

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

*Thanks
to unto
God
for his
unspeakable
gift.*

Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ
First Sunday After Christmas
December 29th, 2024
10:00AM

MEDITATION

“Baptism is the door of the spiritual life and the gateway to the sacraments.”

- Thomas Aquinas: Summa Theologica

PRELUDE

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Smith

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

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

One: As we take our first breath

All: The God of miracles is present.

One: As we test our wings in adolescence and young adulthood

All: The God of faithfulness is ever with us.

One: When responsibilities, geography, and relationships are altered

All: God is there in the joy and in the sorrow.

One: And when we snuggle into the status quo

All: Christ inspires us to a life of caring and community.

One: Wherever we are on our journey this Sabbath

All: God calls us from the font to a new day, a fresh beginning.

Let us worship God!

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us Pray!

All: God of stars and angels, God of sheep and lambs, God of abundance and grace: You know us well, better than we know ourselves. You hear us cry “Gloria!” and “Praise!” And you watch us tear things apart with our words and deeds. You hear us say “Thy will be done” and “Use me, O God” And you watch us do nothing in response to cries for help. You know us, and you love us, and you forgive. Hear us now say, “Help us to change; turn us around, Make us more loving and courageous and hopeful.” In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

#25

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of goodness and light, illumine a path for us by which we may walk in faithfulness. Too often we have lost our way. Too often we have lived out of our pride and stubbornness and failed to turn to you in our times of need. You have given us all that we need to live sober lives in a right mind. Impel us to sin no more and give us a more perfect knowledge of your divine ways in the world. Help us accept the forgiveness you offer if we but only ask for it. Grant us the opportunity to celebrate this coming year with a faithfulness that we scarcely knew we had in us. Power this celebration through your Holy Spirit—the greatest gift you can offer us today. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Release the burdens of the past. Relinquish control from that which is only in God’s hands. Allow the peace of God to dwell in you. You are forgiven. Accept the gift. Relax in the warmth of God’s embrace.
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**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

#144

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: Psalm 148

Second Reading: Luke 2:41-52

SERMON

“The Sounds of Silence” Guest Pastor- Spring Davidson

HYMN

“Once in Royal David’s City”

#145

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

Just as the waters of the earth are abundant and full of life, so are the blessings God pours upon us daily. Let us now joyfully offer our tithes, pledges, and offerings with the hope that they may enable others to feel immersed in God's love.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *"Doxology"* #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: Let us pray!

Faithful God, bless us in our calling to be in ministry of showing hospitality to others. We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used not for conquest and dominance, but for use in liberating the poor and hurting people, who pray for our liberation as well as their own. Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"* #126

BENEDICTION

Go forth joyfully! God is with you. Bring peace and hope to all you meet. And may God's eternal love shine through you always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *"The Snow Lay on the Ground"* Paxton

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US FOR WORSHIP TODAY!

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Morning Prayer (Lutheran morning prayer)

Heavenly Father, thank you that You have kept me from all harm and danger this night. I pray that You would keep me from sin and every evil this day, that all my doings and life may please You. Into Your hands I commend myself, my body, my soul, and all things. Let Your Holy Spirit be with me and guide me throughout this day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Evening Prayer (Author unknown)

Lord, You bless us as we rest
Restore us as we sleep
You care for us as we drift off
And make our dreaming sweet.
You are the safest place
You are the God of Grace
Forgiven, loved and held by you
Is each small seed of faith.
You know our thoughts and feelings
You see our deep desires
You understand our weariness and catch each tear we cry.
You walk beside us every day
You are a constant friend
You stay with us all through the night
On you we can depend. Amen.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS I would like to Thank everyone who sponsored flowers this past year to make our sanctuary bright and beautiful. Have a blessed New Year! –Connie Redman

THE BULLETINS In honor of my daughter Natalie Fuhrman's birthday.
~Love Mom

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

LITURGIST: Tim Bentzel

USHER: Lonny Neiman

GREETERS: Keith Krout and Jackie Taft

NURSERY: Reen and Jim Bentzel Jr.

COFFEE CONNECTION: Linda Little

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

First Sunday After *Christmas*

“As we prepare for Epiphany, we have even more reasons to recognize God’s grace, respond with gratitude, and share that love with others.”

Books of the Bible Puzzle



Unscramble the name of each book of the Bible and write it correctly in the blank. Then write the letter from each numbered position in the corresponding blank at the bottom of the page. You'll spell a phrase that's used to describe the word of God.

We've done the first one for you as an example.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----|
| 1. UTRH | <u>Ruth</u> | (3) |
| 2. TWAMHET | _____ | (5) |
| 3. BOPERRSV | _____ | (5) |
| 4. SUBNEMR | _____ | (7) |
| 5. WRESHBE | _____ | (6) |
| 6. USAJHO | _____ | (2) |
| 7. MORASN | _____ | (1) |
| 8. GEJDSU | _____ | (3) |
| 9. STREEH | _____ | (3) |
| 10. HMOLIPEN | _____ | (2) |
| 11. LINEDA | _____ | (5) |
| 12. SEESING | _____ | (5) |
| 13. SHEEPISAN | _____ | (2) |
| 14. CLAIMHA | _____ | (7) |
| 15. HARMEEJI | _____ | (3) |
| 16. AGHAIG | _____ | (6) |
| 17. SNAGILATA | _____ | (5) |

The Bible is also known as the

T _____ of _____
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

*“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)
WED		NEW YEARS DAY/OFFICE CLOSED
THUR	6:30	Choirs
	6:30	NA Group (100)
SUN	10:00	Worship

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 99

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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Organist Sandra Bamberger
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