

Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Advent Musical
December 22nd, 2024
10:00AM

MEDITATION

“I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.”

~ Charles Dickens

PRELUDE

“A Tapestry of Angels”
Duet Dani Bentzel & Sandy Bamberger

Smith

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

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

One: Greetings, people of God! You have found favor with God!

All: We wonder what sort of greeting this is, for we are ordinary people.

One: You are special people! God has chosen you to see the revelation of a mystery, the coming birth of the Messiah.

All: God’s wisdom and works are astonishing.

One: To God be the glory forever!

All: Let us worship our loving God!

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

All: Gracious God, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***HYMN**

“My Heart Sings Out with joyful Praise”

#106

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Micah 5, Luke 1)

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on long to-do lists, meals, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about your reordered world— a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The ancient promises of God are fulfilled. God does not forget us. God's mercy extends from generation to generation. Let our souls rejoice in God! **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.

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Reader: We are a people who seek to be brought together by the love of Christ. Our faith teaches us that God gives us unconditional love and forgiveness. Acknowledging God's free gift of grace, we light the Candle of Love.

(Light the fourth/ blue candle)

***HYMN**

"Of the Parent's Heart, Begotten"

#118 (vs. 4)

One: Let us pray!

All: Gentle God, as we light the candle of love, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, as a gift of unconditional love. Let Your love fill our hearts this season, and help us to love others as You have loved us. May Your love guide us and shine brightly through us in all we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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** “Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear” #105

SCRIPTURE *Psalm 80:1-7*

CHANCEL CHOIR “Come, Messiah!” Larson

SCRIPTURE *Micah 5:2-5a*

HANDBELL CHOIR “Pat-a-Pan” Arr. Nelson
Flute-Jessie Sechrist; Tambourine- Dani Bentzel

SCRIPTURE *Hebrews 10:5-10*

MEN’S CHORUS “Night of Silence” Kantor

SCRIPTURE *Luke 1:39-45* *Pastor Melinda*

HANDBELL CHOIR “We Three Kings” Arr. Stephenson

SCRIPTURE *Luke 1:46-55* *Pastor Melinda*

CHANCEL CHOIR “Little Drummer Boy/ Peace on Earth”
Arr. Althouse

PASTORAL 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.

***HYMN** “Once in Royal David’s City” #145

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERING BEFORE GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The Love of God is born anew in the world as often as we embody that love in the works of compassion, peace, and justice. When we choose to generously share all that God has given us—to feed and house, to comfort and heal, to seek justice and resist evil, — we turn to ally ourselves with the love of God that was born among us. Let us share our gifts, then, that all may know God’s forgiveness, generosity, and love.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** “What Child Is This” Vs. 3 #148

Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come join in jubilation; The Holy Child, though meek and mild, has come with God’s salvation. Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby; Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mary!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: Let us pray!

Loving God, you blessed Mary by making her the mother of your only Son, Jesus Christ. You have also blessed us with the gift of your Son, and indeed, with the gift of life itself. Out of all these blessings we give you back these offerings this day. Knowing that your promises will be fulfilled, we pledge our lives to you, in anticipation of the coming of the One who brings us salvation. In His name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*” Special Hymnal #10

BENEDICTION

Go with the Love of God, which extends mercy from generation to generation. Go with the illumination of the Holy Spirit, who prepares us for the arrival of the Christ Child. Go with the presence of Jesus Christ, who comes to partner with us to bring God’s kingdom, that will change the world with love. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“*Rejoice and Be Merry*”

Broughton

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

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in loving memory of Nancy and LeRoy Leber by Melinda, Leon and their families.

THE BULLETINS “Wishing all of our Family and Friends a very Blessed and Happy Holiday Season” Tim, Katie, Emily and Dani Bentzel

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

LITURGIST: Jim Baker

USHER: Brad Jacobs

GREETERS: Steve & Sue Besecker

NURSERY: John Reiber & Nathan Limbert

COFFEE CONNECTION: Katie Bentzel

MUSIC: Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Men’s Chorus, Sandy Bamberger, Dani Bentzel, Stephanie Limbert



**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND
MUSICIANS!**

This **Christmas**, we warmly invite you and your family to join us as we celebrate with **JOY** the birth of our Savior and comforter, Jesus Christ.

Tuesday, December 24th

Candlelight Services at **3:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

Funds from the **Christmas envelope** will be given to the Veterans of the Cross.



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



*“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)
TUES	3:00	Christmas Eve Service
	7:00	Christmas Eve Service
WED		CHRISTMAS DAY/ OFFICE CLOSED
THUR		OFFICE CLOSED
	6:30	Choirs
	6:30	NA Group (100)
SUN	10:00	Worship

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 80

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. pastormelinda@shilohucc.com 717-764-3569
Pastor Melinda office hours:	Tues., Wed., and Thurs 9AM-1PM
Director of Music	Stephanie Limbert
Organist	Sandra Bamberger
Family and Youth Ministry Coordinator	Brandi Shoff FamilyandYouthMinistry@shilohuccyorkpa.org
Missionaries in Costa Rica	Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson
Early Learning Center Director	Allison Hartnett
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