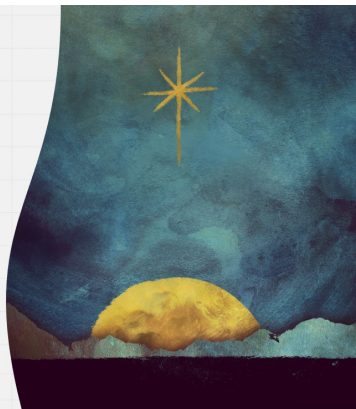


# Epiphany Sunday

January 8, 2023  
Holy Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
Orinda, California



**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 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 the Christ-Child's guests. Jesus welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live!

**Your Offerings** We have resumed the practice of 'passing the offering plate' during our musical offertory. If you would prefer to support the work of our congregation electronically, 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

LET IT BE CHRISTMAS

Lyrics and Music by Alan Jackson

*Let it be Christmas everywhere  
Let heavenly music fill the air  
Let every heart sing, let every bell ring  
The story of hope and joy and peace  
Let it be Christmas everywhere  
Let heavenly music fill the air  
Let anger and fear and hate disappear  
Let there be love that lasts through the year  
And let it be Christmas, Christmas everywhere*

## WORDS OF WELCOME

L: People of God, we gather to worship the One true God.

C: **We gather to worship the One who spoke in the beginning and created something out of nothing.**

L: People of God, we gather to worship the one true God.

C: **We gather to worship the One who took on the clothing of humanity to set those who were oppressed free.**

L: People of God, we gather to worship the One true God.

C: **We gather to worship the One whose Spirit rests continually upon us, calling us out of ourselves and out into life.**

▲ **GATHERING SONG** O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL, COME  
Lyrics and Music by John Francis Wade and BJ Davis

**O come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord**

**Come let us worship the Lord,  
And let us exalt His name together  
Come let us worship Christ our King  
And let us bring our offering, Come ....**

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
O sing all ye bright host of heaven above  
Glory to God all, glory in the highest  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord**

**Come let us worship the Lord,  
And let us exalt His name together  
Come let us worship Christ our King  
And let us bring our offering,  
O come let us adore Him.**

**Come! Come! Come!**

## ▲ 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: Lord Jesus, may your light shine our way, as once it guided the steps of the magi: that we too may be led into your presence and worship you, the Child of Mary and Joseph, the Word of the Father, the Lord of nations, the Savior of humankind; to whom be glory for ever. Amen!**

## THE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-2:12

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," (which means "God is with us.") When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

## THE SONG OF THE DAY

WE THREE KINGS

Lyrics and Music by John Henry Hopkins / WOV #646

***We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.***

Refrain:

***O star of wonder, star of night!  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!***

***Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.*** (Refrain)

***Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
Worshipping God Most High.*** (Refrain)

***Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*** (Refrain)

***Glorious now behold Him arise;  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Heav'n sing alleluia:  
Alleluia the earth replies.*** (Refrain)

## THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2:5-11

**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

FOLLOW THE STAR

Lyrics and Music by Tom Henry and Dave Mohr

## THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family — using the prayer refrain, "*God of Grace, hear our prayer*".

## ▲ THE COMMUNION LITANY

L: 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.

P: **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.**

L: In 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.

## HOLY COMMUNION

*As we share Holy Communion, we invite you to come down the center aisle to receive the bread and wine that bear the Promise of the God is With Us. After consuming the elements, please deposit your empty cup in the small basket and return to your seat by the side aisle. During the serving of Holy Communion, you are invited to join in the following songs:*

### THE FIRST NOEL

Traditional English Christmas Carol / ELW #300

***The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.***

Refrain: ***Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.***

***They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.*** [Refrain]

***And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.*** [Refrain]

***This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.*** [Refrain]

***Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon the knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh, and frankincense.*** [Refrain]

### AT THE NAME OF JESUS

Lyrics by Caroline Noel and Aaron Shust

***At the name of Jesus  
Ev'ry knee will bow,  
And ev'ry tongue confess him  
King of glory now.  
It's the Father's pleasure  
that we should call him Lord,***

*who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word.*

Chorus: ***We sing Glory to the Lord on high  
Glory to the Son, who came to earth to die  
Glory to the Spirit, who lifts the name on high  
The name of Jesus, the name of Jesus.***

***At his voice creation  
Sprang at once to sight,  
all the angel faces,  
all the hosts of light,  
thrones and dominations,  
stars upon their way,  
all in the heav'nly orders  
in their great array.***

[Chorus 2X]

## THE COMMUNION BLESSING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE BENEDICTION

L: May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ-child be God's gift to you this Epiphany time and always.

P: **Amen!**

▲ **SENDING SONG** GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN  
Lyrics & Music Trad. African American Spiritual / ELW #290

Refrain:

***Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!***

***While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.*** [Refrain]

***The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth.*** [Refrain]

***Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.*** [Refrain]

## ▲ THE CHARGE

L: Go in peace, to love and serve the newborn King!

P: **Thanks be to God!**

**SENDING MUSIC** GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN (reprise)

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

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

Interested in reading ahead as we journey through the Gospel according to Matthew? Next week's text is Matthew 4:1-17

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

MUSIC REPRINTED AND STREAMED WITH  
PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-710728  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.