

February 20, 2022
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Prelude

Greeting

Gathering Hymn

“O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder”
O mighty God, when I survey in wonder
the world that formed when once the word you said,
The strands of life all woven close together,
the whole creation at your table fed,
My soul cries out in songs of praise to you, O mighty God!
O mighty God! My soul cries out in songs of praise to you,
O mighty God! O mighty God!

The Bible tells the story of your blessing
so freely shed upon all human life;
Your constant mercy, every care addressing,
relieving burdened souls from sin and strife.
My soul cries out in songs of praise to you, O mighty God!
O mighty God! My soul cries out in songs of praise to you,
O mighty God! O mighty God!

Call to Confession

Trusting in God’s grace we dare to draw near and pray.

Prayer of Confession

Sometimes, O God, your word is too much for us. You ask us to love our enemies, when we can scarcely love our friends as we should. You ask us to give when we want to take, and to forgive when we want to nurse bitterness. We thank you that you accept us as we are, and that you show us what we can be. Help us to believe that we can be loving, just, and holy like you; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

When we confess our sin, the One who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” Sandy Rowe, Soloist
George Matheson/Albert L. Peace, Arranged by Dan Wolgemuth

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

- ¹ Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,
² for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.
³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.
⁶ He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
⁷ Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.
⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
¹⁰ Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.
³⁹ The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

The Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Love for Enemies

²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

Hymn for Reflection

“Your Ways Are Not Our Own”

Your ways are not our own, O gracious God most high,
Yet we would follow in your paths and on your love rely.

Christ teaches us to bless the ones who curse and harm,
To turn the other cheek when struck, attackers to disarm.

Yet, we cannot excuse abuse in any form,
For all are children of your care, and love must be our norm.

How shall we show your love, your pardon to believe?
You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we receive.

Forgiveness is our joy, receiving, giving, too.
Keep us from judgments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.

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
Pottstown Homeless Ministries Fund - *This fund will continue to provide support for the homeless drop-in ministry held monthly during the winter.*

Parting Hymn

“Take My Gifts”

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humor, laced with laughter – flavor of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer – gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Benediction

Postlude

Announcements

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

Lori and Kaya Skulski and Jordan Gerhardt-Skulski

David and Timothy Klein

Anna Bevan

Aaron Gray

Kelly Strunk, Steve, Madeline and Jacoby Mest

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 2/20 ~ Virtual Service posted to YouTube at 9:45 am

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun., 2/27 ~ Virtual Service posted to YouTube at 9:45 am

Wed., 3/2 ~ Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 pm

Scripture Readings for February 27:

Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are body wash (adults and kids), shampoo, conditioner and bar soap. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster. We will be collecting each week and items will change on a monthly basis. Items for next month will be adult lotion, deodorant, feminine tampons, laundry detergent.

Annual Congregational Meeting. On Sunday, March 6th, we will hold the Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the **Traditional worship service**. Copies of the 2021 Annual Report will be available. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

Lenten Bible Study. Beginning with the first Sunday in Lent, March 6, we will be offering opportunities for education and discussion about white privilege. We will be using the UCC curriculum “White Privilege, let’s talk, A Resource for Transformational Dialogue.”

In an effort to make the discussion available to as many people as possible there will be three different discussion times in which to participate:

Sunday after worship, 11:00 am

Tuesday at 11:00 am

Wednesday at 7:00 pm

All discussions are planned to take place in person in the social hall. Each group will be working on the same topic while the discussions will vary according to the people who attend. You can pick up a copy of the first section, “The Spiritual Autobiography Told through the Lens of Race”, at the church office. The expectation is that you will have read the first chapter and arrive ready to join in a discussion.