

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

Sunday, October 23, 2022 – Traditional Service at 9:45 am

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

~Gathering Together ~

Prelude “How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place” Brahms

Welcome

Missions & Ministries

Invocation

Choral Introit “Be Here Now” Songbook # 72
Be here now, never mind about the past.
Be here now let the future take care of itself.
Be here now; it’s only the moment that lasts. Be here now, be here now.

Call to Worship

Pastor: How lovely is your dwelling place, O God of hosts!

People: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of God;

Pastor: my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

People: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,

Pastor: where she may lay her young, at your altars,

People: O God of hosts, my Ruler and my God.

Pastor: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

Opening Hymn “Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve” NCH # 491

Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve, and press with vigor on;
A heavenly race demands thy zeal, and an immortal crown,
and an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around holds you in full survey;
Forget the steps already trod, and onward urge your way,
and onward urge your way.

For God’s all-animating voice still calls us to the race;
And God’s own hand still gives the prize with never ending grace,
with never ending grace.

O Savior, shown the way by you, I have my race begun;
And, crowned with victory, at your feet I'll lay my honors down,
I'll lay my honors down.

~ *Coming Alive in Community* ~

Call to Confession

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

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess to you that we have not been your servant people. We have not been as loving, caring, sharing as we should. We have been weak in the cause of justice, slow to opportunities for kindness, quick to anger and hurting words. We have each put ourselves in the center of our world. We have turned away from our neighbor's need. We have not thanked you, nor been your ministers, nor prayed as we should. Accept the burden of our sinful selves, heal our pain, and set us free. In the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we have been forgiven and set free!

Special Music

Standing in The Need Of Prayer/Sweet Hour of Prayer

African-American Spiritual/William Walford/William Bradbury © 2022 First Run Muzik
Psalter (ASCAP); Arrangement & Piano, Dan Wolgemuth

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Apocrypha Reading: Sirach 35:12-17

Louise Hine

Reading of Psalm 84:1-7

The Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

"Just As I Am"

NCH # 207

Just as I am, without one plea, but that your blood was shed for me,
And that you called inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, you will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, your love unknown has broken every barrier down;
Now to be yours, and yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come!

~ *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
Neighbors in Need - is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. For more information, go to www.ucc.org/nin.

Offertory Music

Offering Response

"We Praise You, O God"

NCH # 420

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Prayer of Dedication

~ *Going out in Joy* ~

Sending Hymn

"How Lovely Is Your Dwelling"

NCH # 600

How lovely is your dwelling, O God, my hope and strength.
My spirit longs for shelter, my flesh cries out for home,
where even swallows nesting beside your altar resting
are ever prais - ing you.

How blessed are those whose travels are strengthened by your hand,
who pass through shadowed valleys and find refreshing springs.
Your rains fall soft as kindness on all your faithful pilgrims
until they come to you.

Look on me, God of goodness, you are my sun and shield,
One day within your household is what I most desire.
O guide me in your mercy along my lonely pathway;
O bring me safe - ly home.

Benediction

Postlude

“Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”

Hyfrydol, arr Prichard

Announcements

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

Kathy Murphy

Betsy and Ken Bevan

Mindy, Isabelle and Sela Chidawu

Verna Walters

Freda Wanner

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

- Sun., 10/23 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
- ~ Worship service at 9:45 am in sanctuary
- ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
- Tues., 10/25 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
- Wed., 10/26 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 7 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun., 10/30 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
- ~ Worship service at 9:45 am in sanctuary
- ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
- Tues., 11/1 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
- Wed., 11/2 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 7 pm

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are dish soap, multi-purpose cleaners, and toilet paper. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster.

We will be offering opportunities for **continuing education and discussion about white privilege**. We will be using the UCC curriculum “White Privilege, let's talk, A Resource for Transformational Dialogue” Again there will be three different discussion times in which to participate starting October 23 (part 3 ends this week):

Sunday after worship, 11:00 am; Tuesday at 11:00 am; Wednesday at 7:00 pm

All discussions are planned to take place in person in the social hall. You can pick up a copy of the third section at the church office. The expectation is that you will have read the first chapter and arrive ready to join in a discussion. I look forward to learning and growing together as we work our way through this curriculum.

2022 Fall Book Study: *Recovering Racist: Dismantling White Supremacy and Reclaiming Our Humanity*

The PSEC Racial Justice Initiative is offering a 2022 Fall Book Study on *Recovering Racist: Dismantling White Supremacy and Reclaiming Our Humanity* by Idelette McVicker.

As a white Afrikaner woman growing up in South Africa during apartheid, Idelette McVicker was steeped in a community and a church that reinforced racism and shielded her from seeing her neighbors' oppression. *Recovering Racists* shares McVicker's journey over thirty years and across three continents to shatter the lies of white supremacy embedded deep within her soul.

She helps us realize that grappling with the legacy of white supremacy and recovering from racism is lifelong work that requires both inner transformation and societal change. As we work for the freedom for everyone, we also find freedom for ourselves. **Join us for five on-line sessions, Tuesdays Nov. 1-29, 3p or 7p each week.**

Approved for PSEC Diversity Training Credits

Registration is free! Register on PSEC website on the Fall Book study link.