

# Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026



*Shepherd of the Hills LC*

The Rev. Richard T. Egtvedt

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## WELCOME

### PRELUDE:

### CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, <sup>+</sup> one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Reconciling God,

C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. <sup>+</sup> Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

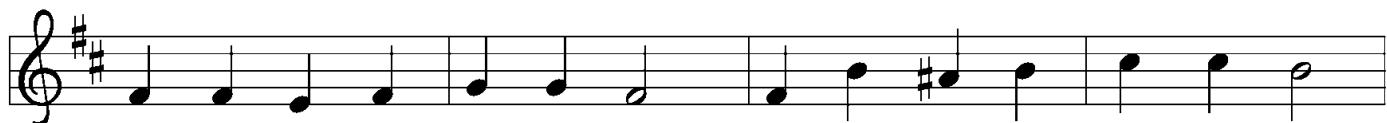
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

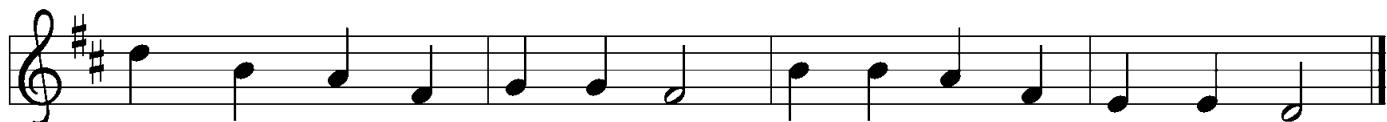


**GATHERING HYMN:****Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies**

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy - less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

**GREETING:**

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

C: And also with you.

**HYMN OF PRAISE:****“Your Great Name”**

Beth Mankin

(v.1) Lost are saved, find their way,  
At the sound of Your great name  
All condemned, feel no shame,  
At the sound of your great name  
Every fear, has no place,  
At the sound of your great name  
The enemy, he has to leave  
At the sound of Your great name

*Chorus*

Jesus, worthy is the lamb that was slain for us,  
Son of God and man  
You are high and lifted up,  
That all the world will praise your great name

(v. 2) All the weak, find their strength,  
At the sound of Your great name  
Hungry souls, receive Your grace,  
At the sound of Your great name  
The Fatherless, they find their rest,  
At the sound of Your great name

*Chorus*

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

*Bridge*

Redeemer, my healer, almighty  
My Savior, defender, You are my King  
Redeemer, my healer, almighty  
My savior, defender, You are my King

That all the world will praise Your great name

Your great name  
Your great name

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## WORD

### THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

- 1 Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- 2 For darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.
- 3 Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- 4 Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together; they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
- 5 Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (Read responsively)

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- 2 **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**
- 3 that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- 4 **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

6 Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

11 May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

12 For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

13 He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.

14 From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

#### THE SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

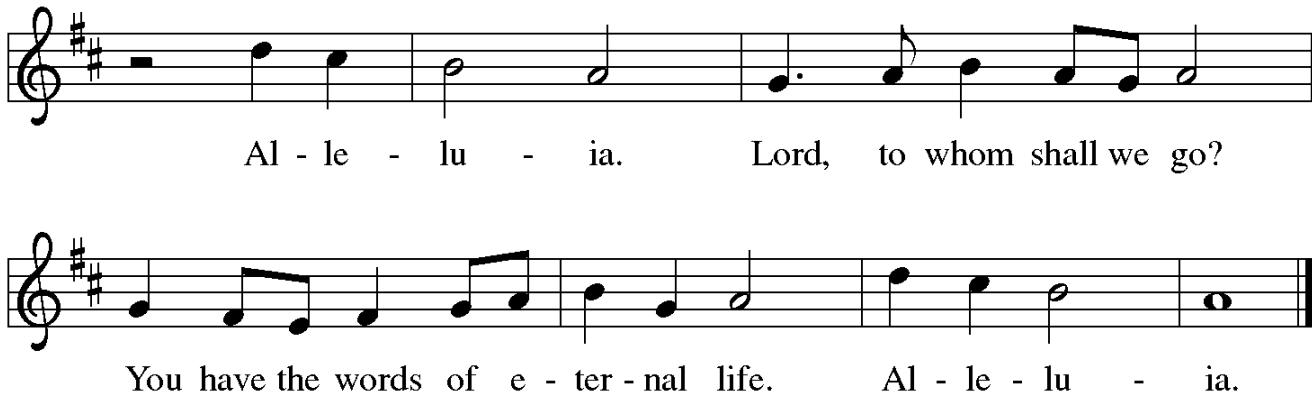
1 This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, 2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you 3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5 In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 6 that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. 8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ 9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



## THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 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." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 '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.'

