I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.***

Refrain:

***I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

***I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word.***

[Refrain]

***I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long.***

[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

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Lyrics and Music by Graham Kendrick / ELW #671

Refrain:

***Shine, Jesus, shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word Lord, and let there be light***

***Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me: (Refrain)***

***As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me: (Refrain)***

▲ 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 and Creative Director
Gretchen Koellermeier Stenson – Vocalist
Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson – Vocalist
Diana Riveness Young – Vocalist
Elizabeth Humphrey – Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist
Julie Hamre – Organist and Pianist

For those interested in reading ahead, our Summer-long journey through the Book of Acts concludes next week with the reading of Acts 26:1-18.

Please hold Henry Kramer and family in prayer at the passing of beloved wife and mother Carol on August 25th. A memorial service is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 17th at Holy Shepherd.

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