

May 15, 2022
Fifth Sunday of Easter

~Gathering Together ~

Prelude "Little Prelude in Gm" Taylor

Welcome

Missions & Ministries

Invocation

Choral Introit "Come, My People"
Come, my people, welcome to worship. Love is in the warmth of this place.
Sing to God a song of thanksgiving, sing to God a song of praise!

Call to Worship

Pastor: I am too busy; I cannot praise my God.

People: My time hangs too heavily on my hands; I cannot praise my God.

Pastor: There is too much wrong in the world; I cannot praise my God.

People: There is too much noise in the world; I cannot praise my God.

Pastor: There is too much quiet in the world; I cannot praise my God.

People: There are reasons beyond count to explain why I cannot praise my God.

Pastor: I am lonely, I am tired, I am overworked, I have no resources for such a task.

People: Take our sore places and comfort us. Take our weary places and give us rest. Take our reasons and overwrite them with your love for us and your need for us to be the people you created us to be. Amen.

Opening Hymn "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing" NCH # 17

To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation every-thing
sings your praises, al-le-lu-ia!

Your burning sun with golden beam, Your silver moon with softer gleam sing your praises,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail across the sky
sing your praises, al-le-lu-ia!
your morning rises with a song, and lights of evening sing along, sing your praises,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for you to hear,
sing your praises, al-le-lu-ia!
your fire, . . . bountiful and bright, remembering your warmth and light, sings your praises,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

To you, O God, day after day, your planet earth in every way,
sings your praises, al-le-lu-ia!

As savory fruit and fragrant flower show forth your glory and your power, singing praises,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

~ *Coming Alive in Community* ~

Call to Confession

God invites us to come with confidence in God's mercy to our time of confession.

Prayer of Confession

Living and eternal God, we thank you that you have not left us alone in our sin and despair. Loving us, you have brought us good news and set before us the way of Life. Yet we confess that we have failed to see the way. In stubborn pride we have spurned your mercy and your help. In selfishness we have turned away from those who need us. We have allowed ourselves to be crushed by troubles, as though Christ had not been raised at all. Forgive our faithlessness, and grant that we may know new life and hope, in the spirit of the resurrection. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

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 Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35

Joan Palubinsky

The Reading of Psalm 148

The Epistle Reading: Acts 11:1-18

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

NCH # 394

In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North:
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord Close-binding humankind.

Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, And neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God, And all are kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.

~ *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
Strengthen the Church (STC) - It is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches where the UCC voice has not been heard.

Offering Response

“Doxology”

NCH # 778

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication

~ *Going out in Joy* ~

Sending Hymn

“Draw the Circle Wide”

Insert

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.

God the stillpoint of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever in God's gracious arms. (Refrain)

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. (Refrain)

Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us, open ev'ry door. (Refrain)

Benediction

Postlude

“Share the Spirit”

Schmidt

Announcements

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

Elizabeth, Jim and Zoey Carr
Lilly Keim
Lisa and Joe Dice
Clay Zachesky
Gloria Mest

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

- Sun., 5/15 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am
~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
- Tues., 5/17 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
~ Midday Dinner Club at Douglassville Hotel at noon
~ Music & Worship meeting at 7:30 pm on Zoom
- Wed., 5/18 ~ BOCE at 1 pm
~ White Privilege Discussion at 7 pm
- Thurs., 5/19 ~ Card Making Class at 10 am
~Agape at 6:45 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun., 5/22 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am
~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
~ Coventry Woods Festival from 1 – 5 pm
- Mon., 5/23 ~ Community meal prepared at Barb Sweinhart's house
- Tues., 5/24 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
~ Midday Dinner Club at Douglassville Hotel at noon
- Wed., 5/25 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 7 pm

Scripture Readings for May 22:

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; John 5:1-9

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.

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 participants make 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.

Operation 143 Backpack. The youth will be packing backpacks at 238 High Street in Pottstown starting at 6 pm for about 1 to 1 ½ hours. Let Gloria Mest know if you are interested in helping.

If anyone is interested in starting Lunch Bunch again, please let Barbara Brown, Tootie or Louise know you are interested.