



PEACE

*Peace*

PEACE ON EARTH  
AND MERCY MILD,  
GOD AND SINNERS  
RECONCILED!

**Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 8<sup>th</sup> , 2024**  
**10:00 AM**

**MEDITATION**

*"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love."*

~Francis of Assisi

**PRELUDE**

*"Prepare the Way"*

*Paxton*

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS**

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

One: The Reign of God is drawing near:

**All: We are being encouraged to change our lives!**

One: Prepare the way for the Lord:

**All: We are being encouraged to prepare a loving and peaceful path!**

One: Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:

**All: Let us encourage and welcome one another in Christ's name!**

**Let us worship and praise God together as one in the body of Christ! Amen**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

**All: Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn to you, to change and welcome you in our lives. Meet us here in this holy place, fill our minds with your wisdom, and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open our hearts to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. In the Name of the One whose arrival we await, we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

#116(Vs. 4-7)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, this morning we open our hearts and spirits to you. These times in which we live are confusing and fearful. We are pushed to make preparations for a season, which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses; and shut the door to your healing love and compassion.

We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough. You answer our fears with your voice, “Peace, be still”. Help us to hear you. Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen, rather than shout, to stop and rest, rather than run. Help us to look around at situations and people who are in need, and to place our focus on helping them. For it is in helping your people and reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said, “My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” Be at peace. You are forgiven. 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** “*I Am Yours, O Lord*” #455 (vs. 1&4)

<b>LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE THE PROMISE OF HOPE</b>
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Reader: We are a people who seek peace. We know that God has told us to turn our weapons of war into instruments of peace that benefit all humanity. In the name of that Child who was born long ago to become the Prince of Peace, we now light the first candle on our Advent Wreath, the Candle of Peace.

(Light the second/blue candle)

**\*HYMN** *Of the Parent’s Heart Begotten* #118 (vs. 2)

One: Let us pray!

**All: Holy God, as we light the candle of peace, we ask that You prepare our hearts for the Christ Child. Clear the paths in our lives that keep us from You, and make room in our hearts for Your peace and presence. May we welcome You with open hearts and lives prepared for Your glory. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY**

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

**HANDBELL CHOIR**      *“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”*      Arr. McChesney

Third Reading: Luke 3:1-6

**SERMON**      *“Repent and Follow”*      Pastor Melinda

**\*HYMN**      *“Who Would Think That What Was Needed”*      #153

**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 Lord is coming. Prepare the way! Prepare to welcome the messiah! Welcome the redeemer with your very lives. Know the Lord’s tender mercy. Let all that you are become an offering pleasing to God. Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to God.

**\*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: With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts. Let our gifts remind others of your presence in the world through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**     *“Angels From the Realms of Glory” Special Hymnal #12*

**BENEDICTION**

One: Peace be with you and with all whom you love. Go now into God's world with peace in your hearts and lives. Go in hope and peace.

**All: Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

*“Lift Up Your Heads”*

*Ritter*

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

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** Presented in loving memory of Russell Brennemman and Curvin and Pauline Kindig by Cheryl and Jeff Hershey.

**THE BULLETINS:** The bulletins are sponsored by Jeff & Cheryl Hershey in appreciation for the work crew volunteers.

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

**LITURGIST:** Patti Goodyear

**GREETERS:** Melinda & David Kreiser

**USHER:** Lonnie Neiman

**NURSERY:** Carol Burns & Jessie Sechriest

**COFFEE CONNECTIONS:** Cheryl Hershey

**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** (powerful-morning-prayers-to-start-your-day)

Our Father in heaven, how we love you; how you love us. A new day unfolds, and we desire that it is infused with our worship of you. As we turn our eyes on the beauty of you, so our spirits lift and find peace. Please pour out your Spirit upon us today, so we can worship in fresh ways. We humbly ask for a deeper relationship with you, so we can have a heightened awareness of your presence in us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Evening Prayer** (Rachel Olsen)

Dear Jesus, teach me to daily lay my burdens at your feet. Show me I can trust in your loving care. Grant me, your beloved, the nourishing blessing of rest and peaceful sleep. Amen.



*“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	Youth Group & Sunday School (202) & Wired Word (124)
	9:15	Coffee Connections (gallery)
MON	7:00	Consistory Meeting
TUES	8:30	Men’s Breakfast
	6:30	Cub Scouts
	6:30	Engaging Woman (202)
WED	9:30	Bible Study (202)
	5:00	TOPS (117)
THUR	6:30	Choirs
	6:30	NA Group (100)
SUN	10:00	Worship

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 78**

### **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

Admin Assistant Courtney Olschefski

Office Email office@shilohuccyorkpa.org

Website: [www.shilohuccyorkpa.org](http://www.shilohuccyorkpa.org)

[www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa](https://www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa)

