

I will give thanks
unto thee

O Lord.

≡ Samuel 22:50

Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Easter
April 26th 2026 @ 10:00AM

MEDITATION

“The question is not “How am I to find God?” but “How am I to let myself be found by him?”. God is not the patriarch who stays home, doesn’t move, and expects his children to come to him, apologize for their aberrant behavior, beg for forgiveness, and promise to do better. To the contrary, he leaves the house, ignoring his dignity by running toward them, pays no heed to apologies and promises of change, and brings them to the table. When I look through God’s eyes at my lost self and discover God’s joy at my coming home, then my life may become less anguished and more trusting.”

— Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*

PRELUDE

“I Exalt Thee/ Shine, Jesus Shine”
Duet- Dani Bentzel & Sandy Bamberger

Innes

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please, stand if you are able!)*

One: Can you hear the voice of God?

All: We hear God calling us by name.

One: Are you troubled or distressed?

All: We come here to find a place to rest for awhile.

One: Come and find a guide who knows these lands.

All: We come to praise our Shepherding God,

whose pathways and doors lead to life. Let us worship God!

***HYMN**

“Morning Has Broken”

Insert

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

All: Shepherding God, bring us into your fold. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Help us see the way we should go, the way we should live. Help us hear your voice calling our name. Enliven this time of worship, that we may find true life as we join with others: praising your name, celebrating your great goodness, and sharing your love for all people. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray!

All: Shepherding God, be with us in our need. Like sheep who have gone astray, we have not listened to your voice, calling us to follow the right paths, and asking us to lie down and be restored. We do not want to be sheep, dependent on a shepherd for everything. We want to do it alone, to maintain our independence.

Forgive us for rejecting your care and guidance. Forgive us for our need to do it by ourselves, to be separate from the flock. Forgive us for doubting your presence in times of trouble. Lead us back to the path of life. In the name of Jesus, our Shepherd, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus said, I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly. In so confessing, we have returned to the Shepherd, the guardian of our souls, who welcomes us with open arms and a glad heart.

Know that the Shepherd of our lives never abandons us, is always calling our name, and unfailingly loves and forgives us.

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Let us greet each other in Christian Friendship.
The peace of God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

CELEBRATING THE ELC'S 50TH BIRTHDAY

MUSIC PROGRAM *Early Learning Center Students*
 "Hosanna"
 "Jesus Loves Me"
 "God is So Good"
 "Jesus Is Alive"

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: Psalm 23

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

CHANCEL CHOIR

"People Need the Lord"

McDonald

Third Reading: John 10:1-10

SERMON

“Smart Sheep”

Pastor Melinda

*HYMN

“I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry”

#351

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

THE 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.

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERING BEFORE GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God tells us over and over in the Bible not to be afraid. Our gifts this morning are one way that we trust God even in a world that keeps telling us to be afraid. We let go of thinking that we are on our own, and live each day in graceful dependence on God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise!

OFFERTORY

“Delight In The Lord”

Sewell

“Doxology”

#780

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, You heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Let us pray!

All: Generous God, we thank you for all the wonderful gifts with which you have blessed our lives. Take these gifts, these tokens, and use them to build your realm, to heal the broken hearted, bind up those who are wounded, welcome the stranger, and become the gate of hope, for we ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

#252

BENEDICTION

May God the Father prepare your journey,
Jesus the Son guide your footsteps,
The Spirit of Life strengthen your body,
The Three in One watch over you,
on every road that you may follow.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Let There Be Joy”

Miller

**THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY!
PLEASE COME AGAIN SOON!**

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK



PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Myers Family, The Jordan Family, The Stough/Runkle Family,
The Limbert Family, The Bupp/Miller Family

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Helen Byers, Judy Feeser, Dick & Helen Hodgson, Joe Jordan, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Elaine Krout, Catherine Lochman, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Steve Snyder, Rick & Sue Trimble, Romaine Walton, Gloria Melhorn, Fay Myers

Morning Prayer (*www.biblestudytools.com*)

Loving God, Thank You. You made the heavens and the earth, the land and the sea, the fish that swim in the waters and the creatures that crawl upon the shores. You made me. Thank you! Truly, You hand crafted everything in this universe. Help me, Lord, not to take any of this for granted. Help me know in my soul I do not deserve the blessings You choose to bestow, yet You offer them anyway. You do this because You love me, because You are perfect and good, and because Your ways are infinitely higher than my own. Thank you, God, for breath in my lungs and sun on my skin. Thank You for the opportunity of salvation and for the gift of Your son, Jesus Christ. Help me to hold this gratitude in my heart all day long and to overflow with joy so I can share it with others in all I think, say, and do. In Jesus' holy name I pray. Amen.

Evening Prayer (*Christina Fox*)

Heavenly Father, I can barely lift my eyes to you. It's all I can do to cry out for help. Please extend your grace to me tonight. Help me to see that you are with me every moment of every day. Your Holy Spirit comforts me. Help me to remember that you are not surprised or taken off guard by the events of this day. Forgive me for my fears and doubts. Forgive me for forgetting that you are with me. Forgive me for forgetting who I am because of what your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant me gospel hope in the midst of a hard day. Show me your presence and fill me with your Spirit. Help me to cling to your love, grace, and strength. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS
AND MUSICIANS WHO CONTRIBUTED
TO THE WORSHIP SERVICE!

BULLETIN:

ALTAR FLOWERS: Presented in loving memory of Betty and Bill Harper by their family.

VIDEO TEAM: Lew Wallace, Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel, Matt Hildebrecht, Jaron Flickinger

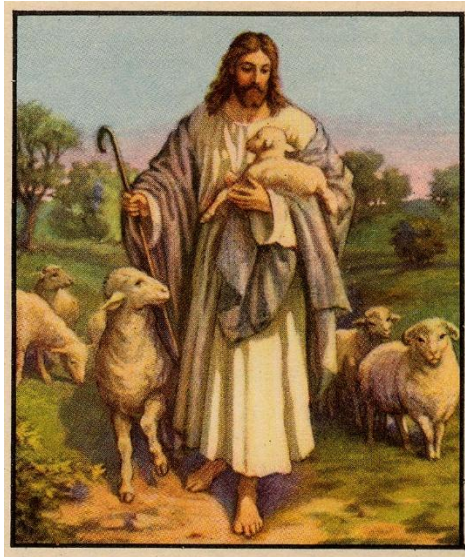
LITURGIST: Allison Hartnett

GREETERS: Cheryl and Jeff Hershey

USHER: Michael Andras

NURSERY: Carol Burns and Jessie Sechriest

COFFEE CONNECTIONS: Katie Bentzel



“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here at Shiloh UCC, where God is still speaking.”

THIS WEEK

SUN	10:00	Worship
	8:45	Wired Word (124) & Sunday School (202)
	9:15	Coffee Connections (gallery)
MON	5:30	Gospel Choir (100)
TUES	6:00	Cub Scouts (100)
	8:00	Men’s Chorus
WED	9:30	Bible Study (202)
	5:00	TOPS (202)
THUR	6:30	Choirs
	6:30	NA Group (100)
FRI		OFFICE CLOSED
SAT	2-4PM	Birthday Party (100)
SUN	10:00	Worship

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 69

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	<i>Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.</i>
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Pastor Melinda office hours:	Tues., Wed. and Thurs. 9AM-1PM
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Organist	Sandra Bamberger
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