

# EPIPHANY 6

February 12, 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 Christ'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

NEW DAY

Lyrics and Music by Andy Park

## 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

I AM THE RESURRECTION  
Lyrics and Music by Ray Repp

[Chorus] ***I am the resurrection and the life;  
Those who believe in me will never die.  
I am the resurrection and the life;  
Those who believe in me will live a new life.***

***I have come to bring the truth;  
I have come to bring you life;  
If you believe, then you shall live.*** [Chorus]

***In my word, you all will come to know  
It is love which makes the Spirit grow  
If you believe, then you shall live.*** [Chorus]

***Keep in mind the things that I have said  
Remember me in the breaking of the bread  
If you believe, then you shall live.*** [Chorus]

## ▲ 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 that 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 of stories, Jesus taught us through stories and the wisdom of the shared word. Teach us through your stories, that we may learn, grow, and love. For the sake of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen**

## THE LESSON

Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore

grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation."

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

**KIDTALK** Pastor John Valentine

**THE SONG OF THE DAY** LOVE ONE ANOTHER  
Lyrics and Music by Greg Ronning

Chorus: ***Love one another, share your heart;  
Love one another, let it start;  
The magic of love isn't magic at all;  
It's you and me and Jesus doing it all.***

***Hearts weren't meant to stand alone;  
Hearts aren't made out of cold grey stone;  
Together in love, there's a chance;  
We can turn mourning into a dance.***

[Chorus]

***On the horizon there's a shining light;  
There's an end to the lonely night;  
It ain't no star or shining sun;  
It's you and me together in the kingdom as one.***

[Chorus]

***When you see somebody down and out;  
Give them love, not a reason to doubt;  
As long as someone's hurt you're never free;  
Give them a hand, give them a kingdom to see.***

[Chorus]

**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** HIS MERCY IS MORE  
Lyrics and Music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

**THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's goodness to the whole of the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family — using the prayer refrain, "God of Life, **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 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:*

### CHRIST ABOVE ME

Lyrics and Music by John Chisum and George Searcy

#### Chorus

***Christ above me, Christ beside me,  
Christ within me ever guiding;  
Christ behind me, Christ before,  
Christ, my love, my life, my Lord.***

***Bread of life from heaven,  
Lover of my soul;  
Peace of God so ever present,  
I surrender my control to***  
(Chorus)

***Mercy everlasting,  
Tenderness divine;  
Word of God so ever healing,  
I surrender heart and mind to***  
(Chorus)

### THOSE WHO SEE LIGHT

Lyrics and Music by Nancy Elze and Donald Osuna

***Those who see light can walk in the dark.  
Those who see love can see God.  
Those who look up will discover God's face,  
those who look down will uncover God's path,  
those who perceive God is here with us now  
will see God's return.***

***Those who see light can walk in the dark.  
Those who see love can see God.  
Those who have witnessed the sunrise and set,  
those who have studied a flower unfold,  
those who have focused on land, sea, and sky  
have seen Jesus Christ.***

***Those who see light can walk in the dark.  
Those who see love can see God.  
Those who see good in each person they meet,  
those who look after their neighbors in need,  
those who believe God's now living in them  
will see God's return.***

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us with the Bread of Life and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Nourished by this promise, may we go out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE BENEDICTION

L: May 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

TAKE TO THE WORLD  
Lyrics and Music by Derek Webb

***Go in peace to love and to serve,  
And let your ears ring long with what you've heard  
And may the bread on your tongue  
Leave a trail of crumbs,  
To lead the hungry back  
To the place that you are from***

*Take to the world  
This love this hope and faith  
And take to the world  
This rare, relentless grace  
And like the three in one,  
Know you must become what you wanna save  
'Cause that's still the way,  
He takes to the world*

*So go and go far, take light deep in the dark  
Believe what's true , He uses all, even you  
And may the bread on your tongue  
Leave a trail of crumbs  
To lead the hungry back  
To the place that you are from.*

*Take to the world  
This love this hope and faith  
And take to the world  
This rare, relentless grace  
And like the three in one,  
Know you must become what you wanna save  
'Cause that's still the way,  
He takes to the world*

#### ▲ THE CHARGE

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

#### SENDING MUSIC

TAKE TO THE WORLD (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  
**Bob Schmalz** – Vocalist  
**Steve Swanback** – 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 16:24–17:8

Our journey through the Season of Lent begins on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with the day we call "Ash Wednesday." Join us at 7:00pm that day for a simple service of remembrance and reflection as we hear the words "*Remember that you are dust, and that to dust you shall return.*"

We celebrate with our one-time Teaching Parish Student Diana (Dinah) Washington as she is ordained this coming Saturday, February 18 in the Central Coast city of Lompoc. Diana has been called to serve Peace Lutheran Church at 1000 West Ocean Ave., Lompoc, CA 93436!

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