

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

Sunday, November 27, 2022 – Traditional Service at 9:45 am

First Sunday of Advent

~Gathering Together ~

Prelude "Waiting with Hope" Eliot

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Centering

Call to Worship

Pastor: To stand watch - over a sick child or a rising loaf,

People: at the gate of a factory, upon the ramparts of a walled city

Pastor: or on a craggy top of a mountain -

People: calls for alert senses and sensitivities.

Pastor: Standing watch demands an awareness of surroundings, for even when it seems as though there is nothing out there to watch for, you must be ready for anything.

People: Standing watch builds anticipation.

Pastor: In this season we seek to watch with eagerness for the promised but always surprising arrival of Christ.

People: God comes to be with us, ready or not.

Pastor: May our worship this morning and in the days ahead be times of looking forward with perceptive and receptive watchfulness.

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

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O come, O wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, And help us in that way to go. [Refrain]

O come, O come, O Adonai, who came to all on Sinai high,
And from its peak a single law proclaimed in majesty and awe. [Refrain]

O come, O shoot of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny,
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the path to endless day, To hell's destruction close the way. [Refrain]

~ *Coming Alive in Community* ~

Learnings from the White Privilege Curriculum

Pat Kuestner

Call to Confession

John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the coming of God's reign. Let us, too, repent, that we may be ready for God who comes to us.

Prayer of Confession

God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force; how difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your rule which comes slowly through love. We admit, that while claiming to desire your reign of peace and justice, we take part in the ways of war, hatred, and injustice. We leave little room for you to act in our lives. We turn now to you in repentance and openness to your Spirit. Forgive us, and show us how to clear a path for you. Come to us in your Christ, and reveal your reign on earth. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection.

Assurance of Forgiveness

God says: Remember these things, O Israel, for you are my servant; you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. I say to you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Lighting of the Advent Candle & Advent Song

“Light One Candle for Messiah”

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Dan Wolgemuth

The Epistle Reading: Romans 13:11-14

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

“Keep Awake, Be Always Ready”

NCH # 112

Keep awake, be always ready, God’s time approaches sure and steady,

God’s strength will keep your heart from blame.

Clouds, the Spirit’s light concealing, disperse, God’s purest light revealing;

Creation will its Sovereign name.

Dry branches burst forth green, God’s advent signs are seen; Hallelujah!

Christ’s judgment won, God’s will be done, God’s new dominion thus begun.

Rise and shine for One is coming whose love will quench all nature’s thirsting
to be made whole forever more.

On that day to end all weeping, death’s swords transformed to tools of reaping,
the God of might will mercy pour.

Incarnate, God appears embracing all our tears; Hallelujah! God’s majesty eternally
revealed to set the cosmos free.

~ *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
All Saints Day/PSEC Retired - The All Saints Offering is used to supplement the needs of the retired pastors, spouses, and widows in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference who need assistance with health and dental insurance. Your generosity will bring peace of mind and improved health to those who have served the church so faithfully in the past.

Offertory/ Special Music

Offering Response

Hope is in the God who reigns above, who holds us all in steadfast love;

Whose spirit blows across the earth, preparing us for the second birth.

Prayer of Dedication

~ Going out in Joy ~

Sending Hymn

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are:
Traveler, over yon mountain's height, See that glory beaming star!
Watchman, doth its beauteous ray Aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, Promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night, Higher yet that star ascends;
Traveler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth, its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own, See, it bursts o'er all the earth!

Watchman, tell us of the night, For the morning seems to dawn:
Traveler, darkness takes its flight; Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease; Hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God is come!

Benediction

Postlude

“Adventus”

Margarethe Hokansen

Announcements

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

Jen, Jeff, Hannah, Catherine and Audrey Dyott
David and Tim Klein
Mary Lou Smith
Pat Kuestner

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 11/27 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Worship service at 9:45 am in sanctuary

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun., 12/4 ~ Reflective Worship service with communion at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Worship service with communion at 9:45 am in sanctuary
~ Speaker Janice Lee after worship in the social hall
Wed., 12/7 ~ Yoga at 4:30 pm

Scripture Readings for December 4:
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Matthew 3:1-12

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

Pottstown Cluster Holiday meal & Christmas gifts. Shenkel's collection assignment for the Cluster's Christmas meal this year is 200 **cans** of gravy. Start looking for those sales now. Deadline to donate is Sunday, December 11. For Christmas, we are also collecting gifts for children ages newborn to 17 years old. The gifts can be unwrapped or a gift card. Deadline to contribute is also Sunday, December 11. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed for acolyte and scripture readers. If interested, please see Tootie.