

# The Worship Service

## Sunday, April 13, 2025

The Donkey  
by G. K. Chesterton

When fishes flew and forests walked and figs grew upon thorn, some moment when the moon  
was blood, then surely I was born;  
With monstrous head and sickening  
cry and ears like errant wings, the devil's walking parody on all four-footed things.  
The tattered outlaw of the earth, of ancient crooked will; starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.  
Fools! for I also had my hour; one far fierce hour and sweet: there was a shout about my ears,  
and palms before my feet!

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### Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

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### Shenkel's UCC's Covenant Statement

So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it, now you do it!

(Romans 15:7, The Message)

We are aware of pain organized religion has inflicted on many; and we are aware many places of worship have not given the extravagant welcome God offers to us all. Therefore, Shenkel United Church of Christ covenants to extend heartfelt hospitality to ALL. Shenkel UCC affirms all persons are created in the image of God, so we offer full inclusion (communion, life, and ministries) in the faith journey of this congregation, regardless of differences: whether religious background, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, immigration and refugee status, age, ethnicity, relationship status, addiction/recovery, physical or mental ability, and political affiliation. We proclaim this statement: **no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

## 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                      Holy, Holy, Holy Hosanna                      (Scholtes)

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Meditation

Call to Worship

L: Cry out, people of faith! Rejoice and praise God!

**C: If we did not sing praise, the very stones would cry out!**

L: Cry out, people of faith, for your Savior draws near to Jerusalem.

**C: Hosanna! God saves! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name!**

L: Blessed is Jesus Christ, who did not turn back for fear of the cross. Let us praise the God who loves us, sharing Christ's sufferings, and facing with courage our path of faith.

**All: Hosanna! God saves! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name!**

Opening Hymn                      "All Glory, Laud, And Honor"                      (NCH#216)

### ~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's mercy let us make our confession.

Prayer of Confession

**Holy One, Creator of this precious world and all its precious peoples, we confess our hesitation to walk in your way: You offer abundance; yet we fear scarcity. You create diversity; yet we cling to division. You call for justice; yet we prefer privilege. You reach out in love; yet we fail to welcome the stranger. You preach peace and mutuality; yet we worship war and domination. You lead us in truth; yet we pursue a path paved with lies, averting our eyes from the glaring reality of our complicity in the suffering of so many.**

**Forgive us, O God, and renew in us your holy love! Help us to see you in the pain-bearing, truth-telling, other-embracing, bread-breaking, joy-sharing, circle-widening work to which you have called us. Then grant us the strength to take up that work, again and again, for the healing of your beloved world. Amen.**

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

There is grace, mercy, and renewed strength for all who seek the new life Christ brings. Know that you are forgiven and freed from the burden of sin.

Special Music

Antiphonal Hosanna, Chancel Choir

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Dan Wolgemuth

Psalm 118:1,2, 19-29  
Luke 19:28-40

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Ride On! Ride On In Majesty"

(NCH#215)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

**All: Our Mother/Father, who are 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. April's Special Offering – Phoebe Ministries

Offertory

Musette

(Young)

Offering Response

"Doxology"

(NCH#779)

Prayer of Dedication

Affirmation of Ministry – Installation of New Consistory Members

Introduction

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

Presentation

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Covenant

L: Sister and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered.

L: Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God.?

**C: I am.**

L: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

**C: I do, relying on God's grace.**

L: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

**C: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

Prayer

L: Let us pray. Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name.

**C: Amen.**

Declaration

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Shenkel United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce:

L: You are installed in your respective positions.

Greeting of Christian Love

L: In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**~Going out in Joy~**

Sending Hymn                      "Rejoice, You Pure In Heart"                      (NCH#55)

Benediction

Postlude                              You Are Holy                              (Harling)

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Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding                      Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth  
Email: [shenkelpastor@gmail.com](mailto:shenkelpastor@gmail.com)                      Organist: Susan Royer  
Sexton: Stacy Keim    Secretary: Danielle Petersen  
Ministers: All Members of the Church

Special Music: (G. Allan Smith) © 1983 Hope Publishing Company [CCLI #96178]

**Announcements:  
Sunday, April 13, 2025**

**~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~**

Sun, 4/13/25 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary  
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary  
~ Chancel Choir rehearsal at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

**~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~**

Thu, 4/17/25 ~ Qigong Classes at 11:00 – 12:00  
~ Maundy Thursday dinner at 5:30 pm  
Fri, 4/18/25 ~ Pottstown Cross Walk at 10:00 am  
~ Good Friday service at 3:00 pm  
Sun, 4/20/25 ~ Sunrise service at 6:30 am at Temple UMC

~ Traditionalish Worship service with communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary

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



### **Scripture Reading for April 20th**

**Brian McShane**

Isaiah 65: 17-25

I Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12

**Cluster donations for April:** Canned Pasta, Pork N Beans

**Qigong classes at Shenkel!:** Thursday mornings 11AM-noon. No experience necessary--All are welcome! Cost is \$12/class, cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us!

### **Holy Week Services:**

Maundy Thursday at 5:30 PM – Supper and service

Good Friday service at 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunrise at 6:30 AM outdoors at Temple UMC

Easter Service with communion at 9:45 AM in the Sanctuary with world-renowned trumpeter, Dave Stahl will be joining us and participating musically with our service

**Operation 143 Pack Night:** Tuesday, April 29, at 5:30PM. There is a volunteer sign up sheet in the narthex. Contact Chris Gray (610) 246-3548 with any questions.

**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 meets the first Wednesday of the month 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 Yocum, Julie Zachesky, and Brenda Berriker.

**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 May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Shenkel Prayer Group:** Meets at 9:00 am on the first Thursday 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:

Eric Klein

Faye Pedrick

Julianne Wanner

Scott Kutz

Julie and Bill Zachesky

**Birthdays in the month of April:**

Scott Meehan	4/4/25
James White	4/7/25
Debbie Hoff	4/10/25
Scott Kutz	4/10/25
Gloria Mest	4/10/25
Sandy Rowe	4/11/25
Gary Stultz	4/12/25
Julianne Wanner	4/12/25
Drew Sweinhart	4/16/25
Rosemary Wolgemuth	4/16/25
Jennifer Braley	4/18/25
Buckley Meehan	4/18/25
Kelly Strunk	4/19/25
Barbara Brown	4/21/25
Kaelyn Kline	4/24/25
Joan Palubinsky	4/28/25
Donald Laverty	4/29/25

