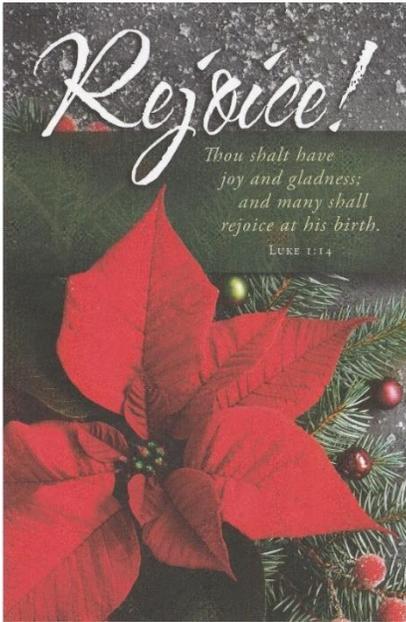


WELCOME TO SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2021
 3:00 PM AND 7:00 PM



MEDITATION

“Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children; to remember the weaknesses and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and to ask yourself if you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open? Are you willing to do these things for a day? Then you are ready to keep Christmas!” — Henry van Dyke (1852 – 1933) American author and clergyman

PRELUDE

3:00PM & 7:00PM – DUET BY SANDY BAMBERGER & DANI BENTZEL

“A Tapestry of Angels” Smith; *“A Christmas Festival”* Van Der Pol
“O Holy Night” Adam

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please stand as you are able and join in the call to worship.)*

One: Joy to the world! Christ has come!

All: He did not come riding on a war horse from the clouds.

One: He came to us vulnerable and defenseless, born to a poor young couple with no place to lay him down but a manger.

All: God’s Son was not sent to go to war against us over our wickedness.

One: He came to instruct us, to make peace between us and God, and to heal us – all of us.

All: Joy to the world! Christ has come!

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear names Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, and we are awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch our hearts and minds and souls that we may never tire of this story or take it for granted. Make this night magical again. In the name of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN** *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*. Special Hymnal #9

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels.	Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
2 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav’n above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest: [Refrain]	3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to receive the Christ Child once more. When we are lost in darkness, shine your light in the darkness of our world. When the gloom clings tightly to us, Shine your glory into the shadows of our lives. Overcome our fear, Holy One, and inspire us to leave our flocks, and seek the Christ Child this night. Prepare our hearts, O God, to behold your precious gift in awe and wonder. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Isaiah 9:2)

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.” Receive forgiveness. Receive light. Walk in God’s light – forgiven.

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Please wave to one another)

On this holy night of incarnate love,
Let us share signs of the peace that came down to earth to bring us joy.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC

7:00PM – CHANCEL CHOIR *“What Can I Give To The Holy Child?”* Lav

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Candle lighting

Tonight we light all the candles. The first candle ignites the thrill of hope in the hearts of weary people. The second candle shines peace that surpasses understanding into a conflicted and confused world. The third candle expresses the joy of fulfilled promises and the anticipation of those yet to come. The fourth candle shines with grace and new life in God’s unconditional love.

***HYMN.“What Child Is This”.Special Hymnal #11**

<p>1 What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?</p>	<p>Chorus: This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!</p>
<p>2 Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.[Chorus]</p>	<p>3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.[Chorus]</p>

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 9:2-7

CAROL *“Away in a Manger”* #4

<p>Away in a manger No crib for a bed The little Lord Jesus Laid down His sweet head The stars in the sky Looked down where He lay The little Lord Jesus Asleep on the hay</p>	<p>The cattle are lowing The Baby awakes But little Lord Jesus No crying He makes I love You, Lord Jesus Look down from the sky And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh</p>	<p>Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever And love me I pray Bless all the dear children In Thy tender care And fit us for heaven To live with Thee there</p>
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A PSALM READING: *Psalm 96*

CAROL *“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”* #2

<p>1. Good Christian men, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born to-day: Man and beast before Him bow, And He is in the manger now; Christ is born today, Christ is born today!</p>	<p>2. Good Christian men, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened the heaven’s door, And man is blest for evermore.³ Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!</p>	<p>3. Good Christian men, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one, and calls you all, To gain His everlasting hall: Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!</p>
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EPISTLE READING: *Titus 2:11-14*

CAROL *"Angels, From the Realms of Glory"* #12 vs. 1 & 4

<p>1 Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:</p> <p>Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.</p>	<p>4. Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear, Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear:</p> <p>Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.</p>
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GOSPEL READING: *Luke 2:1-7*

CAROL *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* #1 vs. 1 & 4

<p>1 Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.</p>	<p>4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!</p>
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GOSPEL READING: *Luke 2:8-14*

CAROL *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* #3

<p>1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.</p>	<p>2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain] Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.</p>
<p>3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain] Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.</p>	<p>4 See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth! Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, With us sing our Savior's birth. Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.</p>

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 2:15-20*

CAROL *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* #10

<p>1 Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King: peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"</p> <p>Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"</p>	<p>2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb: veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity, pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.</p> <p>Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"</p>	<p>3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.</p> <p>Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"</p>
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CHRISTMAS EVE REFLECTION *"Rejoice"*

