



CELEBRATION OF THE GOSPEL
by the people of God
gathered in the meeting house of
Shiloh United Church of Christ

Meditation

*"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love."
~ Francis of Assisi*

The Prelude to Christian Worship. "Love Came Down At Christmas". Price

Welcome and Concerns

***Call to Worship (After Psalm 89)**

One: We come to witness a miracle.

All: We sing the miracle of God's steadfast love.

One: New life bursts forth in unexpected ways.

All: We shout the good news: God's covenant endures forever!

One: The desert blooms; what was barren is fertile!

All: With our mouths we proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations:

God is the Rock of our Salvation! Let us worship our loving God!

***Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Holy God, you are present in the everyday occurrences; you are revealed in startling and wondrous encounters. Let the revelation of your mystery unfold again here, this day - that we may experience it joyfully. Let the secret of the ages shed new light on our relationship with you, O God, as we praise the name of the One, who appeared to us as your unconditional, faithful, and everlasting love, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Hymn. "Toda la Tierra". No. 121

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE – THE PROMISE OF LOVE

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the silence to be broken,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the peace that surpasses understanding,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

Candle Lighting

Today we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope granting strength to the weary. The **second candle** is the light of peace that surpasses our understanding. The **third candle** is the light of joy that touches the depths of our soul. The **fourth candle** reminds us of the light of God's love poured out in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Witness to Our Sacred Story

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Second Lesson: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Third Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

"Do Not Be afraid."

Handbell Choir

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 Offerings before God
(Offering plates are located next to the bulletins in the Narthex)

Invitation to the Offering

The God of Abundance lays the bounty of all creation before us, strengthens us when we are weak, and fills us when we are hungry. Let us share deeply and joyfully, that all may come to the table of God's heavenly feast.

***Offertory Response** "What Child Is This" (Verse 3) No. 148

***Prayer of Dedication**

**God's steadfast love is established forever –
like the moon, an enduring witness in the skies.
God's faithfulness is as firm as the heavens –
like stars that never grow dim.
May God bless this offering that Christ's light may shine throughout the ages. Amen.**

Hymn "Once in Royal David's City" No. 145

***Benediction – Philippians 4** *(those who are able, please stand)*

One: Go from this place in hope and peace.
All: Anointed by the Holy Spirit, we go ready to serve in the world.
One: Go from this place in joy and love.
All: Bathed in the light, we go to proclaim God's love in Jesus Christ! Amen!

The Postlude "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear" Whipple

Prayers for the Week

Morning Prayer:

<https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/morning-prayer/>

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me; Christ over me; Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak; in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light; Christ as a shield; Christ beside me on my left and my right. Amen.



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Evening: <https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/evening-prayer/>

In the shadow of Your wings I will sing Your praises, O Lord.
The Lord is my light, my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the refuge of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

In the shadow of Your wings I will sing Your praises, O Lord.
One thing I ask of the Lord, one thing I seek; to dwell in the presence of my God, to gaze on Your holy place.

In the shadow of Your wings
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.
I believe I shall see the goodness
of the Lord in the land of the living.
O wait for the Lord!
Have courage and wait, wait for the Lord.

In the shadow of Your wings
I will sing Your praises, O Lord. Amen.

Prayers for Our Community of Faith

Nancy Hamme, Helen Luckenbaugh, Stewart and Marie Wagner, Marguerite Lochman, Arlene Myers, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Helen Byers, Charles Smith, Mary Emma Elicker, Catherine Lochman, Elona Ellis, Mary Ann Downs, Vanessa Seifarth, Bev Kirk, Julene Bechtel, Jim Bentzel Sr. Phil Myers, Joanne Overviller, Milton Hoak, Dottie Limbert, Donna Krone, Elva Winter, Mary Rodgers, Oscar Bupp, Bob and Margie Behler, Chuck and Sandy Baboian, Sandy Barnes, Staff and Residents at Providence Place, Audrey Gerber, Richard Gruver

Those Who Grieve for Their Loved Ones

The Minck Family, The Fix Family, The Harper Family, The Arnold Family, The Krout Family, The Duttera Family, The Harman Family



Thank you to all members of the congregation who voted to approve the three new members of Consistory, 94 voting members total. Those three new Consistory members are **Dani Bentzel and Janene Beck as Deacons, with Sallie Hagerman filling the 2-year position, as an Elder.** The 2021 Consistory will be installed in January, probably via video, unless in-person services are resumed.

