

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

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

Easter Sunday

~Gathering Together ~

Prelude “Easter Dawning” Powell

Welcome

Invocation

Call to Worship

Pastor: Christ has risen.

People: Christ has risen indeed.

Left: God is alive . . .

Right: New birth is given.

Left: Hope is alive . . .

Right: A new age is dawning.

Left: Joy is alive . . .

Right: Redemption is here.

Left: Love is alive . . .

Right: Death cannot harm us.

Left: We are alive . . .

Right: New life is within us.

Left: The church is alive . . .

Right: God’s Spirit is within us.

All: God of life, we worship you.

God of creation, we praise you.

God of revelation, we learn from you.

God of resurrection, we are here to celebrate you.

Opening Hymn “Christ The Lord Is Risen Today” Hymnal # 233

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say:, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Let the Victor’s people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

~ *Coming Alive in Community* ~

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's great mercy, let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

God of new awakenings, we confess that we would rather stay asleep. We are afraid to hope and have our hopes shattered. We are afraid to dream and find our dreams deferred. Break us open like the tomb so that new life may pour forth. Give us the faith to believe, to hope, to dream anew. Let us live as people of your resurrection. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ has risen from the grave to bring us out of the shadow of death, to free us from all fear, to liberate our souls into newness of life. This is good news indeed. Thanks be to God.

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Reading of Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

The Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

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

Musical Drama

"Pilate"

Act 1, Scene 4

written by Jerome Lucido (script) & Dan Wolgemuth (music & lyrics); © 1981 & 2013 First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP)

Pilate: Thomas Gallant

Marcellus: Danny Jenkins

Blind Man: Josh Giannini

Lame Man: Dylan Quinn

Mary Magdalene: Kelly Strunk

Samaritan Woman: Sandy Rowe

"Were You There at Mount Cal'ry?" Chancel Choir & soloists

Hymn for Reflection

"The Lord of Life Is Risen" Vs. 1-3

The Lord of life is risen; Sing, Easter heralds, sing!
He bursts His rocky prison; Wide let the triumph ring!
In death no longer lying, He rose, the Prince, today;
Life of the dead and dying, He triumphed o'er decay.

The Lord of life is risen, And love no longer grieves;
In ruin lies death's prison, Sing, heralds, Jesus lives!
We hear Thy blessed greeting; Salvation's work is done!
We worship Thee, repeating, "Life for the dead is won!"

Around Thy tomb, O Jesus, How sweet the Easter breath;
Hear we not in the breezes, "Where is thy sting, O death?"
Dark hell flies in commotion, The heavens their anthems sing;
While far o'er earth and ocean Glad hallelujahs ring!

~ 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

"This Joyful Eastertide"

Polley

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

~ *Holy Communion* ~

Invitation

Leader: Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen . . . they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

People: In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

Leader: This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

The Communion Prayer

Leader: The Holy One be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Open your hearts.

People: We open our hearts to you, O God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God, an Abiding Presence.

People: To the One who companions us through all things, we give thanks and praise.

Leader: Faithful One, we come to your table hungry. . .

In awe and gratitude, we join together in praise of you, Source of Abundance:

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

The Words of Institution

Since the beginning, you have been building a lineage . . . In remembrance of Jesus, executed by the state, faithful to the end, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again!

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Wine

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: Let us pray.

All: God of Persistence, though you have been betrayed many times, you still do not give up on love. Evil is relentless but so, too, is your belief in us. In our ability to be transformed. To turn from dominance. To mend and repair where harm has been done. May we too, believe in our potential for co-creating with you a future of flourishing for all life. We give thanks for this meal, a reminder of your unending grace and abiding companionship. Amen.

~ *Going out in Joy* ~

Sending Hymn

“Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

Hymnal # 243
HYFRYDOL tune

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
Jesus on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled;
But the crucified Redeemer now is risen from the dead!

Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born;
Glorious life, and life immortal on this holy Easter morn;
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by God's liberating deed;
Now the Christ with us abiding to eternal life shall lead.

Christ is risen, we are risen; shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of your face;
That we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel hands be gathered, and be yours eternally.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be the God of joy;
Alleluia! to the Savior who came death's bonds to destroy;
Alleluia! to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.

Benediction

Postlude

Announcements

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

Pat and Don Laverty
Sandy Peterman and James Heath and Emily Trego
Cameron Dushanko
David Phillips
Erika Price

~ This week 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
Tues., 4/11 ~ Consistory at 6:30 pm
Wed., 4/12 ~ Yoga at 4:30 pm in Social Hall

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun., 4/16 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Worship service at 9:45 am in sanctuary
~ Book Study 11 am
~ Church School at 11 am
- Tues., 4/18 ~ MidDay Dinner Club at noon at Santina's
- Wed., 4/19 ~ Yoga at 4:30 pm in Social Hall
- Thurs., 4/20 ~ Card class at 10 am
~ Agape at 6:30 pm

Scripture Readings for April 16:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; John 20:19-31

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.

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.

Church School. Shenkel is offering church school for children age 2 years to 6th grade on Sunday, April 16 at 11:00 am at the church. (Use the social hall doors). The next one will be held on Sunday, May 21 at 11:00 am. This one hour program will engage the children in singing fun songs, learning about God, and participating in age appropriate activities. We look forward to this time with your children.

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.