

# EPIPHANY 3

January 22, 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

Julie Hamre

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### ▲ WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: On the first day of creation, God said, "Let there be light." In the person of Jesus Christ, God said, "I am the Light of the world." By the power of the Spirit, God has ignited the light of life in us.

P: **But we have focused on the darkness that surrounds and overwhelms us, that frightens and numbs us.**

L: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

P: **But we have used artificial lights to try and**

**eliminate the darkness in our lives.**

L: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

P: **But we have tried to deny the power of the darkness by pretending that it isn't there.**

L: Forgive us, O God, for these our actions of failure and our failures to act.

P: **Forgive us, Lord God, for putting our trust in ourselves rather than You.**

L: Hear the good news! God has come as a light in the darkness. In the light of Christ we find forgiveness for our past, strength for our present and hope for our future. In Christ, we are enabled to begin life anew. Thanks be to God!

### ▲ GATHERING SONG

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Lyrics and Music by Bernadette Farrell / ELW #715

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to You.  
Make us Your own, Your holy people  
Light for the world to see.**

Refrain: **Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in Your church gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. [Refrain]**

**Longing for food, many are hungry  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us Your bread, broken for others  
Shared until all are fed. [Refrain]**

### ▲ THE GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

### ▲ THE KYRIE

ELW #157

L: *In peace, in peace, Let us pray to the Lord ...*

P: **Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

L: *For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord ...*

P: **Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

L: *For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word. Let us pray to the Lord ...*

P: **Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

L: *Help, save and defend us, O God.*

P: **Amen.**

### ▲ THE HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW #167

(Refrain) **Now the feast and celebration,  
All of creation sings for joy  
To the God of life and love and freedom:  
Praise and glory forevermore!**

**Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  
Whose blood has freed and united us  
To be one great people of God.** (Refrain)

**Power and riches, wisdom and might  
All honor and glory to Christ forever.** (Refrain)

**For God has come to dwell with us,  
To make us people of God;  
To make all things new.** (Refrain)

### ▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you!

P: **And also with you!**

L: Let us pray:

P: **Loving God, your son Jesus taught many things that helped people know how deeply you love humanity. Help us to live in your love, so that we might be beacons of light for others. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### THE LESSON

Matthew 5:1-20

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the

merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot."

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

### THE SONG OF THE DAY

BE NOT AFRAID

Music and Lyrics by Bob Dufford / Gather #608

**You shall cross the barren desert,  
but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety  
though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words in foreign lands  
and all will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live.  
Be not afraid. I go before you always.  
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.**

**If you pass through raging waters in the sea,  
you shall not drown.  
If you walk amid the burning flames,  
you shall not be harmed.  
If you stand before the pow'r of hell**

*and death is at your side,  
know that I am with you through it all.  
Be not afraid. I go before you always.  
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.*

*Blessed are your poor,  
for the kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blest are you that weep and mourn,  
for one day you shall laugh.  
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you  
all because of me,  
blessed, blessed are you!  
Be not afraid. I go before you always.  
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.*

## THE SERMON

Pastor John Valentine

## ▲ OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## THE OFFERTORY

THE BEATITUDES

Lyrics and Music by Austin C. Lovelace

## 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: *The Lord be with you.*

P: **And also with you.**

L: *Lift up your hearts.*

P: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

P: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: *It is our duty and delight ..... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

P: **Holy, holy, holy are you, God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who comes in your name  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

P: 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.' And that same Jesus who called us to remember, and who is present with us now, invites us all to pray:

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.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*As we share Holy Communion, we invite you to come down the center aisle and come to the altar rail to receive the bread and wine that bear the promise that 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 singing the following songs:*

### NOW THE SILENCE

Lyrics by J. Vajda / Music by C. Schalk / ELW #460

**Now the silence, Now the peace  
Now the empty hands uplifted  
Now the kneeling, Now the plea  
Now the Father's arms in welcome**

**Now the hearing, Now the power  
Now the vessel brimmed for pouring  
Now the body, Now the blood  
Now the joyful celebration**

*Now the wedding, Now the songs  
Now the heart forgiven leaping  
Now the Spirit's visitation  
Now the Son's epiphany  
Now the Father's blessing  
Now – Now – Now*

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Lyrics by Gerard Moultrie / Music Trad. French / ELW 490

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descending  
comes full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heav'nly food.*

*Rank on rank, the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way;  
as the Light of light, descending  
from the realms of endless day,  
comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish,  
as the darkness clears away.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE BENEDICTION

L: The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

P: **Amen!**

▲ **SENDING SONG** SHINE, JESUS, SHINE  
Lyrics and Music by Graham Kendrick / ELW #671

*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:

*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*

*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!

P: **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 Stenson** – Vocalist  
**Diana Riveness Young** — Vocalist  
**Sharon Tissue** — Vocalist  
**Joe Zingale** – Vocalist  
**Michael Stenson** – Vocalist  
**Pastor John Valentine** – Vocalist  
**Julie Hamre** – Organist and Pianist

Interested in reading ahead as we journey through Matthew's Gospel? Next week's text is Matthew 6:7-21

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