The **Poinsettias** will be available for pick-up on **Wednesday, December 23 from 8-9 p.m. in the sanctuary and on Thursday, December 24 from 10-11 a.m. in the welcome center.**



You are invited to attend a second **Drive-in Carol Sing Along on Sunday, December 20 at 1:00 PM.** There will be an improved sound system for this event. A special food collection for the Salvation Army will be held as they have announced they are struggling to meet the needs of the people. Monetary donations for the Salvation Army will also be accepted along with the Christmas offerings for Shiloh Fire Company, Mr. Sandy's, the Dover Food Bank and the York County Food Bank. **We ask that you remain in or at your car when you arrive. Someone will come to greet you to provide a song sheet and collect any donations you might have.** Please join us for some Christmas Spirit, singing and fellowship (with social distancing and masks).

*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 year's Christmas Eve service will be recorded. It will be available to view on our website and face book page.



GROCERY GIFT CARDS = CONTRIBUTION TO CHURCH. Weis and Giant grocery gift cards are available for purchase. For every dollar of gift cards purchased, \$.05 is donated to the church by the grocery store. This contribution is used to support our Missionaries, Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson in Costa Rica. Please contact the office if you interested in purchasing one.

OFFERING is continually being collected for our missionaries, **Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson.**



2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in **the welcome center.** You may pick them up during office hours.

THIS WEEK

SUN 9:15 **Fourth Sunday in Advent**
 1:00 Drive-in sing along
 MON 9:00 ELC X-Mas event (100)
 9:30 Bible Study (100)
 THURS Christmas Eve – Office Closed
 FRI Christmas Day – Office Closed
 SUN 9:15 **First Sunday after Christmas**



- THE ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of Curvin and Pauline Kindig by Cheryl and Jeff Hershey.
- THE BULLETINS are dedicated to the glory of God and are placed this holiday season in honor of the Bowers family by Joyce Bowers.
- LITURGIST: Sara Jacoby
- ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS: John and Mary Reiber

THE CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|--|--|
| Pastor | Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. pastormelinda@shilohucc.com |
| Pastor Melinda office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | |
| Director of Music | Stephanie Limbert |
| Organist..... | Sandra Bamberger |
| Missionaries in Costa Rica..... | Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson |
| Early Learning Center Director..... | Allison Hartnett |
| Administrative Assistant | Maira Rivera |
| Facebook Page | www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa |



Missionary Benefit

I have grown up in this church and have witnessed how much of a giving church this is. I have many items made in **Costa Rica for sale to benefit our Missionary there**. I will have them located in the gallery after church starting **November 22 through December 20 as permitted**. Below are items listed that are available. Visit shilohuccyorkpa.org to view the items. You can reach Linda Little at 717-309-4523 if you are interested.

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Suggested donation</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wooden ornaments | \$10 |
| Butterfly hot plate | \$6 |
| Wall Crosses (4, ex. Small-large) | \$13.50 |
| Clay nativity | \$6 |
| Red clay nativity | \$10 |
| Animal whistle | \$9 |
| Frog | \$6 |

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Suggested donation</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Change purse | \$4 |
| Key chains/with name | \$7/\$8 |
| Volcanic rock necklace | \$4-\$5 |
| Animal themed coasters | \$5 or 5 for \$20 |
| Butterfly in case | \$15 |
| Bracelets | \$5-\$6 |
| Earrings | \$5-\$8 |
| Magnets | \$2 |
| Extracts | \$3 |

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020

Luke 1:26-38

Birth of a Promise *Christmas Fund Offering*

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the season of watchful waiting for the coming of the Christ Child. If you have practiced a ritual of lighting Advent candles, either in community or in your own home, then this Sunday you will light all four candles. As we do, we celebrate and acknowledge the gifts of this season - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we are also invited to receive the Christmas Fund Offering. As the promise of God's light and presence shines through the advent candles, we can bring hope, peace, joy, and love to those we honor with our special offering. Soon it will be time to put the advent wreath away for another year. But through your gift to the Christmas Fund Offering, you can keep hope, peace, joy, and love alive all year long for those who have served the church.

The Christmas Fund funds four programs: Christmas Thank You Checks, Pension Supplementation, Health Benefits, and Emergency Grants.

Christmas Thank You Checks are for retired United Church of Christ clergy and lay employees. Retirees with limited financial resources receive a gift at Christmas time as a way of saying "thank you" for years of service to the UCC. Last year, more than a quarter million dollars was given to 521 individuals, and the number of those helped increases every year.

Pension Supplementation is for lower-income retired United Church of Christ clergy and lay employees. These are monthly payments designed to bring household incomes up to a basic level to be able to afford basic needs like food, utilities, and medical expenses.

Health Benefits supplementation is for lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees who may receive assistance in paying Medicare premiums.

Emergency Grants are for currently active or retired clergy or lay employees who are facing unforeseen circumstances that create financial need.

Give to the Christmas Fund:

<https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home>.



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8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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