7:00PM - HAND BELL CHOIR *"Stille, Stille, Stille!"* Arr. Thompson

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS BEFORE GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Come now and kneel before the Christ Child. Bring all that you are and all that you have. Offer gifts in wonder and surprise, awe and reverence. Offer your gifts in joy and delight. In the spirit of this night, let us receive our Christmas offering.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Doxology”**

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. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Loving God, there are so many things to be thankful for tonight. Receive these tokens of our gratitude for your love incarnate in the babe of Bethlehem. May they become God-with-us for all the world. May they breathe magic back into a world that needs a sense of wonder and joy. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

7:00PM CHAMBER CHOIR

“Mary, Did You Know”

Lowry & Green/Arr. Schrader

SHARING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE THE PROMISE OF ARRIVAL

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

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to worship the newborn king.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to hear the good news proclaimed by the angels.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to receive the promise foretold.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Candle lighting

Tonight, we light the **Christ candle** in celebration of our Messiah’s birth. As God’s promises continue to shine, we echo the words shared through the ages – Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

***CAROL “ Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” Special Hymnal #7**

<p>1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let ev’ry heart prepare Him room and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.</p>	<p>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p>
<p>3 No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.</p>	<p>4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.</p>

BENEDICTION

One: Go in wonder. Go to bring light to those who sit in darkness, joy to those who have tasted bitter tears, and magic to a world bereft of hope. Go with the songs of angels in your ears, and the love of God in your hearts. Go and share the word that Christ the Lord is born this night!

All: Amen.

SENTENCES BEFORE DISTRIBUTION OF CHRIST’S LIGHT

The God who said “Let there be light,” has caused light to shine in our hearts. That light is the glory of God reflected in the face of Jesus Christ. As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ, so may the church reflect Christ’s light and love in the world. Amen.

LIGHT FROM CHRIST CANDLE

Pastor Melinda will light her candle from the Christ Candle. The ushers will light their candles from Pastor Melinda’s candle. They will take their candles and light the candle of each person on an aisle seat, and they in turn, will light the candle of the person next to them. When all the candles are lit, the people will hold their lit candles and walk out of the Sanctuary singing “Silent Night, Holy Night.”

***CAROL** *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

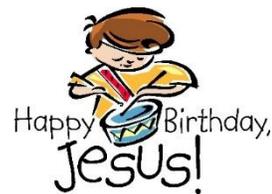
Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace.	Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly host sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
	Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

POSTLUDE

3:00PM & 7:00PM.*"In Dulci Jubilo"* Bach

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US FOR WORSHIP TODAY!

- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nancy and LeRoy Leber. "Those we Love remain with us, for Love itself lives on. Cherished memories never fade, because a Loved one is gone. Those we Love can never be, more than a thought apart, for as long as there's a memory, they live on in our hearts." Until we meet again, Melinda (Leber) Kreiser, Leon Leber and families.
- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Robert, on our 62nd wedding anniversary by Margie Behler.
- **ACOLYTE: 3:00PM:** Kendra Tredway
- **CANDLE LIGHTER: 3:00PM** Steve & Sue Besecker, **7:00 PM** Natalie Fuhrman & Sallie Hagerman
- **LITURGIST: 3:00PM:** Sara Jacoby, **7:00PM:** Jen Miller
- **USHERS: 3:00PM:** Consistory, **7:00PM:** Consistory
- **GREETERS: 3:00PM:** Sue & Steve Besecker, **7:00PM:** Consistory
- **NURSERY DUTY: 3:00PM:** Volunteer, **7:00PM** Jessie Sechriest
- **MUSIC: 3:00PM:** Sandy Bamberger, Dani Bentzel, Donna Seifarth, Shelley Stewart, **7:00PM:** Sandy Bamberger, Dani Bentzel, Handbell, Chancel and Chamber Choirs.
- **VIDEO TEAM:** Lew Wallace, Dani Bentzel, Sallie Hagerman, Reen Bentzel, Matt Hildebrecht, Jaron Flickinger



THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND MUSICIANS FOR PROVIDING THE WORSHIP MUSIC!

WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS! MAY THE CHRIST CHILD BRING YOU THE REIGN OF PEACE!



Consistory has started a **special fund** for making renovations and improvements to the church's kitchen and social hall (Room 100). This year's special **Christmas Offering** will be used to help build this fund.

Pastor

pastormelinda@shilohucc.com

Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.

717-764-3609

Pastor Melinda office hours: Please call for an appointment.

Wednesdays 9AM-2PM & 5-8PM; Thursdays 9:00-11:30AM & 6-8:30PM;

Fridays 9AM-2PM

Director of Music.....Stephanie Limbert

OrganistSandra Bamberger

Missionaries in Costa Rica..... Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson

Early Learning Center Director Allison Hartnett

Administrative Assistant Maira Rivera...office@shilohucc.com

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