

# *Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!*

*Sunday, March 19, 2023 – Traditional Service at 9:45 am*

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

*~Gathering Together ~*

Prelude “Andantino” Franck

Welcome

Invocation

*Silence (2 minutes)*

Call to Worship

Pastor: God does not see as mortals see. We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

**People: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

Pastor: Once we lived in darkness, but now – as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.

**People: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

Opening Hymn

“God of the Prophets”

Hymnal # 358

God of the prophets, bless the prophet’s heirs, Elijah’s mantle o’er Elisha cast.

Each age for its own solemn tasks prepares; Make each one nobler, stronger than the last.

Anoint them prophets! Make their ears attend To your divinest speech; their hearts awake  
To human need; their lips make eloquent For righteousness that shall all evil break.

Anoint them priests! Strong intercessors they For pardon, and for charity and peace!  
O might with them the world, though gone astray, Pass into Christ’s pure life of sacrifice.

Make them apostles! Heralds of your cross, forth may they go to tell all realms your grace.  
Inspired of you, may they count all but loss, And stand at last with joy before your face.

*~ Coming Alive in Community ~*

Call to Confession

As children of God’s light, we are called to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

*Silence for Prayer and Reflection.*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor: The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

Special Music

"Many Are the Lightbeams"

Ladies trio

*~ We Hear God's Word ~*

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Louise Hine

The Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

The Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

NCH # 553

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (Refrain)

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
Who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend. (Refrain)

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus who died to save us all. (Refrain)

~ *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  
***One Great Hour of Sharing*** - One Great Hour of Sharing provides disaster relief and community development all around the world. You can read more about OGHS at [www.oghs@ucc.org](http://www.oghs@ucc.org).

Offertory

“Just As I Am“

arr. Hegarty

Offering Response “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” VS. 4 NCH # 565  
**Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;  
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.  
Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,  
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.**

Prayer of Dedication

~ *Going out in Joy* ~

Sending Hymn

“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”

Hymnal # 551

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;  
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by. [Refrain]

Refrain: Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;  
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.

Let me at your throne of mercy find a sweet relief;  
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. [Refrain]

Trusting only in your merit, would I seek your face;  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by your grace. [Refrain]

Be the Spring of all my comfort, more than life to me,  
Not just here on earth beside me, but eternally. [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude

“Allegro Moderato”

Depuis

### *Announcements*

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

Jim White  
Susan and Barry Miller  
Sue and Michael Kulp  
Kim Yocom and Barry Peterman  
David Klein

### *~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~*

Sun., 3/19 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.  
~ Worship service at 9:45 am in sanctuary  
~ Book Study 11 am  
~ Church School at 11 am  
Tues., 3/21 ~ Midday Dinner Club at noon at Larry's Family Restaurant  
Wed., 3/22 ~ Taizé Service at 7:30 pm

### *~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~*

Sun., 3/26 ~ Jubilee service at 9:00 am in social hall with Congregational Meeting and  
breakfast to follow  
~ Book Study 11 am  
Mon., 3/27 ~ Community Meal at noon at Christ Episcopal Church  
Wed., 3/29 ~ Yoga at 4:30 pm  
~ Taizé Service at 7:30 pm

Scripture Readings for March 26:

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; John 11:1-45

**Jubilee service** on Sunday March 26 at 9 AM in the Social Hall. A **Congregational meeting** with breakfast finger foods will follow the worship service.

**Pottstown Cluster.** This month's items are disinfectant wipes, dish soap, Lysol spray bleach surface cleaner, and laundry detergent. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster.

**Wednesdays in March** we will be having Taizé Service at 7:30 pm in the Social Hall.

*What is Taizé?* Taizé is a meditative style of worship begun in the village of Taizé in France. Since 1940, an ecumenical community of brothers, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, pray daily, striving for "communion of all." People, and in particular youth, come from around the world to participate in retreats of prayer and reflection at Taizé.

**Taizé Taxi** - Interested in the Taizé service but don't like to drive at night. Call the office and we will contact volunteers who are willing to provide transportation to and from the service.

**In Need of a canopy-** We need to find a portable canopy (approx. 10' x 10') to use for covering the Shenkel UCC display tables at the Coventry Woods Fair on Sunday May 21. Does anyone have one we could borrow for the day? Please contact Gary McDermit if you can help.

**Coventry Woods Festival table staff needed.** The Coventry Woods Festival is on Sunday May 21 and we are in need of people to staff the Shenkel display table between 1-5 PM. Can you help for an hour or more? Please contact Gary McDermit with your availability.

**Scholarships.** Applications for the 2023 Bill Boyer and Bill Burhans scholarships can be obtained by contacting the church office. Two letters of recommendation are needed for these awards, along with the application. Everything is due in the church office by April 15, 2023.

Eligible applicants may include past scholarship winners who are currently enrolled in further education. This scholarship is awarded based on merit and need. Please contact Randy Berriker if you have any questions on the process.

**Looking for Shoes.** Friedens United Church of Christ, Oley are collecting shoes from now until April 30. They will accept any kind of shoe that can be worn on a person's foot so long as it's a pair and they are new or gently used. Please put donations outside of the office.