

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

Sunday, January 22, 2023 – Traditional Service at 9:45 am

Third Sunday of Epiphany

~Gathering Together ~

Prelude “Lord I Want to Be a Christian” Arr. Binkes

Welcome

Invocation

Choral Introit “Light of the World”

Light of the world in us re - veal all that our eyes can nev - er see.
Show us a world, joy - ful and free, Light of the world.
Light of the world bring last - ing peace. Justice and mer - cy for the weak.
Show us the paths our lives must take Light of the world.

Call to Worship

Pastor: From the midst of our real lives with their very real problems,

People: We come to seek courage and strength from the presence of God and the support of one another.

Pastor: As persons who love imperfectly and are loved imperfectly,

People: We come to be renewed by the perfect love of God, proclaimed in the community of love and faith.

Pastor: As persons who never fully live up to their high calling in Jesus Christ,

People: We come to accept forgiveness and be encouraged to do our best for one more week.

All: Let us worship, with hearts open to the love of God, with hands outstretched to one another, and with whole selves willing to accept the cost and joy of being Christ's disciples. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Hear the Voice of God, So Tender”

NCH # 174

Hear the voice of God, so tender, gathering us in righteousness,
Giving, as our sure defender, steadfast love and faithfulness.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
Giving, as our sure defender, steadfast love and faithfulness.

God is healing and forgiving creatures who are sore distressed,
Opening doors to hopeful living, as, by love, we're daily blessed.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
Opening doors to hopeful living, as, by love, we're daily blessed.

Listening to the Spirit's guiding, breath beyond the written code.
We, in covenant abiding, seek to write our letters bold.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
We, in covenant abiding, seek to write our letters bold.

Shed the old wineskins of warfare for the fresh new wines of peace,
Knowing God sustains our welfare with a love that will not cease.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
Knowing God sustains our welfare with a love that will not cease.

~ *Coming Alive in Community* ~

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins before God, the source of freedom and forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships. We have allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different, and let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters. Shine your light into our darkened hearts. Save us from our divisive ways. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor: God offers forgiveness to those who turn to God in true repentance. Therefore, trust in God, who breaks the bonds of our oppression, and covers us in mercy.

Special Music “You Have Come Down To The Lakeshore” Homer Royer, Soloist
Cesareo Gabaron, © 1979, 87 & 89, OCP Publications [onlicense #126039]

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Reading of Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Lori Scharneck

The Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

"Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult"

NCH # 172

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day his voice still calls us, saying "Christian, follow me."

As of old, Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us, saying "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us! By your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

~ *Sharing Blessings With Others* ~

Prayers of Intercession

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord, saying, God of light, **hear our prayer.**

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

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.

Offertory

"I Have Decided"

Indian Folk Melody

Offering Response “I Am the Light of the World” NCH # 584
I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you’ll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

Prayer of Dedication

~ Going out in Joy ~

Sending Hymn “You Walk along Our Shoreline” NCH # 504

You walk along our shoreline where land meets unknown sea.
We hear the voice of power, “Now come and follow me.
And if you still will follow through storm and wave and shoal,
Then I will make you fishers, but of the human soul.”

You call is, Christ, to gather the people of the earth.
We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth.
We spread your net of gospel across the water’s face,
Our boat a common shelter for all found by your grace.

We cast our net, O Jesus; we seek your promised reign;
We work for love and justice; we learn to hope through pain.
You call on us to gather God’s daughters and God’s sons,
To let your judgment heal us so that all may be one.

Benediction

Postlude “Procession” Lang

Announcements

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

Lori Scharneck
Charlene Logan
Ben Mocarski
Ann Few
Joyce Pashley

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 1/22 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
 ~ Worship service at 9:45 am in sanctuary
Mon., 1/23 ~ Community Meal at Christ Episcopal at noon
Weds., 1/25 ~ Yoga 4:30 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun., 1/29 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Worship service at 9:45 am in **fellowship hall**
- Wed., 2/1 ~ Yoga 4:30 pm

Scripture Readings for January 29:

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; Matthew 5:1-12

Congregational Meeting on January 29 in the Fellowship Hall at 11 am after the 9:45 service also held in the fellowship hall. The meeting will be in a hybrid format (live with a zoom option). Zoom link will be sent by mass email next week. Beverages will be available for the meeting but no food or lunch will be served.

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are paper towels, razors, and shaving cream. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster.

Food Drive

Join us in supporting Operation 143 Sunday, January 8 through Sunday, February 12 (lovingly delivered the week of Valentine's Day) by donating food from the pre-approved shopping list found in the narthex and included on next page. Food donations may be placed in the designated bins in the narthex. Generic items are acceptable.

Operation 143 provides food to students in our community who otherwise go without over the weekend. There are currently 377 students enrolled in the program and the numbers rise weekly. Partnering with schools in 6 school districts, 48 schools in total, Operation 143 delivers food to wherever the students are residing.

Food donations over the holidays are abundant, however this slows dramatically, over the winter months. Thanks Shenkel for your contributions to keep the donation shelves full!