



Welcome to Worship with Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, whether you worship with us in-person or online (on Facebook Live or archived at www.holyshepherd.org.) May you know God's grace as we worship.

We Continue our five-week-long sermon series on the Ten Commandments — those simple but poignant words which form the foundation of the lives of God's people. If you'd like to see them in their entirety you can find them in both Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.

Know that You Have a Place at the Table! We share in Holy Communion during this morning's service. This is the table of the Lord. Jesus is the host and we are his guests. Jesus welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live!

Your Offerings are one way to express both your gratitude for God's love and your commitment to the work of ministry. To support the work of our congregation electronically, visit 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

▲ OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: Let us begin our time of worship by confessing our sin and our sinfulness to the Holy One in whose name we gather this day.
- P: **In a spirit of honesty, we come before you, God, to confess what you already know — that we have failed to keep your laws and follow your teachings. We have followed our own selfish will, rather than your holy will for our lives. We have twisted your decrees to suit our selfish interests.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart , and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, O God, for — apart from You — we have no hope.

- L: My siblings in Christ, hear the promise of God: "'I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God — showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments." In love, God sent Jesus to bless you and redeem you. God forgives you all your sins and restores you to life. Know God's love. Know God's life. And cherish God's guidance.

P: **Amen!**

▲ GATHERING SONG

PRAISE TO THE LORD

Lyrics by J. Neander / Music Anonymous / ELW #858

***Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!***

***Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle,
uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?***

***Praise to the Lord,
who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriend you.***

***Praise to the Lord!
Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!***

▲ OUR OPENING LITANY

based on Psalm 1

- L: Happy are those who follow the path that is the pathway of God.
- P: **Happy are those who cherish God's instruction.**
- L: God's ways are paths of mercy and justice.
- P: **May our lives be shaped by mercy and justice.**

L: God's ways are revealed in the texts of Holy Scripture.

P: **May our lives be marked by that life-giving Word.**

L: God's ways lead to refreshment and hope

P: **May our lives be nourished in faith, hope and love..**

L: Happy are those who follow the path that is the pathway of God.

P: **Happy are those who cherish God's instruction.**

L: So let us pray

P: **Holy God, you lay your teaching before us as a guide for life and a mirror for self-reflection. Fill us with your Spirit that we might keep your Commandments close to our hearts, to the end that we might love and trust You and gladly do what you command. For this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20:1-11

Then God spoke all these words,

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

KIDTALK

Pastor John Valentine

SONG OF THE DAY

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

Lyrics by J. Rippon / Music Early American / ELW #796

***How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?***

***"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."***

***"When through fi'ry trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."***

***"Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."***

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 PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Strengthened in faith and hope by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need — using the prayer refrain: "God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

OFFERTORY

SEEK YE FIRST

Lyrics and Music by Karen Lafferty

▲ OUR COMMUNION LITANY

L: Here is bread — bread which invites all who hunger for justice to come and eat.

Here is wine — wine which invites all who thirst for righteousness to come and drink.

Here is the table — the table which invites all who are weary to gather and be fed.

Here is community — the community of the whole people of God.

Here is Jesus — the One who invites us all to come and share in the life and love of God.

For — 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 in 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 in 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:

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 in the gift of Holy Communion, we invite you to come to the Altar Rail and kneel or stand as you are able. Note that the Communion Assistant offers both (red) wine and (white) grape juice. After receiving

Communion, please return to your seat by the side aisle, and place the communion cup in the small basket before returning to your seat. During the serving of Holy Communion, you are invited to sing the following songs:

PEACE IS FLOWING LIKE A RIVER

Lyrics and Music: Anonymous / Gather #728

***Peace is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.***

***Joy is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.***

***Faith is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.***

***Hope is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.***

***Love is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.***

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

Lyrics by Carolina S. Berg / Swedish Folk Tune / ELW #781

***Children of the heavenly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.***

***God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil powers he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.***

***Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.***

***Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.***

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

P: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▲ THE BENEDICTION

L: The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. So go out into the world and love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love others as you yourself are loved by God. And may the Holy Spirit go where you go and protect you on your way.

P: **Amen!**

▲ SENDING SONG

OH, THAT THE LORD

Lyrics by I. Watts / Music by W. Havergal / ELW #772

***Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
to keep his statutes still!***

***Oh, that my God would grant me grace
to know and do his will!***

***Order my footsteps by your word
and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord,
but keep my conscience clear.***

***Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
a stricter watch to keep;
and should I e'er forget your way,
restore your wand'ring sheep.***

***Make me to walk in your commands,
'tis a delightful road;
nor let my head or heart or hands
offend against my God.***

▲ 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

Marci Bauer — Vocalist

Won K. Yang — Vocalist

Steve Swanback — Vocalist

Pastor John Valentine — Vocalist

Julie Hamre — Pianist

There is a **Special Meeting of the Congregation** scheduled at 10:45am (following worship) on Sunday, September 13, 2026. The purpose of that meeting is to consider extending a pastoral call to recent seminary graduate Meagan Kim to serve as a pastor in our congregation. Please join us as you are able!

The **Food Bank fo Contra Costa and Solana Counties** needs healthy foodstuffs, and we are committed to loving God by serving our neighbors. So let's help our hungry neighbors eat! The focus items for the month of August are nut butters (peanut, almond, etc.)

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