



**April 2, 2026**

**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~

Grace and Supper Together

Prelude "Jesus Messiah" (arr. Koerts)

Words of Welcome

Hymn "As The Deer"

**AS THE DEER**

Martin Nystrom

1) As the deer pants for liv - ing wa - ter so my soul thirsts for you, O God.  
 2) Day by day all your love surrounds me, and by night you're a song with - in.  
 You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you. You a - lone are my  
 You a - lone lift my spir - it high - er, and my soul find hope in you.  
 strength and shield; to you a - lone may my spir - it yield. You a - lone are my  
 19 heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you. Interlude  
 3) When my soul faints and fears dis - tress me, I re - mem - ber your faith - ful  
 ness. Hear my prayer, Lord, re - new my spir - it as I come to wor - ship you.  
 You a - lone are my strength and shield; to you a - lone may my spir - it yield.  
 Grand Rit  
 You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you. And I long to wor - ship you.

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Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of love, we come to you feeling a thousand feelings. There is too much going on, and we don't know how to handle it all. We don't even know how to put words to all that we are going through.

**Hear our prayers.**

God of love, we come to you wanting total control over our lives, the stories we live, the people around us, and our own desires.

**Hear our prayers.**

God of love, we also come to you feeling numb.

**Hear our prayers.**

God of love, we come to you in silence.

**Hear our prayers.**

God of love we come to you because you are the source of life.

**Hear our prayers.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear this good news: the God of love listens to you attentively. "As an eagle stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, as it spreads its wings, takes them up, and bears them aloft on its pinions." We are all listened to. We are all forgiven. Let us sit in silence. Perhaps in this time, you may contemplate the joy of being free.

- Silence for 5 minutes -

First Scripture Reading

Luke 22:47-53

Reflection on the Scripture

Music for Reflection and Time of Silence

"Reflection on Were You There"

(arr. Lopez)

Second Scripture Reading

John 13:1-35

Reflection on the Scripture

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Sung Prayer

*Spirit of the Living God*

lyrics altered by Dr. Claudio Carvalhaes

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us**

**Feed us, quench us, bless us, guide us**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.**

Friends, the food is before us. We have listened to God and to each other. Now we will feed each other as if God is feeding us. The world is too difficult, but the good news is: we are here for each other to share the love of a God who will never stop loving us.

We pray that God uses the gifts of this food to nourish our bodies, hearts and souls. Bless this bread, bless this wine, bless our people, bless our community, bless the world. Amen.

Sharing the Elements

# God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me O Christ, Surround Me

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1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ring,  
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

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Sending Prayer

Circle around the Communion table

Benediction

Postlude “If With All Your Heart”

(arr. Glover)

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