

December 26, 2021
First Sunday after Christmas

~Gathering Together ~

Welcome

Missions & Ministries

Invocation

Prelude

“Angels”

Brinkman

Call to Worship

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward all.

People: For out of God’s own being, Jesus has come to bring love and light to all people.

Pastor: Jesus is our Emmanuel – God With Us - come to gather our tears and laughter, our work and play into God’s love.

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

Opening Hymn

“Joy to the World!”

NCH # 132

~ Coming Alive in Community ~

Call to Confession

God loves this world of flesh and blood, stone and tree, sheep and oxen, star and field. God loves the world so much that God comes to us in Jesus. Yet we are careless with God’s creation. Let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

How amazing is your love, great God! You are not distant from us in some faraway heaven; you have come close to us in a child born of simple parents and cradled in a borrowed bed of straw. We confess we abuse this created world. When we stand by while the earth is despoiled and its destruction threatened, God, forgive. When we inflict physical or emotional pain on those with whom we share our lives, God, forgive. When we abuse or neglect our own bodies, God, forgive. By your great love, God, draw us into new ways of living. Teach us to cherish and nurture life in this fragile world, in the manner of Jesus the Christ, whose birth we celebrate today. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: In compassion, God forgives us, enabling us to turn from the way of violence and death; God shows us how to choose and cherish life. I say to you in the name of Jesus: Our sins are forgiven. Rejoice and sing!

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: I Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Louise Hine

The Reading of Psalm 148

The Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

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

Lessons and Carols

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

NCH # 144

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

NCH # 126

~ *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 **Christmas Fund.** *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. Your gift will help to brighten the life of one of God's servants who is facing a moment of personal need.*

Offering Response

***To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise.***

Prayer of Dedication

~ *Going out in Joy* ~

Sending Hymn

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

NCH # 154

Benediction

Postlude

Festal Flourish on “Ding, Dong! Merrily on High”

Lasky

Announcements

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

Louise Hine

Lori and Kaya Skulski and Jordon Gerhardt-Skulski

Kay Ellis

Gloria Mest

Marie Bade

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 12/26 ~ Worship service in the Sanctuary at 9:45 am.

Wed., 12/29 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

Office Closed 12/27—1/3

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun., 1/2 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary. Communion

~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am. Communion

Wed., 1/5 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

Scripture Readings for January 2:

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Matthew 2:1-12

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

Living Market. We will keep the market open (closing after the 9:45 service on Sunday, December 26th). We have set a goal of \$5000.00, which is equivalent to the cost of an ark through Heifer International. We are thinking of it as the "Shenkel Ark." Once the market has closed on December 26, any additional funds needed to meet the \$5000 goal will be provided through the Shenkel mission fund.

If you would like to purchase items through the Living Market, please see Kelli Sorg, Steve Mest, or Kelly Strunk after the 8:30 and 9:45 services. Please make checks payable to *Heifer International*.

Attention Committee Chairpersons

The end of the year is *fast approaching*, and your annual committee report will be due at the church office no later than January 12th in order for the annual report to be completed on time.

Mid-day Dinner club will be meeting at Coventry Pub on Tuesday, January 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, January 16 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.

Current Address for Verna Walters:

Manatawny Manor

30 Old Schuylkill Road

Bed C 10 A

Pottstown, PA 19465

Phone # 610-970-8238