

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

Thursday, December 24, 2021

8 PM

Prelude Music

"Away in a Manger"

Murray

"Noel sur les flutes"

d'Aquin

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

arr. Bumgarner

"Meditation on Once in Royal David's City"

arr. Lasky

Call to Worship

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

O come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

O sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!

Sing, all you citizens of heaven above!

Now to our God be Glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Amen, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,

O Jesus, forever be Thy Name adored;

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Call to Confession

Let us pause and confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, who promised to send a Redeemer to your people, we confess that we have not trusted your promise, but have busied ourselves with activities which obstruct its fulfillment.

We give presents, but fail to be present with one another.

We socialize with friends, but fail to welcome the stranger in our midst.

We create commotion, and refuse to receive your peace.

Forgive us, God, for our busyness and our lack of trust. Teach us to wait with expectant patience for the fulfillment of your promise to us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Special Music

"Keep Us In Your Love"

Brenda Berriker, Kelly Strunk, Sandy Rowe, Lori Scharneck

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Zachesky Family

Advent Song

"Come and Fill"

***Come and fill our hearts with your hope,
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your love, Al – le – lu – ia!***

***Come and fill our hearts with your joy,
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al – le – lu – ia!***

Scripture Reading

Rose Dulaff

Isaiah 9:2-7

Special Music

"Joy to the World"

Nolan Benner, soloist

Scripture Reading

Rose Dulaff

Psalms 97

Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

***Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.
Glo - ri - a in excelsis Deo,
Glo - ri - a in excelsis Deo.***

***Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, God, our world now entering.
Glo - ri - a in excelsis Deo,
Glo - ri - a in excelsis Deo.***

Scripture Reading

Rose Dulaff

Luke 2:1-7

Special Music

"Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy"

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Hymn

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

***While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around, And glory shone around.***

*"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace; Good will henceforth, from heaven to men
Begin and never cease, Begin and never cease!"*

Meditation

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Special Music

"Down from His Glory"

Chancel Choir

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Litany of Remembrance and Consecration

Pastor: God of light, in whom there is no shadow, your gifts to us are from the very beginning of time.

People: They began with creation, when your Spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter, and when your word brought forth light on the face of the earth.

Pastor: They continued with our ancient ancestors, like Noah, whom you blessed with the colorful promise of the rainbow.

People: And like Sarah and Abraham, whom you blessed with a child whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the nations.

Pastor: In the desert, you gave the gifts of manna and of living water to the weary pilgrims whom you led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

People: At last, you sent your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and vulnerable, who grew to be the very Light of Light, full of grace and truth, revealing your glory on earth.

All: We thank you, O God, that you have sent Jesus Christ to bring life and immortality to light. Help us to receive your gifts with joy and humility: as we receive this bread and wine, may we open our hearts to receive your love and grace in Jesus Christ, and receive the love and support of one another. Be born among us, that we may give Christ's love to the world, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Celebration of Light

(Please receive the light from the ushers and pass the light to your neighbor. Tip only unlit candles to receive light from lighted candles.)

Hymn

"Silent Night, Holy Night"
***Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright;
'Round yon virgin mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.***
***Silent night, holy night, Darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing:
Alleluia! Hail the King!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.***
***Silent night, holy night, Guiding Star, lend thy light!
See the eastern wise men bring
Gifts and homage to our King!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.***
***Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.***

Christmas Benediction

Postlude Music

"Have Yourself A Blessed Christmas" Josh Giannini & Nolan Benner, Duetists
Martin & Blane, Sacred Lyric, Martin & Fricke © 1943 (Renewed 1971), arranged by
Dan Wolgemuth

"Canso de Nadal"

French

Worship Notes

Greetings to all persons who have traveled across miles to return home for Christmas: those who work in distant places, service persons, college students; and welcome to all guests, extended family, and friends who are here to worship with us this evening. May the good news of great joy resonate in all of our hearts as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child this day.

The staff of Shenkel UCC wishes you all a joyous and blessed Christmas!