

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

Sunday, December 11, 2022 – Traditional Service at 9:45 am

Third Sunday of Advent

~Gathering Together ~

Prelude “Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine” arr. LaPlante

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Centering

Call to Worship

Pastor: Let our spirits rejoice in God our Savior, who has done great things for us, and for all people.

People: God scatters the proud in the imagination of their hearts, and raises up those who humble themselves.

Pastor: God fills the hungry with good things and satisfies those who thirst for goodness.

**All: Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all.
Amen.**

Opening Hymn “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” NCH # 107

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.

In deepest night Christ's coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in wonder,
the weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.

~ *Coming Alive in Community* ~

Learnings from the White Privilege Curriculum

Gary McDermitt

Call to Confession

John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the coming of God's reign. Let us, too, repent, that we may be ready for God who comes to us.

Prayer of Confession

God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force; how difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your rule which comes slowly through love. We admit, that while claiming to desire your reign of peace and justice, we take part in the ways of war, hatred, and injustice. We leave little room for you to act in our lives. We turn now to you in repentance and openness to your Spirit. Forgive us, and show us how to clear a path for you. Come to us in your Christ, and reveal your reign on earth. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection.

Assurance of Forgiveness

God says: Remember these things, O Israel, for you are my servant; you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. I say to you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Lighting of the Advent Candles & Advent Song - "Light One Candle for Messiah"

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: Luke 1:46-55

Louise Hine

The Epistle Reading: James 5:7-10

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

NCH # 119

My soul gives glory to my God, My heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

~ *Sharing Blessings With Others* ~

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

Minister: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

All: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

Offering our Gifts - Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries
The Christmas Fund provides assistance dollars in situations of critical need, including Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to lower-income retired UCC pastors.

Offertory/ Special Music "Christ, Be Our Light" Kelly Strunk, Vocalist
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Offering Response

Hope in the God who reigns above, who holds us all in steadfast love;
Whose spirit blows across the earth, preparing us for the second birth.

Prayer of Dedication

Tues., 12/20 ~ Midday Dinner Club at St. Peter's Inn at noon
Wed., 12/21 ~ Longest Night service at 7 pm

Scripture Readings for December 18:
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately after the services on December 18th to approve the proposed 2023 Current and OCWM Budgets.

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are mouthwash, toothpaste (kids and regular). Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster.

Volunteers Needed for acolyte and scripture readers. If interested, please see Tootie.

Youth Group is selling luminaries again this year. Look for the envelopes in the narthex or see any youth or Gloria Mest. Cost is \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

Poinsettia Sunday, December 18

We will be taking orders for a pot of poinsettias. Deadline is today. Cost is \$10 for a red plant. See Tootie or Louise. Plants will be in the church on December 18.

Mid-day Dinner club will be meeting at St. Peter's Inn on Tuesday, December 20 at noon. It is open to young-at-heart adults of any age who enjoy eating out and would like to get to know other Shenkel members a little better. If you are attending, please add your name and phone number on the sign up sheet no later than Sunday, December 18 so your reservation can be made on time or you may call Sharon Sabo at 610-326-1945 or let her know at the Sunday service if you are able to attend.

New Year's Day Breakfast Worship. We will be having breakfast and worship in the Social Hall on New Year's Day at 8:30. Please bring an item to share. Drinks will be provided.

FINAL LUNCH BUNCH EVENT

Please come and join us as we celebrate the end of an era – Lunch Bunch. Lunch Bunch's favorite storyteller, Pastor Dan Moser, will be sharing a Christmas story with us followed by Christmas Carols led by Shenkel's organist Susan Royer. We would also like to take this time to honor Lunch Bunch's founder, Ruth Klein.

Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 1:00 PM in the Shenkel Church Sanctuary

We invite Shenkel and Temple congregations to join us. We will begin our program in the church sanctuary followed by cookies, punch and coffee in the social room. Take an hour or two break from your busy Christmas preparations and celebrate the season with us "Lunch Bunch style."