



JOY

Joy

JOY TO THE WORLD!

THE LORD

IS COME

Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Advent
December 15th, 2024
10:00 AM

MEDITATION

Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.
~**Mother Teresa**

PRELUDE

“ ’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime ” *Smith*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

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

One: In the times of darkness and fear, God is ever near to love and guide us.

All: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with joy!

One: In the times of happiness and dancing, God is ever near in celebration.

All: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with joy!

One: At all times and in all places, God is always with us, sustaining, healing, and loving.

All: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with Joy! Hallelujah! Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

All: Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your holy presence can bring. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

***HYMN**

“We Hail You God’s Anointed”

#104

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get sidetracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need.

Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The messenger has been sent to you, proclaiming that there is One who is Coming who will heal and lead you. Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you. Amen.

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

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

All: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S SERMON *(All children of God who desire to come forward for the Children's Sermon are welcomed. Parent's/caregivers are encouraged to accompany their young child(ren) during the message.)*

***HYMN**

“Sanctuary”

Insert

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Reader: Joy to the world! Our God is now coming to bring us “good news.” May we sing songs of praise and gladness. We know that our Savior reigns. Let us light the Candle of Joy.

(Light the third/pink candle)

***HYMN**

Of the Parent's Heart Begotten

#118 (vs. 3)

One: One: Let us pray!

All: God of Joy, we light the third candle today to celebrate the joy You brought into the world through your Son, Jesus. Fill our hearts with the same joy that the shepherds and wise men felt upon seeing the Christ Child. May we spread this joy to others, letting it shine through our words and actions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: Isaiah 12:2-6

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

MEN'S CHORUS

“Night of Silence”

Kantor

Third Reading: Luke 3:7-18

SERMON

“What Should We Do?”

Pastor Melinda

***HYMN**

“The Baptist Shouts”

#115 (vs. 1-3,6)

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

The scriptures tell us that God will turn things around; there will be new life in the dry places; there will a strengthening in those of us with fearful hearts. There will be joy. We have the opportunity to participate with God in turning things around in this world. The effort to do so requires a sharing of the gifts God has placed in our hands. Consider now, what part you wish to play in the work of creation. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“Doxology”

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace,
Praise God for gifts of joy and love,
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell,
On earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: Let us pray!

All: Giver of Joy, Everlasting God, we present to you our humble gifts. May they be used to make a difference in the lives of many people. May our sacrifice bring hope and peace and be a sacred reminder of your love in the world. Bless and multiply our gifts by your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *“Good Christian Men Rejoice”* *Special Hymnal #2*

BENEDICTION (liturgylink.net)

One: Be people of joy. Let the joy of Christ live in your heart and share it with all you meet. Share joy by remembering good times, and hoping for good times to come. Share joy by praying for the peace of our world. Share joy by seeing the good in each other. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy. As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope, peace, and joy with those you meet.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Angels and Shepherds”

Harris

**WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US FOR
WORSHIP TODAY!**

THE ALTAR FLOWERS Presented to the Glory of God in honor of our 60th Wedding Anniversary, December 12th, Jay and Joyce Mummert.

THE BULLETINS: The bulletins are sponsored in Loving Memory of Rev. Uble and Nan Frost who contributed much to our church.

Given by Sandra Baboian

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

LITURGIST: Linda Little

GREETERS: Michael and Laura Andras

USHER: Jackie Taft

NURSERY: Sallie Hagerman & Natalie Fuhrman

COFFEE CONNECTIONS: Patti Goodyear

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS, AND THE MUSICIANS

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Marvel Burg, Helen Byers, Judy Feeser, Dick & Helen Hodgson, Brad Jacobs, Joe Jordan, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Elaine Krout, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Arlene Myers, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Steve Snyder, Rick & Sue Trimble, Romaine Walton, Elva Winter

THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Robertson Family, The Hombach Family, The Overmiller/Bentzel/ Heindel Family, The Norris/Hombach Family, The Krout Family

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Morning Prayer (By Debbie McDaniel) Dear God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives. Thank you for your goodness and for your blessings. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your sacrifice in Jesus Christ, so that we might have inner freedom and everlasting life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, and for all that you've given us. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Evening Prayer (By Tim Keller) As I lay down in sleep to safely wake again only by Your grace, keep me in a joyful, lively remembrance that whatever happens, I will someday know my final rising — the resurrection — because Jesus Christ lay down in death for me and rose for my justification. In His name I pray. Amen.



Sanctuary

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Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit...Therefore honor God with your body, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and ho - ly, tried and

true; With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for

Optional repeat setting

You. Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu -

ar - y, pure and ho - ly, tried and true; With thanks -

giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for You.

WORDS: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs
 MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

SANCTUARY
 Irregular meter

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*“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
	9:00	Sunday School (202) & Wired Word (124)
	9:15	Coffee Connections (gallery)
MON	6:00	Youth Group
TUES	7:00	Grief Group
	7:00	Quilt Club
WED	7:30	Soup Prep
	9:30	Bible Study (202)
	5:00	TOPS (202)
THUR	10:30	Our Daily Bread
	6:30	Choirs
	6:30	NA Group (100)
SUN	10:00	Worship

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 89

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.
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Pastor Melinda office hours: Tues., Wed., and Thurs 9AM-1PM

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