

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

Sunday, April 2, 2023 – Traditional Service at 9:45 am

Palm Sunday

~Gathering Together ~

Prelude "Professional for a King" Ritter

Welcome

Invocation

Silence (2 minutes)

Call to Worship

Pastor: Surprising God, you come to our lives in ways we do not expect. We ask for success;

People: you teach us acceptance.

Pastor: We ask to be loved;

People: you ask us to love.

Pastor: We ask for ease;

People: you challenge us.

Pastor: We ask for a triumphant Messiah,

People: you come as one obedient to death.

Pastor: We glorify the winner,

People: you glorify the loser who died on a criminal's cross.

All: Walk among us, surprising God of peace. Sanctify our joys and our successes; turn our hearts to you. At the name of Jesus, we bow before you. May your name be glorified in your church, now and always. Amen.

Opening Hymn "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" NCH # 213

"Hosanna, loud hosanna," the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd,
the victory palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,
And glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey's gait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers;
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!"

~ *Coming Alive in Community* ~

Call to Confession

We confess our shortcomings, not for shame or guilt, but to wrestle honestly with the impact we have on one another. We share in collective confession to bear witness to the struggles of learning and unlearning under systems of domination and exploitation. In so doing, we remember that grace and accountability are healing friends, not divisive foes. In this spirit, let us join together in confession.

Prayer of Confession

God of the mighty prophets, humble teachers, and gentle companions, you equip each of us to join in the lineage of the saints, to support the labors of collective liberation, but we confess, we struggle to take our place. We deny our own power or overestimate it. We accept the way things are and the patterns we inherit. We commit to institutions over people. We confess that though we pray for your kingdom to come, we support conditions that keep it at bay. Pour out your grace among us and build us up in community. Tend the wounds that keep us from our sacred potential and deliver us from temptation to find our safety and security in any power but yours. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor: Beloved, through the love of God, we are being transformed. As we search our hearts and take account, God's mercy is with us. In the knowledge of our inherent and eternal belovedness, may the peace of God's forgiveness encourage us all.

Special Music "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!/The Palms" Chancel Choir
Milman/Dykes/Faure, Words © 1992 The Pilgrim Press / Music © 2023 First Run Muzik Psalter
[P.D.]

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Reading of Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Tootie Hine

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

"Filled with Excitement"

NCH # 214

Filled with excitement, all the happy throng
spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.
There in the distance they began to see,
there on a donkey, comes the Savior Christ..

Refrain:

From every corner a thousand voices sing
praise to the One who comes in the name of God.
Our acclamation breaks forth in shouts of praise,
our triumphant song of joy;
"Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!
Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!"

As in that entrance to Jerusalem,
hosannas we will sing to Jesus Christ,
To our Redeemer who still calls today,
asks us to follow with our love and faith. (Refrain)

~ *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 *Phoebe Ministries* is a non-profit, multi-facility organization located in several eastern PA counties, affiliated with the UCC specializing in health care, housing and support services for seniors. For more information, go to www.phoebe.org.

Offertory

"Invention 13."

J.S. Bach

Offering Response "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" VS. 4 NCH # 565

**Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.
Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.**

Prayer of Dedication

~ Going out in Joy ~

Sending Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

NCH # 216

All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.

O Promised One of Israel, of David’s royal line,
the one called “God’s beloved,” of flesh and yet divine,
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway,
All glory, laud, and honor to you, o Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

Benediction

Postlude

“Ride On King Jesus”

Spiritual

Announcements

The Prayer Community asks you to join with us this week in praying for:

Linda, Andrew, Brandon, Michael, Aaron and AJ Foss and Christine Hauze

Debbie and Glen Hoff

Jen, Jeff, Hannah, Catherine and Audrey Dyott

Chris and Ted Gray

Clair and Jim Faust

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

- Sun., 4/2 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Worship service at 9:45 am in sanctuary
~ Book Study 11 am
- Thurs., 4/6 ~ Maundy Thursday Soup and Bread Communion Service at 5:30 pm in
the Social Hall
- Fri., 4/7 ~ Good Friday Taizé Service at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun., 4/9 ~ Easter Dawn service at Temple UMC at 6:30 am.
~ Worship service with Communion at 9:45 am in sanctuary
~ Book Study 11 am
- Tues., 4/11 ~ Consistory at 6:30 pm
- Wed., 4/12 ~ Yoga at 4:30 pm in Social Hall

Scripture Readings for April 9

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are school supplies: folders, glue, glue sticks, highlighters, index cards, markers, pencils, pencil cases, pens, rulers, spiral notebooks. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster.

Good Friday Community Service, Friday, April 7 at 12:00 pm at 575 North Keim Street, Pottstown. In-person or live on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCCP575>. Sponsored by Pottstown Ministerium Communities of Faith.

In Need of a canopy- We need to find a portable canopy (approx. 10' x 10') to use for covering the Shenkel UCC display tables at the Coventry Woods Fair on Sunday May 21. Does anyone have one we could borrow for the day? Please contact Gary McDermit if you can help.

Coventry Woods Festival table staff needed. The Coventry Woods Festival is on Sunday May 21 and we are in need of people to staff the Shenkel display table between 1-5 PM. Can you help for an hour or more? Please contact Gary McDermit with your availability.

Mid-day Dinner club will be meeting at Santina's at 1 E. Vine St, Stowe on Tuesday, April 18 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, April 16 or you may call Sharon Sabo at 610-326-1945 or let her know at the Sunday service if you are able to attend.

Scholarships. Applications for the 2023 Bill Boyer and Bill Burhans scholarships can be obtained by contacting the church office. Two letters of recommendation are needed for these awards, along with the application. Everything is due in the church office by April 15, 2023.

Eligible applicants may include past scholarship winners who are currently enrolled in further education. This scholarship is awarded based on merit and need. Please contact Randy Berriker if you have any questions on the process.

Looking for Shoes. Friedens United Church of Christ, Oley are collecting shoes from now until April 23. They will accept any kind of shoe that can be worn on a person's foot so long as it's a pair and they are new or gently used. Please put donations outside of the office.