



# JOY

BURST INTO  
SONGS OF **JOY** TOGETHER...  
HE HAS REDEEMED JERUSALEM.

ISAIAH 52:9

**Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ**  
***Third Sunday of Advent***  
**Advent Musical**  
**December 17, 2023**  
**10:00AM**

**MEDITATION** (*brainyquote.com*)

*“Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.”*

**Karl Barth**

**PRELUDE**

*“The Holly and the Ivy”*

Anderson

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(Please stand if you are able)*

One: Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!

**All: O wonderful love!**

One: A message has come from the angels above:

**All: Good news of great joy comes to young and old,**

One: For Jesus brings mercy more precious than gold.

**All: Glad tidings! O Wonderful love**

One: Glad tidings! Glad tidings!

**All: We hail the glad tidings of wonderful love.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

**All: God of Mary, Mother of Jesus – and all of the lowly who seek to be lifted – God of Isaiah, who felt the Spirit upon him calling him to bring good news. Let your Spirit fall upon us in this hour. Out of the ruins, remind us of your everlasting covenant. Anoint us as we seek to share and experience your Good News. Bind our broken hearts. Awaken us to the liberation within and among us. Embolden us to proclaim your favor as we seek you more deeply. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*“We Hail You God’s Anointed”*

#104

*Candle Lighting*

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of light and love, we confess that we have not been people who are quick to pray. When an emergency befalls us, we turn to pleas and prayers, which usually begin with the heart-wrenching cry, "Why?". Help us to remember that you are always ready to hear and respond to all our prayers. Remind us that even though we have often failed to witness to your love and live as people of faith, you love us unconditionally. Forgive our stubbornness and willfulness. Cleanse our souls and spirits, and make us truly ready to receive your light. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Rejoice! You who once lived in darkness – on you a new light is shining and the light of God's glory shall brighten your path. You are healed, loved, and forgiven. Be at peace! Live in God's love, and bring hope and joy to all God's people. **Amen.**

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

One: Welcome each other. Welcome the stranger. Welcome all who come. As Jesus welcomed everyone, no matter what their background, no matter what their social status; as he welcomed enemies and friends, outcasts and leaders, foreigners and neighbors, let us open our hearts and lives. Let us be Christ to everyone we meet. May the peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you.**

**LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE THE PROMISE OF JOY**

**CHOIR**

*"Light of Light"*

Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of living.

**Lord of light, we thank you for the gift of life.**

Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of relationships.

**Lord of light, we thank you for our friends and family.**

Advent is a time to celebrate the earth we all share.

**Lord of light, we thank you for providing for our needs.**

Advent is a time to celebrate eternal life.

**Lord of light, we thank you for sending a Savior.**

Today we light three candles – the candle of hope, of peace and the candle of joy. This third candle reminds us that because of our Lord, we have reasons to be truly joyful. The world around us is filled with surprise and beauty. Our cups overflow with goodness and grace, and we rejoice in the promise of eternal life.

**\*HYMN**

*"Light of Light"*

Insert

**CLOSING PRAYER**

God of light, we thank you for the many gifts you have given us, and we pray today that you will teach us to be truly joyful. Help us remember that you supply our needs and fill our lives with meaning. Fill our days with keen awareness of your presence, and fill our hearts with praise as we celebrate this joyful Advent season. Amen.

**WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY**

First Reading: Psalm 126

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Third Reading: Luke 1:46-56

**MESSAGE**

**PART 1**

*"The Journey To Bethlehem"*

Chris Molan

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*"All Is Well"*

Smith & Kirkpatrick/Arr. Larson

**PART 2**

*"The Journey To Bethlehem"*

Chris Molan

**MEN'S CHORUS**

*"Bethlehem Road"*

Waterman

**PART 3**

*"The Journey To Bethlehem"*

Chris Molan

**HANDBELL CHOIR**

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

Arr. Meyer

**PART 4**

*"The Journey To Bethlehem"*

Chris Molan

**\*HYMN**

*"The First Nowell"*

#139

**PART 5**

*"The Journey To Bethlehem"*

Chris Molan

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

“The Very First Christmas Morn” Rush & Sterling

**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**

Mary said yes to God. Mary accepted the burden and the responsibility of being God’s chosen. She gave her whole self over to God. God calls to each of us. How do we respond? What do we bring? In the spirit of Mary’s “yes” let us bring forth our offerings and gifts.

