

December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent

~Gathering Together ~

Welcome

Missions & Ministries

Invocation

Prelude “Veni Emmanuel” 15 c. French Carol

Call to Worship

Pastor: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets.

People: One of these prophets was John the Baptizer.

Pastor: John called out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

People: As we prepare our hearts for the Lord as we come to worship in spirit and truth.

Pastor: Let us bless the God of Israel who has looked favorably upon us and sent us a Savior.

Opening Hymn “Now Bless the God of Israel” NCH # 110

~ 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 Candles

Gary McDermit & Dan Jenkins

Advent Song

“Come and Fill”

Come and fill our hearts with your love,

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

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

Prayer

Special Music

“For Mary, Joseph, ‘Twas No Place”

Chancel Choir, Kelly Strunk & Josh Giannini, soloists

© 1994 Lyrics by Dennis P. Moon © 2005 Music by First Run Musick Psalter (ASCAP)

~ *We Hear God’s Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Joan Palubinsky

The Gospel 1: Luke 1:68-79

The Gospel 2: Luke 3:1-6

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”

NCH # 120

~ *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

~ *Holy Communion* ~

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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

Pastor: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

People: We praise you, O God.

Pastor: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

People: We bless you, O God.

Pastor: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

People: We thank you, O God.

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

People: Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread, The Pouring of the Cup

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: Let us pray.

All: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~ *Going out in Joy* ~

Sending Hymn

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set all people free;

From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth impart;

Dear desire of every nation, Enter every longing heart.

***Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever, Come, be known to us again.
By your own eternal Spirit, Come to claim us as your own;
By your all sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.***

Benediction

Postlude “Wachet Auf (Wake, Awake)” Polley

Announcements

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

David Phillips
Judy Gergle
Roberta Peterman
Carol Lykens
Betsy and Ken Bevan

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 12/5 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary with Communion.
 ~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am with Communion.
Wed., 12/8 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm

~Upcoming events 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

Scripture Readings for December 12:
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 3:7-18

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.

Christmas Story Time Tea is cancelled.

The bulletins today are presented by Gary and Sue Stultz in celebration of the Advent season.

Pottstown Cluster Holiday meal & Christmas gifts

For Christmas, we are collecting gifts for children ages newborn to 17 years old. The gifts can be unwrapped or a gift card. Deadline to contribute is Sunday, December 12. Thank you!

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.

Poinsettia Sunday, December 19, 2020

Deadline to order a pot of poinsettias is Sunday, December 12, 2020. 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. on Sunday, December 12 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>.