7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 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." 9 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. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 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. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God

**SERMON:** Pastor Rick Egtvedt

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

## Brightest and Best of the Stars



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,  
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - born - ing,  
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - born - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

## THE CREED

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**C: 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Hear us, O God, **C: your mercy is great.**

P: With the joy of Christ's birth.... **C. Amen.**

### Prayer Concern List:

Laurie	Linda	Sam	Ralph	Dave	Donna	Randy
Susie	Chris	Taichi	Lana	Ronny, Jr.	Ronny, Sr.	Sue
Mary	John	Donna	Patsy	Malachi		

The Family of Dave Terlizzi

The Family of Paul Mullan

## THE PEACE:

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING:** (**DONATIONS** can either be mailed to Shepherd of the Hills, P.O. Box 374, McHenry, MD 21541 or you may donate online using this link: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=YXL6294BDZ82E](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=YXL6294BDZ82E))

## OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## MEAL

### DIALOG:

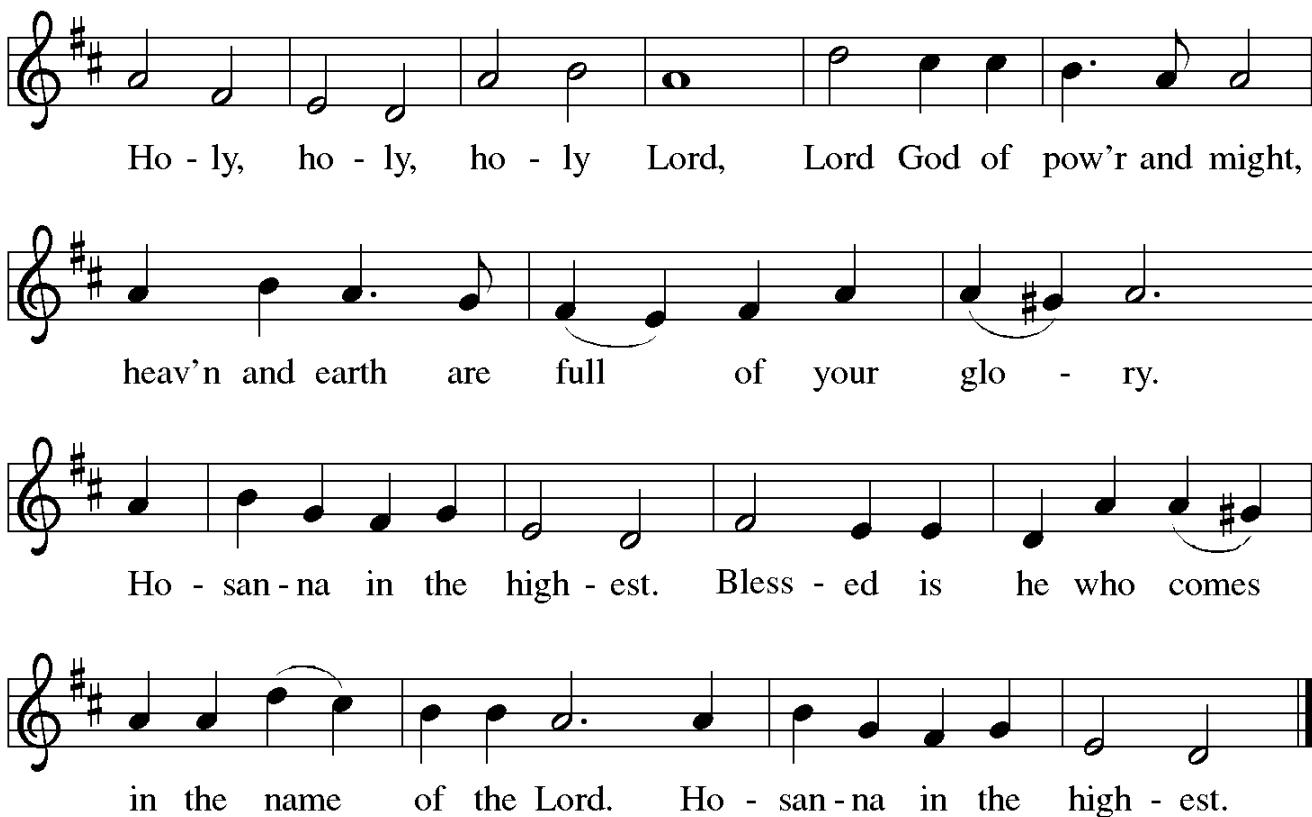
P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE:

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCARISTIC PRAYER:**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray in confidence with the words our Lord taught us:

