Until the Dawn

CRY OUT

Advent 1 – November 29, 2026

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!
An Open and Affirming congregation since 2018

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

~Gathering Together~

Prelude "Come, thou Long-Expected Jesus" (arr. V. Ryan)

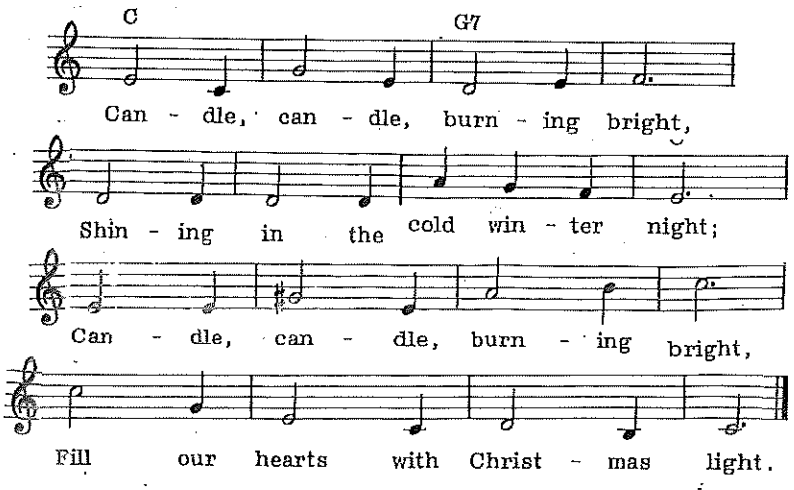
Welcome

Call to Worship

In God's house,
we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
In God's house,
we may come exactly as we are.
In God's house,
we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.
In God's house,
all are welcome and all are heard.
So come and worship.
God is here. God is listening.
Let us worship our with-us God.

Opening Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (NCH#116)

Advent Wreath Lighting



~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

In scripture, we see people cry out to God with honesty and authenticity.
The Psalmists pray, "How long, O God?"
They beg, "Come and save us," and "Let your face shine upon us."
From their raw honesty, we know that we can go to God with just as much honesty about the truth of our lives.
So join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in this moment of truth-telling. Just as the Psalmists did, let us go to God in prayer. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
we have been known—
to bite our tongues,
to work through a broken heart,
to don our favorite rose-colored glasses.
We have been known—
to look for the bright side,
to sweep the pain under the rug,
to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss.
We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves.
Forgive us for filtering our honesty.
Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament.
Forgive us for not turning to you first.
Remind us that you are a God who listens
and you are a God who restores.
With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith,
whether you pray like the Psalmists—raw and unfiltered—
or you can't remember the last time you were honest with God,
God still loves you. God sees you. And God longs to be in relationship.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
There is nothing we could do or say that will keep God's love at bay.
We are seen, forgiven, and invited—into deeper honesty and deeper relationship.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Moment

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons — Louise Hine

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Isaiah 64:1-9

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

Sermon — Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Restore us God" - insert. (See NCH#133 for harmonies)

