

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

~Gathering Together ~

Welcome

Missions & Ministries

Invocation

Prelude “In Dulci Jubilo” Bach

Call to Worship

Pastor: The prophet tells us that God is in our midst.

**People: God will rejoice over us with gladness and will
renew us in his love.**

Pastor: Surely God is our salvation.

People: With joy we draw water from the wells of salvation.

Pastor: With joy let us enter this time of worship.

Opening Hymn “With Joy Draw Water” NCH # 109

~ Coming Alive in Community ~

Call to Confession

How can we stand in the presence of God? Let us confess those places where we need to grow to prepare for Christ to come into our lives.

Prayer of Confession

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. Be known among us now and forever! Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

This is the good news in Jesus Christ. We can stand before God, not through our own goodness, but through God’s great kindness to us. Rejoice and be glad, for God comes to you!

Lighting of the Advent Candle Tootie & Louise Hine

Advent Song

“Come and Fill”

***Come and fill our hearts with your joy,
You alone, O Lord, are holy.***

Come and fill our hearts with your joy, Al – le – le –ia!

Prayer

Special Music

“Sure On This Shining Night”

Lexi Foss, Soloist

Samuel Barber © OneLicense #1084377

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading I: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Laura Golden

The Old Testament Reading II: Isaiah 12:2-6

The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

“The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore”

Vs. 1 - 3

NCH # 115

~ *Sharing Blessings With Others* ~

Prayers of the People

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 **Christmas Fund.** *The Christmas Fund provides assistance dollars in situations of critical need, including Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks to lower-income retired UCC pastors. Your gift will help to brighten the life of one of God's servants who is facing a moment of personal need.*

Offering Response

***To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise.***

Prayer of Dedication

~ *Going out in Joy* ~

Sending Hymn

“O How Shall I Receive You”

NCH # 102

Benediction

Postlude

“Psalm XIX”

Marcello

Announcements

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

Kim Yocom and Barry Peterman

Sharon and John Sabo

Ashlyn Augustine

Verna Walters

Lilly Keim

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 12/12 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.

~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am.

Tues., 12/14 ~ Consistory at 6:30 pm

Wed., 12/15 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

Thurs., 12/16 ~ Agape at Freda Wanner's home 6:30 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun., 12/19 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.

~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am.

~ Congregational Meeting

Tues., 12/21 ~ MidDay Dinner Club at Yellow House Hotel at noon

~ Longest Night Service at 7 pm

Wed., 12/22 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

Fri., 12/24 ~ Christmas Eve service at 3 pm

~ Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 8 pm with Communion

Scripture Readings for December 19:

Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Luke 1:39-55

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** immediately after the services on December 19th to approve the proposed 2022 Current and OCWM Budgets.

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are mouthwash, toothpaste (kids and regular). Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster.

Youth Group is selling luminaries again this year. Look for the envelopes in the narthex or see any youth or Gloria Mest. Cost is \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Deadline is December 19.

Poinsettia Sunday, December 19, 2020

Deadline to order a pot of poinsettias is TODAY. Color is red only. Cost is \$10.00 per pot. Orders can be mailed or dropped off in the office or given to Tootie and Louise.

If you are looking for nontraditional gifts for those close to you, consider browsing our Living Gift Market! You can give living gifts like goats or cows, which will help families start their journey toward self-reliance by supplying them with nutritious milk to drink, share and sell.

Join us for the first Heifer International Living Gift Market at Shenkel U.C.C. TODAY following the 8:30 and 9:45 services. For more information about gift items, please visit <https://www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/get-involved/faith/living-gift-market.html>.

Mid-day Dinner club will be meeting at Yellow House Hotel on Tuesday, December 21 at noon. It is open to young-at-heart adults of any age who enjoy eating out and would like to get to know other Shenkel members a little better. If you are attending, please add your name and phone number on the sign up sheet no later than Sunday, December 19 so your reservation can be made on time or you may call Sharon Sabo at 610-326-1945 or let her know at the Sunday service if you are able to attend.