

January 30, 2022
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Prelude

“In Faith We Seek”

Gast

Greeting

Opening Hymn

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;

I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;

You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.

Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,

I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,

I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,

I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by

what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not

loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

God is merciful and gracious; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

“May the Sending One Defend You”

Sandy Rowe, Soloist

Brian Wren/Mikkel Thompson © 1989 Hope Publishing Company (onelicense#26712)

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

The Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³ He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers^[a] in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

“O Young and Fearless Prophet”

O young and fearless Prophet Of ancient Galilee;
thy life is still a summons To serve humanity,
To make our thoughts and actions Less prone to please the crowd,
To stand with humble courage For truth, with hearts uncowed.

Create in us the splendor That dawns when hearts are kind,
That knows not race nor station As boundaries of the mind;
That learns to value beauty, In heart, or brain, or soul,
And longs to bind God’s children Into one perfect whole.

O young and fearless Prophet, We need thy presence here,
Amid our pride and glory To see Thy face appear;
Once more to hear Thy challenge Above our noisy day,
Again to lead us forward Along God's holy way. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession/ Lord's Prayer

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

Bethany Children's Home - provides residential services for children and adolescents who are unable to live with their own family. Using the Sanctuary Model, Bethany strives to provide a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid their residents in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter, healthier future. Founded in 1863 and related to the United Church of Christ, Bethany serves more than three hundred boys and girls each year on its Womelsdorf, PA campus.

Sending Hymn

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace:
Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

We give thanks and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound;
Ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

Benediction

Postlude

“God of Grace”

arr. Held

Announcements

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

Nicole and Scott Meehan

Pat and Don Laverty

Noah Bradley

Collin Gray

Ron Christman

The flowers in the altar vases are presented by Tootie and Louise Hine in celebration of Pastor Suzanne's birthday today.

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 1/30 ~ Virtual Service posted to YouTube at 9:45 am
Wed., 2/2 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun., 2/6 ~ Virtual Service with Communion posted to YouTube at 9:45 am
Tues., 2/8 ~ Consistory Meeting at 6:30 pm on Zoom
Wed., 2/9 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

Scripture Readings for February 6:

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; Luke 5:1-11

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are Baby Items: baby cereal, baby food, baby lotion, baby wipes, baby shampoo. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is postponed until further notice. Copies of the 2021 Annual Report will be available for you by the beginning of February. I am still looking for reports from Pastor, Consistory and Board of Christian Education.