

The Worship Service

Sunday, May 17, 2026



Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

610-326-3535 ~ www.shenkelucc.org ~ shenkelucc@aol.com ~

Shenkel's UCC's Vision Statement

Shenkel United Church of Christ extends a heartfelt welcome to all unbound by physical structure or geography and grounded in creative worship, active spirituality, community action, love and service.

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 "Let It Be Said of Us" (Fry)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Let the righteous be joyful!

Let them rejoice before God.

C: Let us all be jubilant with joy!

L: Sing to God, all peoples of the world.

Sing praises to God most high.

C: From the sanctuary of heaven,

God gives life and renews the face of the earth.

L: Let the righteous be joyful!

Let them rejoice before God.

C: Let us all be jubilant with joy!

Opening Hymn "Come, You Faithful, Raise The Strain" (See insert)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Brothers and sisters, God not only desires our repentance, but longs to offer us forgiveness. Therefore, cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you eternally.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we do not always bring honor and glory to your name. We are rebellious and weak; we flee before your goodness.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us by the grace and mercy of Christ, that we may rise up again in peace to love and serve your world. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon:

Sisters and brothers, the Spirit of God is resting on you, to restore, support, and strengthen you. Therefore, be at peace in the One who forgives and loves you; rise up and give God thanks.

Passing of the Peace

Special Music

Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble, Brian McShane, Soloist

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Susan Royer

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

John 17:1-11

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Eternal Christ, Who, Kneeling" (See insert)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

L: Fill us with your Spirit's power,

C: that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.

Our Mother/Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by 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.

May's Special Offering – Creative Health Services

Offertory "Give Me Jesus" (Spiritual)

Offering Response "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

**Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.**

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Some Glad Morning" (See insert)

Benediction

Postlude "Praise to Almighty God" (Paxton)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth

Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com

Organist: Susan Royer

Sexton: Stacy Keim

Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Special Music: (Martin Smith) © 1994 Curious? Music UK [CCLI #1097028]

Announcements:

~Sunday, May 17, 2026~

- Sun, 5/17/26 ~ One Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Social Hall.
- ~ Church School at 11:00 am.
- ~ Chancel Choir rehearsal at 11:00 am.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun, 5/24/26 ~ 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.

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



Scripture Reading for May 24th

Lori Scharneck

Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34. 35b
Acts 2:1-21

Cluster donations for May: Pasta Sauce

Mental Health Awareness Program: Mark your calendars and invite your friends to the upcoming, "**Finding Peace in the Chaos: An Invitation to Sanity in These Times**" Saturday, May 30, 10AM-12 noon. Flyers are available in the narthex to share with friends, neighbors, and community.

Walk and Pray: In an increasingly complex and troubling world, many of us are wondering what to do. One simple act is to walk and pray for peace and wholeness in our world. You are invited to walk the Labyrinth here at Shenkel from 9 - 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Come as you are able, leave when you are ready. Pam McShane will be at the Labyrinth most weeks to guide those who are new to labyrinth walking. There's power in walking and praying together!

Coventry Woods Festival: Today from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Opportunity to be out in our community, meeting people and sharing why Shenkel is important to you.

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Classes are on Thursday mornings from 11AM-noon. Suggested cost is \$12/class or come and pay what you're able. Cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us! No experience necessary--All are welcome!

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 will meet next on June 3rd 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 Yocom, Julie Zachesky, and Brenda Berriker, Tom & Mo Gallant.

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 today.