**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.**

## **INVITATION:**

P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

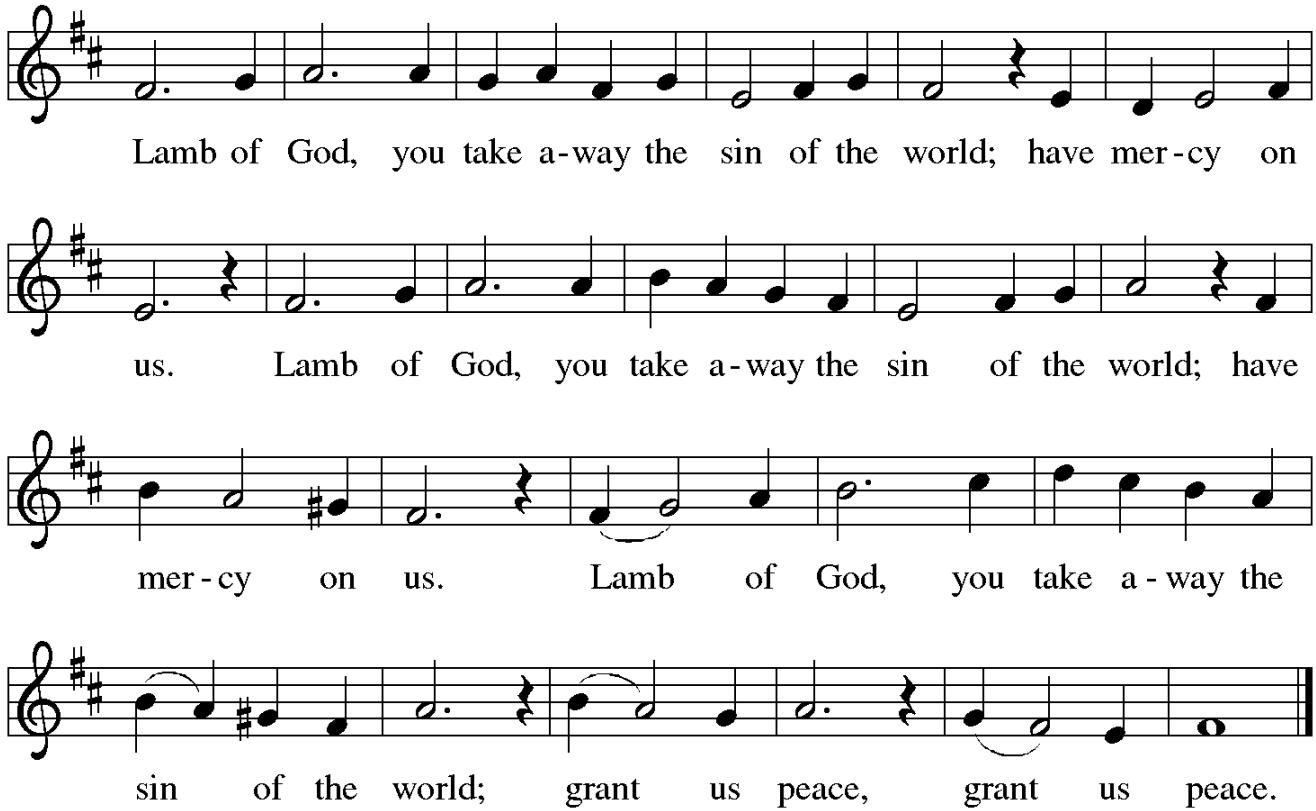
## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:**

"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

Beth Mankin

Wonderful, merciful Savior  
Precious Redeemer and Friend  
Who would have thought that a Lamb  
Could rescue the souls of men  
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper  
Spirit we long to embrace  
You offer hope when our hearts have  
Hopelessly lost our way  
Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way

You are the One that we praise  
You are the One we adore  
You give the healing and grace  
Our hearts always hunger for  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for (Repeat)

You are the One that we praise  
You are the One we adore  
You give the healing and grace  
Our hearts always hunger for  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for

Almighty, infinite Father  
Faithfully loving Your own  
Here in our weakness You find us  
Falling before Your throne  
Oh, we're falling before Your throne

You are the One that we praise  
You are the One we adore  
You give the healing and grace  
Our hearts always hunger for  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for

You are the One that we praise  
You are the One we adore  
You give the healing and grace  
Our hearts always hunger for  
Oh, our hearts always hunger for

Songwriters: Dawn Rodgers / Eric Wyse

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

A: Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

**C: Amen.**

#### **BLESSING**

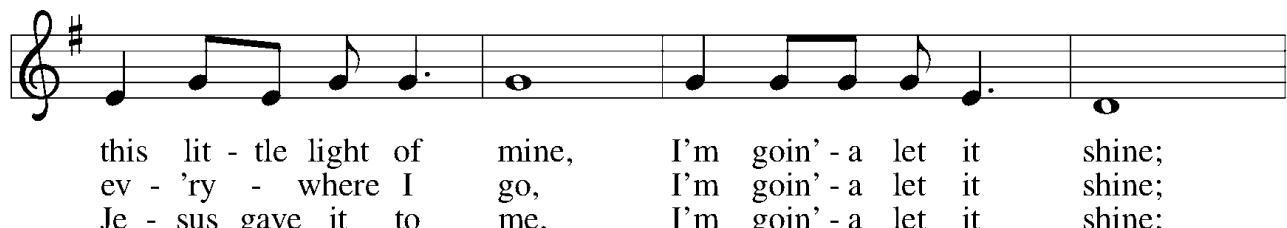
P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, <sup>+</sup> bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**C: Amen.**



**SENDING HYMN:****This Little Light of Mine**

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

**A:** Let us remind ourselves of Shepherd of the Hills' Statement of Purpose:

**C:** God's purpose for Shepherd of the Hills is to live in witness to Jesus Christ, helping one another to experience God's life-changing love, proclaiming the Gospel, and welcoming the diverse community at Deep Creek Lake.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL:**

A: Glory to God In the highest!

**C: And peace to his people on earth!**

A: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

