

# The Worship Service

## Sunday, December 22, 2024



### The Angels' Candle

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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 Gabriel to the Virgin Came (arr. Powell)

Welcome

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Cradle Song”

**In darkness enshrouded, the world waits for light.**

**To shatter the shadowy darkness of night.**

**To greenery circled, the faithful draw near.**

**And longingly listen, God's message to hear.**

L: God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine in your hearts.

**C: To give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

L: The angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them.

**C: We beheld the glory of the Word made flesh, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.**

L: And with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host praising God.

**A wick touches wick now four flames burn so bright.**

**As angels in glory shone forth on that night.**

**May we shine the precious good news of this birth.**

**To ev'ry dark, shadowy corner of earth.**

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

**C: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.**

L: But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

**C: Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.**

L: When the Son of Man come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

**Oh, keep us Lord Jesus in your mighty care.**

**As for your arrival your people prepare.**

**The flames for the faithful, Lord, let them burn bright,**

**That hearts of all people in faith may ignite.**

Special Music “Angels In The Band” Church School Kids singing

Scripture Lessons

Brian McShane

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 91

Luke 1:39-56

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

Sermon Reader's Theater

Brian McShane, Maureen Gallant  
Pam McShane, Tootie Hine

Hymn for Reflection: Angels We Have Heard On High (NCH# 125)

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

**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 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. December's Special Offering – The Christmas Fund

Offertory Realms of Glory (Regent Square)

Offering Response "Away In A Manger" (NCH# 124)

**Now let the glad tidings of great joy be heard.  
Fulfilled in Christ's birth is the angels' sure word.  
O God, let the flames of our faith e'er burn bright.  
That we with angels in praises unite.**

Prayer of Dedication

**~Going out in Joy~**

Sending Hymn Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (NCH# 144)

Benediction

Choral Benediction "Cradle Song"

**O God, with your glory you once filled the night,  
And now we behold in Christ Jesus the light.  
May his presence brighten each pathway we take,  
Until in his glory at last we awake.**

Postlude Glory to God in the Highest (Pergolesi)

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Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Email: [shenkelpastor@gmail.com](mailto:shenkelpastor@gmail.com)

Sexton: Stacy Keim

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth

Organist: Susan Royer

Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Special Music:

**Announcements:  
Sunday, December 22, 2024**

**~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~**

Sun, 12/22/2024 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.  
~ Traditionalish Worship service 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.  
Tues, 12/24/24 ~ Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

**~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~**

Sun, 12/29/24 ~ One service with breakfast at 9:00 am in the Social Hall.

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



**Scripture Reading for December 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Louise Hine**

2 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Luke 2:22-38

**Carol Lykens Giving Challenge:** We're receiving gifts for our Carol Lykens Fill-The-Hat Challenge! You're encouraged to make an additional contribution to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. Contributions can be made to Shenkel UCC with "Carol Challenge" in the memo line, or donate online through our website. Thank you!

**Luminaries:** We will be having luminaries again this Christmas Eve. Anyone interested in dedicating a luminary in memory of or honor of, the donations are \$10.00. The deadline is today, you can give your donations to Gloria Mest or put it in the offering plate. There is a sign up sheet and envelopes in the narthex.

**OPERATION 143 BACKPACK NIGHT:** Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> is the next Shenkel Pack Night at Operation 143. We will meet at 6 pm at Operation 143 (entrance in the back of the New York Plaza Building). At least 10 volunteers are needed. Individuals interested in participating should contact Chris Gray [cgcgal@comcast.net](mailto:cgcgal@comcast.net) or (610) 246-3548.

**Mark your Calendars:** "NEW YEAR REBOOT: CONNECTING MIND, BODY & SPIRIT FOR A HEALTHIER YOU": January 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, this is an ADULT ONLY event.

**Congregational Meeting:** Today, to address the budget. The meeting will open immediately following the 8:30 am service and will close after the 9:45 am service.

**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 6:30 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 on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Shenkel Prayer Group:** Meets at 10:00 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:

TJ Augustine  
Jesse Painter  
Roberta Peterman  
Pat Kuestner  
Judy Miller

**Birthdays in the month of December:**

Isabelle Chidawu	12/4/24
Mari O'Drain	12/4/24
John Jonides	12/8/24
Abigail Dise	12/9/24
Analexis Foss	12/15/24
Verna Walters	12/15/24
Judith Gergle	12/20/24
Betty Bortz	12/21/24
Bonnie Cox	12/21/24
Jim Faust	12/22/24
Josh Palubinsky	12/23/24
TJ Augustine III	12/24/24
Jeffrey Luckenbach	12/26/24

