

Shiloh United Church of Christ

2251 Willow Road, York, Pennsylvania 17408

717-764-3569

JULY 4, 2021

Our Mission Statement

"Shiloh United Church of Christ is called to show Christ's love for all through witness, word, and worship."

WELCOME TO SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WORSHIP SERVICE
JULY 4, 2021 9:15 AM

MEDITATION

"And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

"If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity." John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1961–1963)

THE PRELUDE TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP "Our Hearts In Christian Love" Roberts

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (by Nathan Decker)

One: We came from all places and all peoples to gather here today.

All: Some of us traveled across the ice, others came later in boats, still others of us waded rivers or arrived in planes.

One: We found a land blessed.

All: Blessed with mountains and valleys, rivers and oceans, fertile earth, wonderful woods, and promising cities.

One: Here, a dream was born.

All: A dream of freedom from all oppression, A dream of hope for our children, A dream of people in community under God.

One: We have turned to nations and peoples who gave us birth:

All: Send us the voiceless. Send us the fearful. Send us the oppressed.

One: And so the dream continues...

All: And so the dream of America continues...

One: God, help us to do your work until your dreams come true...

All: Let us worship and praise our merciful God!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Andy Langford, U.S.A., 20th cent.)

Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth. Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together. Give to the people of our country zeal for justice and strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. Forgive our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love the truth. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN "This Is My Song" # 591

This is my song, Oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating,
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh hear my song, oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

CHILDREN'S TIME

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Lesson: Psalm 118:1-7; Second Lesson: Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Third Lesson: John 8:31-36

SERMON

“Freedom”

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Anyone who practices generosity can tell you that being generous is hard – until you do it. Take a look around the sanctuary and you will see people who give generously. We give, and by some miracle, our burdens are lightened.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** “Doxology” # 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. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God, you invite us to share the load. Through these gifts, we see that your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Use them, with us, to your service. Multiply them, through us, for your use. Strengthen them, in us, to meet the needs of this weary world, until the day comes when every need is met. Through Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

(All are welcome to partake of communion)

HYMN OF COMMUNION. “My Eyes Have Seen the Glory”. # 610

My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
who is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored,
And has loosed the fateful lightning of a terrible swift sword;
God's truth is marching on.
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
and is sifting out the hearts of all before the judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer and be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

God has been there in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps,
where they built a sacred altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
God's day is marching on.
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in whose bosom that transfigures you and me;
As Christ died to make us holy, let us die to make all free;
While God is marching on.
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #886**

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
Good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved
Your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

INVITATION

Pastor: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

CONFESSION OF SIN

One: Friends in Christ: I invite you to conjure your image of Jesus. Can you see him?

All: The humble man who healed? The one who gave everything so freely? The one who cared and noticed and never turned his back?

One: Good people, we, you and I, were created by and in that very same image. We were created to follow that example: to be humble, to offer healing, to give abundantly, to care, to notice, to pay attention to the need that surrounds us.

All: At times, we follow Jesus. And, at times, we do not.

One: In the stillness of this moment, God invites us to consider the ways in which we do and do not – follow Jesus' example. And, the Holy Spirit inspires us to invite God's grace into our lives

so that we can more closely follow Jesus' lead, cleaning out everything within us that would function to get in God's way. Let us do just that in the moments ahead:

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends in Christ, there is Good News for us all to hear – news so good that our heart will beat happier and our soul will rejoice. The God made known to us in Jesus Christ, the God to whom the Psalmist sings, the God whom generations praise and in whom the Spirit dwells is a good God, a gentle God, who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God sees it all, and God loves us anyway. God knows it all, and God forgives, anyway.

All: Through Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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

Let us greet each other in Christian Friendship.

The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN. "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Let there be peace on earth	Let peace begin with me
And let it begin with me	Let this be the moment now.
Let there Be Peace on Earth	With every step I take
The peace that was meant to be	Let this be my solemn vow
With God our Creator	To take each moment and live
Children all are we	Each moment in peace eternally
Let us walk with each other	Let there be peace on earth
In perfect harmony.	And let it begin with me

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: We bless you, Holy God. We bless and call upon your name; For your name is great and your majesty inspires us. You are the source of all that is: From the dawning of creation to the redemption of the world. You grant us freedom in love. And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion, our brother, Jesus, took bread, broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying:

All: "This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

One: And, in like manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks, gave it to them saying,

All: "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me."

