

January 2, 2022
Second Sunday after Christmas/ Epiphany

~Gathering Together ~

Welcome

Missions & Ministries

Invocation

Prelude

“Kings of Orient”

Hopkins

Call to Worship

Pastor: Although the beckoning star heeded by wise travelers long ago no longer leads the way.

People: The manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed.

Pastor: We are not brought to our knees in surprise as were those journeyers of old,

People: Yet our desire to worship can be as deep as theirs.

Pastor: And though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh,

People: We offer ourselves and what we have.

Pastor: The story continues. The good news abounds. There is a living Christ to discover and worship and serve.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad!

Opening Hymn

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

NCH # 164

~ Coming Alive in Community ~

Call to Confession

On this second day of a new year as we celebrate Epiphany, let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, who can make all things new, we humbly bring before you the record of our lives in the new year now ended. Where life has been good to us, do not let us take more of the credit than we deserve. Where we have been good to others, help us to forget all thoughts of honor and reward. Where we have fallen short, forgive us, and free us from brooding over what is past. Cleanse us by your mercy, guide us by your truth, fill us with your love, lead us forward in your all-conquering hope. Through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

God is gracious and merciful and rejoices to make all things new. Friends, believe the good news, in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and we are set free.

Special Music

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Barbara Brown

The Reading of Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

“Brightest and Best”

Vs. 1, 3 & 4

NCH # 157

~ *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

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.

Offering Response

***As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of the earth
be gathered into one in you.***

Prayer of Dedication

~ *Holy Communion* ~

Invitation

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Jesus

Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

People: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather at Christ's table.

Pastor: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Communion Prayer

Minister: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Minister: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: We give you thanks, God of majesty.... We praise you with joy.

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: We remember that on the night..... the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ's death, O God, we proclaim. Christ's resurrection we declare. Christ's coming we await. Glory be to you, O God.

Pastor: Eternal God, we unite.....to make all things new.

All: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread, The Pouring of the Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: Let us pray.

All: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~ Going out in Joy ~

Sending Hymn

"As with Gladness Those of Old"

NCH # 159

Benediction

Postlude "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"

Pachelbel, arr Nevins

Announcements

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

Sue and Mike Kulp

Josh Palubinsky

Joan and Joe Granger

Celia Phillips

Abby Dise

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 1/2 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
 ~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am.
Wed., 1/5 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun., 1/9 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
 ~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am with baptisms
Tues., 1/11 ~ Consistory at 6:30 pm
Wed., 1/12 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

Scripture Readings for January 9:
Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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.

Mid-day Dinner club will be meeting at Coventry Pub on Tuesday, January 18 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, January 16 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.

Attention Committee Chairpersons

The end of the year is *fast approaching*, and your annual committee report will be due at the church office no later than January 12th in order for the annual report to be completed on time.

Current Address for Verna Walters:

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