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

Cara Bevan

Joan and Joe Granger

Jess, Adam, Lucy and Jordan Hartzell

Gloria Mest

Birthdays in the month of May:

Robin Martin	5/3/26
Malcolm Snyder	5/4/26
Tom Gallant	5/6/26
Emily Trego	5/7/26
Connor O'Drain	5/8/26
Brooke Miller	5/10/26
Olivia Sanseverino	5/11/26
Matthew Scharneck	5/12/26
Jordan Hartzell	5/15/26
Patricia Kuestner	5/18/26
Michaela Craner	5/20/26
Lynn Derman	5/20/26
Randy Berriker	5/21/26
Christina Hauze	5/21/26
Bob Mocariski	5/23/26
Andrew Foss	5/29/26

Mission Statement

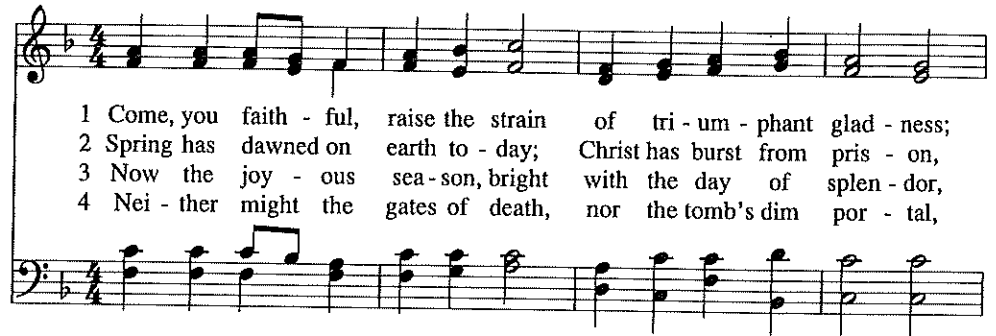
Shenkel UCC

- prayerfully and creatively worships God;
- unconditionally loves and accepts all;
- generously gives and serves our community and our world.

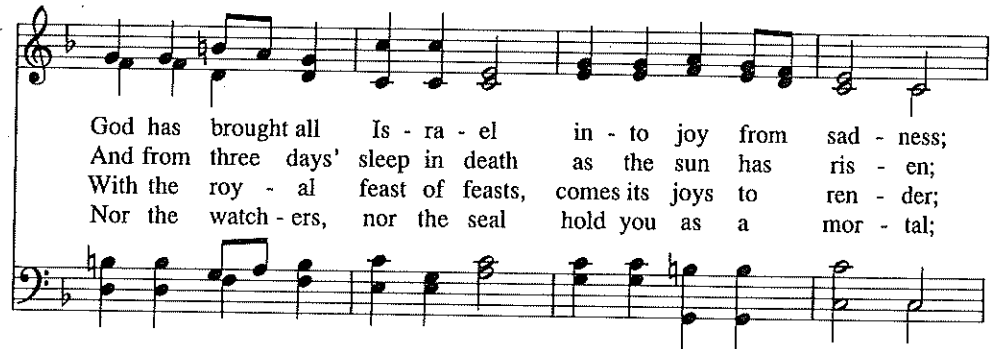
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Attrib. to John of Damascus (c. 696–c. 754 C.E.)
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1872; alt.

