

January 23, 2022
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Prelude “Prelude in E Flat” Guilmant

Greeting

Opening Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Call to Confession

Let us come with confidence and humility to our time of confession.

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, we confess that we do not expect and long for the transforming power of your love to work miracles in these hard hearts of ours. Yet we secretly long for a rescue, an escape, a miracle, to relieve us of the responsibilities and the challenges you set before us. Healing Spirit, renew our confidence in your power and in the power of love to change our lives, and give us courage to be the fully responsible persons Christ calls us to be. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

God is merciful and gracious; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music “Come, Share the Spirit” Sandy Rowe, Soloist
Vicki Vogel Schmidt © 1987 Vicki Vogel Schmidt, arranged by Dan Wolgemuth © 2022 Music
arrangement-First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP)

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹ all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

Hymn for Reflection

“O Holy Spirit, Root of Life”

O Holy Spirit, Root of life, Creator, cleanser of all things,
anoint our wounds; awaken us with lustrous movement of your wings.

Eternal Vigour, Saving One, you free us by your living Word,
becoming flesh to wear our pain, and all creation is restored.

O Holy Wisdom, Soaring power, encompass us with wings unfurled,
and carry us, encircling all, above, below and through the world.

Prayers of Intercession/ Lord's Prayer

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

Bethany Children's Home - provides residential services for children and adolescents who are unable to live with their own family. Using the Sanctuary Model, Bethany strives to provide a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid their residents in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter, healthier future. Founded in 1863 and related to the United Church of Christ, Bethany serves more than three hundred boys and girls each year on its Womelsdorf, PA campus.

Sending Hymn

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

Glory to God, and praise and love be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven.

Benediction

Postlude

“Light of the World”

Crawford

Announcements

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

Dawn Yocom

Becky, Joe, Grace, Cole Major and Seth Dawicki

Julianne Wanner

Charlene Logan

Suzanne Spaulding

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 1/23 ~ Virtual Service posted to YouTube at 9:45 am
Wed., 1/26 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

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Wed., 1/26 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

Scripture Readings for January 30:

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Luke 4:21-30

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are Baby Items: baby cereal, baby food, baby lotion, baby wipes, baby shampoo. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is postponed until further notice. Copies of the 2021 Annual Report will be available for you by the end of January or beginning of February. I am still looking for reports from Pastor, Consistory and Board of Christian Education.