One: Holding the bread and the cup ever before us We boldly claim, with joy:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

One: And so we remember. We remember who we were born to be. We remember who we were born to serve. We remember the One who was born and served So that the world would never be the same, so that the world could live in freedom. And

so we pray. We pray for the day when healing and love reign without interruption, when freedom is real for all, when liberty touches everyone, when joy is complete. We pray. We pray for your Spirit to move among us and to bless these gifts of bread and cup before us.

All: Draw us together as one with your church one with your creation one in you.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

For these gifts, O God, we thank you. For your grace, O God, we praise you. For your love, O God, we adore you. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN. “How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies” # 594

How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain;
our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain.
America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,
and more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom of our tears,
the courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years.
America! America! God grant that we may be
a nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.

Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons:
O may we never rest content till all are truly one.
America! America! God grant that we may be
a sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea
that dream of peace, nonviolence, all people living free.
Americas! Americas! God grant that we may be
a hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.

BENEDICTION

One: Deep in our hearts, we know that we are children of God. Remember who you are, then, and walk in the assurance of God's presence and love with you always, calling you beyond fear into belief and joy. And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you always. **All: Amen!**

POSTLUDE: “Song of Freedom” Peterson

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”

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US FOR WORSHIP TODAY!

- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God and in celebration of July 4th commemorating the United States independence and giving thanks for the blessings and responsibilities that come with it.
- **THE BULLETINS** are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of Matt and Tammy Hildebrecht's 7-year anniversary.
- **LITURGIST:** Natalie Fuhrman
- **USHERS:** Helen & Dick Hodgson
- **GREETERS:** Sara Jacoby & Donna Robertson
- **NURSERY DUTY:** Volunteers needed
- **OFFERING DUTY:** Consistory
- **VIDEO TEAM:** Dani Bentzel, Lew Wallace, Matt Hildebrecht, Sallie Hagerman, Jaron Flickinger, Reen Bentzel

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

Morning Prayer

Almighty God, please enlighten my mind with truth; In flame my heart with love; Inspire my will with courage; Enrich my life with service. Pardon what I have been; Sanctify what I am; And order what I shall be. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Evening Prayer

Loving God, Whenever I'm stressed, anxious, or afraid, help me remember to run to you. You are the only one that can calm my fears and end my fretful behavior. Whether in trivial or heavy matters, I know you will not only give me peace; God, you will be my peace. And when I draw close to you—in prayer, in reading your Word, in helping another, in taking my mind off myself—you will be there, up close and personal. I can't handle these times alone, Lord. Will you speak peace and calm my storms, or hold my hand while we walk through them together? Thank you, God. I'm trusting you. In the name of the One who makes the wind and the waves stand still, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Heath Family, The Jacoby Family, The Luckenbaugh Family, The Myers Family.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Nancy Hamme, Stewart and Marie Wagner, Marguerite Lochman, Arlene Myers, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Helen Byers, Mary Emma Elicker, Catherine Lochman, Vanessa Seifarth, Bev Kirk, Julene Bechtel, Jim Bentzel Sr. Joanne Overmiller, Milton Hoak, Dottie Limbert, Donna Krone, Elva Winter, Mary Rodgers, Oscar Bupp, Bob and Margie Behler, Chuck and Sandy Baboian, Sandy Barnes, Richard Gruver, Rosabel Bentzel, Donna Robertson

The church is looking for volunteers to make **prayer shawls** which are given to our shut-ins. Please contact **Karen Bupp at 717-292-2821** for instructions for either knitting or crocheting a shawl. Your assistance would be appreciated!



Volunteers are needed to help in the **nursery** during service. Child abuse clearances are required. If you are interested, please contact Maira in the office.

Casting Crowns with special guests **Cain** will perform on **Thursday, July 29th at 8pm at the York State Fair**. ALL Grandstand show tickets include admission to the Fair when presented at the entrance gates to the Fair on the date of the Grandstand Show. Ticket sales range from \$20-\$35. Please call or email Linda Little to reserve your ticket! 717-309-4523 or Lslcmt@yahoo.com.



GROCERY GIFT CARDS = CONTRIBUTION TO CHURCH. Weis and Giant grocery gift cards are available for purchase in the gallery. 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.

THIS WEEK

SUN	9:15	Communion
MON		Office Closed
WED	5:30	TOPS (100)
	7:00	Visioning Team meeting (100)
THURS	6:30	NA Group (100)
SUN	9:15	Worship



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

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 82
THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor..... Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.
pastormelinda@shilohucc.com
717-764-3609

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 RicaSally Jane and Crosby Johnson
Early Learning Center DirectorAllison Hartnett
Administrative Assistant.....Maira Rivera

Website: www.shilohuccyorkpa.org

Facebook Page.....www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa