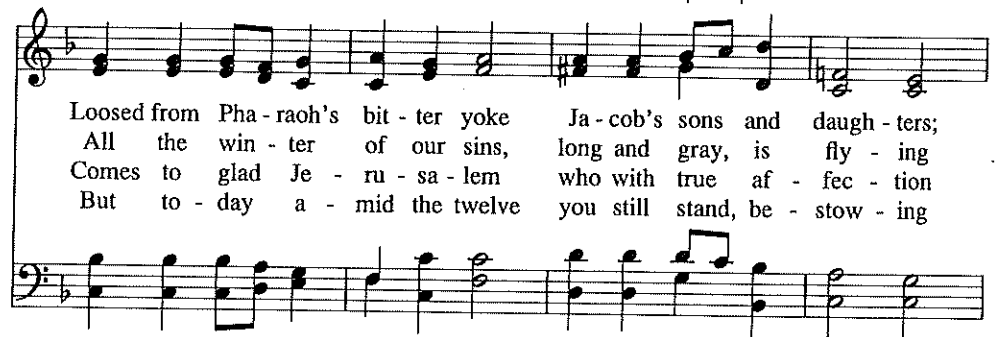
Exod. 15; Luke 24



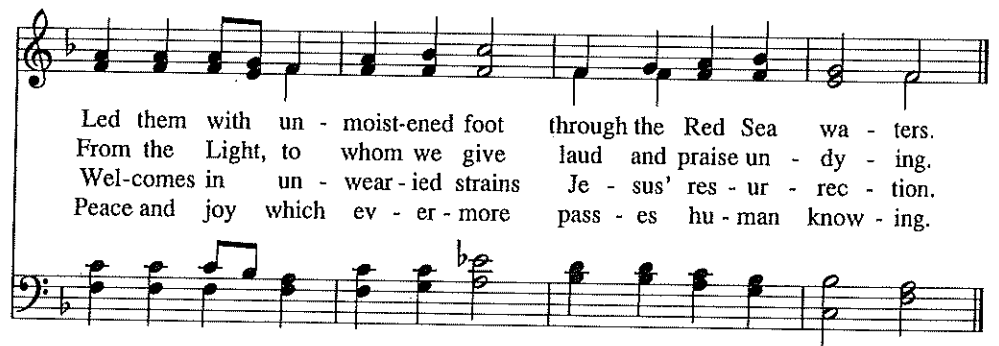
1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
 2 Spring has dawned on earth to - day; Christ has burst from pris - on,
 3 Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por - tal,



God has brought all Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;
 And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has ris - en;
 With the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren - der;
 Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal;



Loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and gray, is fly - ing
 Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem who with true af - fec - tion
 But to - day a - mid the twelve you still stand, be - stow - ing



Led them with un - moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 Wel-comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
 Peace and joy which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

Little is known of St. John of Damascus, an early Greek theologian, but his writings have survived. Among these are poems that have been made into hymns and some that have been integrated into Greek Orthodox liturgy.

Tune: ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D.
 Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872

John 17:20-23

William W. Reid, Jr., 1976; alt.

1 E - ter - nal Christ, who, kneel - ing when earth - ly tasks were done,
 2 But we have of - ten slight - ed the ties de - signed to hold
 3 Ac - cept our deep con - tri - tion for all our sun - dering ways

turned un - to God ap - peal - ing, "That they may all be one,"
 your fol - low - ers u - nit - ed with - in one com - mon fold.
 which still dis - rupt your mis - sion, which mock our words of praise.

We thank you for your vi - sion of u - ni - ty un - torn,
 On his - tory's tat - tered pa - ges we see, O Christ, with shame,
 Christ, may your Spir - it guide us that we may find, be - yond

of faith with - out di - vi - sion with which your church was born.
 the strife which through the a - ges has marred your church's name.
 the things which still di - vide us, love's all - em - brac - ing bond.

William Watkins Reid, Jr., is a pastor, author, hymnwriter, and past member of the executive committee of The Hymn Society. He takes an active part in politics at all levels, and his hymns are often written as responses to current events.

Tune: NYLAND 7.6.7.6.D.
 Finnish hymn melody
 Harm. David Evans, 1927

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 HYMNARY, 1927.

Some Glad Morning

(I'll Fly Away)

Albert E. Brumley, 1932

Ps. 55:6

1 Some glad morn-ing when this life is o'er, I'll fly a-way;
 2 When the shad-ows of this life have gone, fly a-way, fly a-way;
 3 Just a few more wea-ry days and then,

to a home on God's ce-les-tial shore, I'll fly a-way.
 Like a bird from pris-on bars has flown, fly a-way, fly a-way.
 To a land where joys shall nev-er end,

Refrain

I'll fly a-way, O glo-ry, I'll fly a-way;
 fly a-way, fly a-way, in the morn-ing;

When I die, hal-le-lu-jah, by and by, I'll fly a-way.
 fly a-way, fly a-way.

This is a favorite song of the golden age of gospel music, in which heaven is vividly described and highly desired. Albert E. Brumley's musical style grew out of his Ozark mountain roots. He wrote this song while working in a cotton field.

Tune: I'LL FLY AWAY 9.4.9.4. with refrain
 Albert E. Brumley, 1932