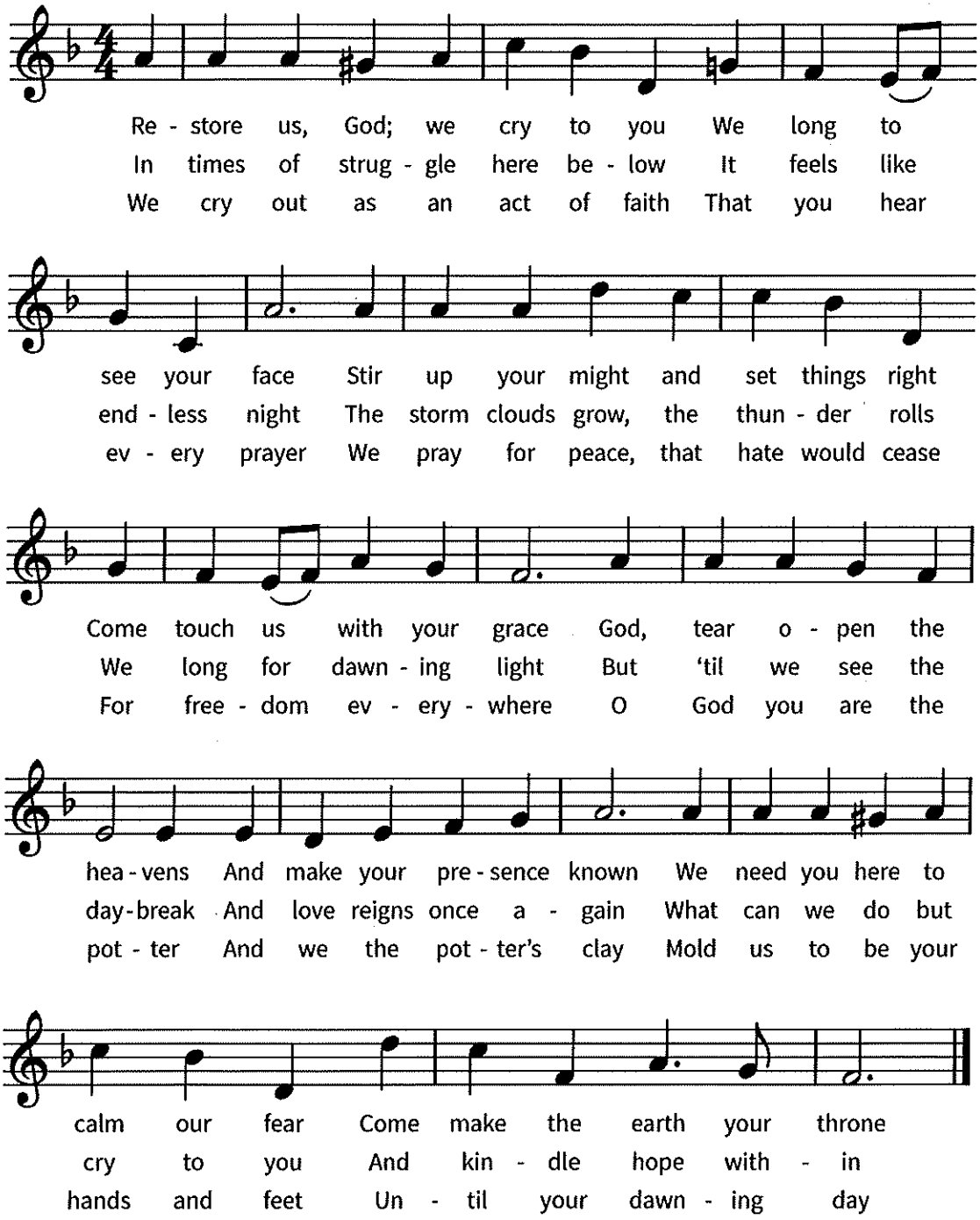
~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

Restore Us, God

ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6 D ("O Little Town of Bethlehem")

Words: Anna Strickland (2026) Music: Lewis H. Redner (1868)



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Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries.
December's Special Offering – Christmas Fund

Offertory	"Watchman Tell Us"	(Elvey)
Offering Response	"O How Shall I Receive You", vs 1	(NCH#102)
Prayer of Dedication		

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn	"Keep Awake, Be Always Ready"	(NCH#112)
Benediction		
Choral Blessing:	Until the Dawn	(Sam Allen)
Chimes		
Postlude	"Love, the Guest, is on the Way"	(Besancon)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding
Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com
Sexton: Stacy Keim
Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth
Organist/Interim Music Director: Susan Royer
Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Candle lighting Song: "Light the Advent Candle" (Mary Lu Walker)

Announcements:
~Sunday, November 29, 2026~

Sun, 11/29 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary
~ Choir Rehearsal after Worship at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary, all are welcome.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 12/6 ~Reflective Worship Service with Communion at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service Communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary. ~
Choir Rehearsal after Worship at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary, all are welcome.

Please feel free to scan this code to donate through our online giving page.

Scripture Reading for December 6th **Andrew Foss**

Mark 1:1-9
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Cluster donations for December: Jelly and shelf stable fruit juice

Poinsettia Time: Louise and Tootie are taking orders for poinsettias from Levengoods, the cost is $12.00 per pot. They will need a preliminary count by November 29th and a final count by December 6th.

