

April 24, 2022
Second Sunday of Easter

~Gathering Together~

Prelude "Stepping In" Klose, arr. Royer

Welcome

Missions & Ministries

Invocation

Call to Worship

Pastor: The tomb, death's stone-cold womb, could not contain him, God's offspring, life's child.

People: The tomb, Easter's empty surprise, brimmed full of meaning as death itself passed away.

Pastor: The women, Easter's unlikely reporters, told of a gaping void within the gravestone that filled their emptiness with joy.

People: The women, discoverers afraid and amazed, proclaimed, "He is risen!" and were told by slow believers to hush their idle chatter.

Pastor: The event, God's Son-rise, enlightened a dark earth as Jesus' return brought dawn to a new day.

ALL: The event, impossibility made possible, dazzles our eyes yet clears our vision. We see the empty cross, the tomb, and we toss back our heads and laugh for joy. We gather to worship the God who gives us Easter.

Opening Hymn

"Take Time to Be Funny" ~author unknown
Take time to be funny, rejoice in the Lord
Let laughter explode and have fun with God's Word.
For laughter is healing, gives strength to the weak.
God loves to see smiles, for they lift up the meek.

Take time to be silly, it's good for the soul
Too many are somber, grabbing control.
Let go and let God's love wash over your soul
Heavenly transcendence can be your life's goal.

For humor is holy, it sanctifies life,
Replenishes hope and oft softens advice
It undercuts sorrow, deflates haughty pride
So smile and hang on, and rejoice in life's ride.

~ Coming Alive in Community ~

Call to Confession

In the midst of our laughter and silliness, we pause to recall our need to continually repair and restore relationships with the Divine and with one another.

Prayer of Confession

Spirit of Divine Oneness, we come to you this morning aware of our shortcomings in all of our relationships. We have not loved you with all our heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Often we do not even love ourselves. Forgive us and restore us to right relationship by your mercy and steadfast love. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and our relationships are restored. We are set free!

Special Music

~ We Hear God's Word ~

Scripture Lessons

The Reading of Psalm 150

Barbara Brown

Offering our Gifts - Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries
The Pottstown Cluster - The Cluster's current programs provide food security, clothing and household assistance, supportive services and referrals, case management and housing stability and an opportunity for individuals living in poverty to participate in an education and support program.

Offering Response

"Halle, Halle, Halleluja"

NCH # 236

Halle, halle, hallelujah. _Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. _Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Prayer of Dedication

The Old Testament Reading: Numbers 22:21-35

Barbara Brown

The Gospel: John 20:19-31

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

"Christ is Risen"

Tune: Oh Susanna

When Mary went to check the grave she saw Jesus wasn't there.

She thought they stole his body and she gave into despair.

But then she met the angel who started to explain,

She jumped with joy & clapped her hands when Jesus called her name.

Chorus: Christ is Risen! He's risen from the grave!

Alleluia, love victor-i-ous he died for us to save.

Thomas had his doubts; he wasn't sure this could be true.

When Jesus showed his scar Tom said, "Oh Lord it's really you!" (chorus)

~ 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.

Sending Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

NCH # 4

Closing Prayer

Holy One, we celebrate that where people are gathered together in love:

You are present and good things happen and life is full.

We celebrate that we are immersed in your mystery our lives are more than they seem:

We belong to each other and to a universe of great creative energies, whose source and destiny is you, our God.

We celebrate that your spirit beat in the heart of Jesus of Nazareth:

The good news of your healing, embracing and liberating love was heard by the broken, the lonely and all bound by life’s sorrows and struggles.

We celebrate that the spirit of peace and hope is present with us and through us:

In our struggle to love we incarnate your holy presence in our world.

And so, aware of the hurts and longings all of us carry, the awe and wonder that is around us, and the gifts of faith and this community of faith:

We pause and we become ever aware of the sacredness of our lives.

In that awareness may we act and speak and live. May it be so...

~ adapted from worship resources by Rex Hunt (Uniting Church of Australia)

Benediction

Postlude

“Happiness”

Gesner

Announcements

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

Sharon and John Sabo

Kaleena Sweinhart

Betty Bortz

Brooke Miller

Freda Wanner

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 4/24 ~ Holy Humor Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Holy Humor Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am
~ Ursinus Association Spring Meeting 3 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun., 5/1 ~Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am
Tues., 5/3 ~ Pastor Suzanne at Clergy Convocation
Wed., 5/4 ~ Pastor Suzanne at Clergy Convocation
Thurs., 5/5 ~ Pastor Suzanne at Clergy Convocation
~ Office closed

Scripture Readings for May 1:

Acts 1-20; Psalm 30; John 21:1-19

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are adult lotion, deodorant, feminine tampons, laundry detergent. 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 dish soap, multi-purpose cleaners, toilet paper.

Mid-day Dinner club will be meeting at Douglassville Hotel on Tuesday, May 17 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, May 15 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.

A congregational meeting will be held on May 1st after the early and late services for the election of members to Consistory and the Board of Christian Education. You will be able to vote in person or by proxy for that meeting.

Annual Pottstown Crop Hunger Walk is virtual/in person hybrid again this year and concludes April 30. Donation checks can be made payable to Pottstown Crop Hunger Walk and placed in Collection Plate. If you are making a monetary donation please give to Gloria Mest and you will be given a receipt. Thank you on behalf of the youth group.

Beginning Sunday, May 8, we will begin part 2 of the **continuing education and discussion about white privilege**. We are using the UCC curriculum “White Privilege, let’s talk, A Resource for Transformational Dialogue.” There will be the same three discussion time options 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. You can pick up a copy of Part 2 at the church office. The expectation is that you will have read the first chapter and arrive ready to join in a discussion. I look forward to continuing our learning and growing together as we work our way through this curriculum.

The Coventry Woods festival will be held on Sunday May 22 from 1-5 PM. We are looking for people to staff the Shenkel display table and share information about Shenkel UCC with people who stop by. We would like to get 4 people (including youth) who can help for several hours each. We are also looking to borrow a 6’ or 8’ folding table and folding canopy to shade our volunteers from the sun. These items would need to be set up at 10 AM and removed after the festival ends (~5:15 PM). If you can help us with these items it would be appreciated. Please contact Gary McDermit, Chris Gray, or Dan Jenkins if you can help with any of the above.

Card Making Class will be starting on Thursday, May 19th at 10 am in the Social Hall. Each class participant makes three beautiful cards. Cost is \$8. If you plan to attend the class or have any questions, please call Pat Kuestner at 610-327-0889 to insure there will be enough materials.