

## LEADING WORSHIP

Rev. Matt Syrdal, **Senior Pastor**

Rev. Heather Cameron, **Parish Associate**

Jennifer Ketcham, **Worship Leader**

Sandy Safford, **Faith Formation Coordinator**

Michael Martin, **Music Conductor**

## ASSISTING WORSHIP

Kayla Hayes, **Cello**

Jason Pond, **Sound Technician**

Arwen Pond, **Video Technician**

### Easter Festival

March 28

10:00am—noon

Kids and families of all ages are welcome to this event. Join us outside (weather permitting) for crafts, stories, activities and an egg hunt.

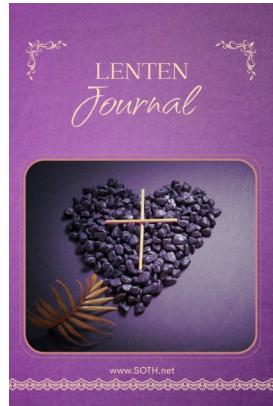


## WORSHIP

### SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM

Everyone is invited to worship at Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church! We believe that it is good, right, and fitting to worship our Creator and Redeemer, and that the ritual of worship is especially rich in community. The worship service is a sacred space where we pray together, sing together, and listen to God's word together.

You are invited to come as you are! Some regular attenders prefer to look a little more formal, while others are content to come in jeans and t-shirt. The choice is yours!



### Lenten Journal

Lent is a season of questions. In Scripture, Jesus asks far more questions than he answers—questions that unsettle assumptions, awaken longing, and open new ways of seeing. This Lenten Journal helps you ponder these questions and write down your thoughts and reflections.

Journals are available for free in the Narthex.

# SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS Presbyterian Church

Your Neighborhood Church

February 18, 2026



## WELCOME AND BLESSING

Rev. Matt Syrdal

## TAIZE CHANT

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us,  
let not my doubts, nor my darkness speak to me,  
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us,  
let my heart always welcome your love.*

## POETRY READING

*Rend Your Heart* by Jan Richardson

Sandy Safford

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sandy Safford

## TAIZE CHANT

*Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison*  
Translation: Lord, have mercy

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Heather Cameron

## SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Heather Cameron

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

## TAIZE CHANT

Jennifer Ketcham & Michael Martin

*Miserere mei, Deus* by Wilton

## POETRY READING

Rev. Matt Syrdal

*Sometimes* by David Whyte

## MESSAGE

Rev. Matt Syrdal

Isaiah 58:1-12

*"Is This the Fast That I Choose?"*

As we begin Lent, God asks a searching question: Is this the fast that I choose? This is not a call to perform religious discipline for its own sake, but an invitation to align our faith with lives of justice, mercy, and compassion. As we receive ashes, we begin our seeking by asking how our spiritual practices might loosen what binds us and draw us—and our neighbors—toward wholeness.

## TIME FOR REFLECTION

What pressures are you experiencing in this season of your life? What kind of fast is God inviting you into this Lent?

## INVITATION TO IMPOSITION OF ASHES

## POETRY READING

*Receive This Cross of Ash Upon Your Brow* by Malcolm Guite

Michael Martin

## TAIZE CHANT

*It is good to trust in the Lord our God,  
trust and hope in the Lord our God.*

## THE NEW ZEALAND ANGLICAN LORD'S PRAYER

Sandy Safford

*Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:*

*The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope  
and come on earth.*

*With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.*

*For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for  
ever. Amen.*

## TAIZE CHANT

*Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:  
the deepest night is clear as the daylight.*

## BLESSING AND CHARGE