GIOVANNI's NIGHT! Tuesday, December 8th, 4:00-9:00 PM: Take a break from the holiday rush and support Shenkel UCC at Giovanni's Pizza & Italian Restaurant!
Dine-in, Carry-out, or Order Online...Shenkel will receive a portion of the sale!
MUST mention that you are supporting Shenkel Church for dine-in & carry-out and include in notes for online orders. Fliers are in the narthex to share with others--SPREAD THE WORD! *Offer applies to restaurant only, 1492 E Schuylkill Rd, Pottstown 19465; does not include Giovanni's Express.

Luminaries: There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Donations are $10.00, please give to Gloria Mest or put in the offering plate. Deadline is December 15th.

3rd ANNUAL "NEW YEAR REBOOT" Saturday, January 9, 2027, 10AM-12 Noon:
Join us and start 2027on a positive and healthy note! We are excited to welcome back Lisa Fairman of Earth Rhythms who will share the art of drumming and other techniques to promote self-expression and boost physical and mental well-being. You won't want to miss this--All are welcome!

12th Night Festival: You are invited to join Shenkel friends on January 10th in attending a 12th Night Festival in Allentown. This is a traditional celebration of the 12th Day of Christmas, in the style of a medieval banquet. (No actual food, it's more of a pageant.)
We will be carpooling from Shenkel at 11:30 a.m. in time to get to the 1 p.m. show in Allentown at Christ Lutheran Church. It's a fascinating and enriching program. You can read more about it here: https://www.christ-atown.org/twelfth-night-festival
Suggested donation is $15 per person. We should reserve seats ahead of time, it is a very popular event. If you are interested, please let Susan Royer know as soon as possible!

Bethany Children's Home Christmas: We are once again giving gift cards to Bethany Children's Home. Please take one or more paper ornaments from the tree in the Narthex labeled with gift card of your choice. Purchase the gift card(s) and place in the envelope under the tree.

Carol Lykens Giving Challenge: We're receiving gifts for our Carol Lykens Fill-The-Hat Challenge! You're encouraged to make an additional contribution to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. Contributions can be made to Shenkel UCC with "Carol Challenge" in the memo line, or donate online through our website. Thank you!

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Classes are on Thursday mornings from 11AM-noon. Suggested cost is $12/class or come and pay what you're able. Cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us! No experience necessary--All are welcome! **Qigong classes are now held upstairs in the Sanctuary.**

Grocery run? Consider using Giant and Redner's cards for your grocery store purchases: Shenkel earns $5 for every $100 on Giant and Redner's gift cards – which are available every week at church.

Stewardship: Stewardship Committee will meet next on December 2nd at 5:30 pm. The charge of the committee is to: find ways to increase much needed revenue, attract new members, and identify new ways to provide ministry. Please contact members of the committee with your thoughts. Committee members: Chris Gray, Dan Jenkins, Kim Yocom, Julie Zachesky, and Brenda Berriker, Tom & Mo Gallant.

Church School: Children from 3 years through grade 6 are invited to participate in church school on the third Sunday of the month at 11:00 AM. Our next Church School is on December 20th.

Shenkel Prayer Group: Meets at 10:00 am on the first Monday of the month. All are welcome to participate. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and celebrate the Spirit of God moving among us as we pray together.

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Glen Bradley
Erika, Kyle, Giovanni and Christopher Manetti
Noah Bradley
David Phillips

Birthdays in the month of November:

Cole Major	11/5/26
Louise Hine	11/6/26
Alex Mocarski	11/6/26
Joe Palubinsky	11/7/26
Homer Royer	11/8/26
Kaleena Sweinhart	11/8/26
Madeline Mest	11/15/26
John Sabo	11/16/26
Peter Wanner	11/17/26
Clair Faust	11/19/26
Ben Mocarski	11/21/26
Tracy Dise	11/25/26
AJ Foss	11/25/26
Linda Foss	11/28/26
Mindy Chidawu	11/30/26

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

- prayerfully and creatively worships God;
- unconditionally loves and accepts all;
- generously gives and serves our community and our world.