**\*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!  
**Generous God, in the Spirit of joy, we offer you our gifts and our very lives. May they be used to bring to all people the Good News of your gracious love, manifested by the birth in Bethlehem. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #144

**BENEDICTION** (*liturgylink.net*)

One: Be people of joy. Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet. Share joy by seeing the good in each other. Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come. Share joy by praying for our world. 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**

“All Heaven Rejoices”

Becket

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

- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God and in celebration of Dick Hodgson’s 90th birthday by his wife Helen.
- **THE BULLETINS** are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of our dedicated worship, office, and ELC staff by Jeff and Cheryl Hershey.
- **VIDEO TEAM:** Lew Wallace, Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel, Matt Hildebrecht, & Nathan Limbert.
- **LITURGIST:** Linda Little
- **GREETERS:** Michael & Laura Andras
- **NURSERY:** Volunteer
- **MUSIC:** Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Men’s Chorus, Sandy Bamberger

**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.



**Sunday, December 24**

Morning Service at **10:00AM**

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

This year’s special **Christmas Offering** will be designated to the ELC Bibles (first \$600) and the balance will go toward the kitchen fund.



**PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:**

**Morning Prayer**

Lord of time and hope, we are rushing headlong into the holidays to come. We look at our calendars and our day planners and wonder how we will get everything done in the time allotted to us before the "big Day" arrives. We begin to panic at the thought of projects still to be finished, contacts that need to be made, preparations for festivities that have only just begun. And the darkness of obsessive holiday planning overtakes us and clouds our minds and spirits. But you are a God of time and Light. You bring hope to us, as you always have through the voices of the great prophets, and now through the One who is to come, Jesus Christ. Remind us again what this season is truly about.....love, hope, peace and joy. Calm us down. Slow us down. Help us remember that it is in loving relationship that you gave your Son to us and it is in loving relationship that your Word is carried into the hearts of the people. Shine in the hearts of your people today. Give strength to all who face difficult situations and let your compassionate light shine on them guiding their decisions and their steps. Guide our steps today, as well, that we may do your will wherever we go. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Evening Prayer** *(Rebecca Barlow Jordan)*

Bless us with rest tonight, Jesus, and a good night's sleep. Forgive us for the things we did or said today that did not honor you. Thank you for loving us so much and that you know us through and through. We need your help every day. We thank you for the strength you give and for helping us know that with you, even hard things are possible. Bless our family and our home, and keep us safe through the night. May your angels guard us and watch over us, just like you promised. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Marvel Burg, Helen Byers, Gerry Funkhouser, Joe Jordan, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Elaine Krout, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Arlene Myers, Joanne Overmiller, Randy Reisinger, Donna Robertson, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Stewart Wagner, Romaine Walton, Elva Winter

**THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES**

The Bechtel Family; The Geesey Family; The Shaffer 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	<b>Third Sunday in Advent/Advent Musical</b>
	11:30	Potluck meal (100)
TUES	7:00	Quilt Club (202)
WED	7:30	Soup Prep
	9:30	Bible Study
	10:00	Staff (Office)
	5:00	TOPS (117)
	6:00	Advent Study (202)
THUR	10:30	Our Daily Bread
	6:30	NA Group
	6:30	Choirs
FRI	9:00	Mom's in Motion (100)
SUN	10:00	Christmas Eve morning service
	3:00 & 7:00	Christmas Eve Candle light services



**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 100**

**THE CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor	Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. pastormelinda@shilohucc.com 717-764-3569
<b>Pastor Melinda office hours:</b>	<b>Wednesdays 9AM-12PM &amp; 5-8PM Thursdays &amp; Fridays 9AM-12PM</b>
Director of Music	Stephanie Limbert
Organist	Sandra Bamberger
Missionaries in Costa Rica	Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson
Early Learning Center Director	Allison Hartnett
Administrative Assistant	Maira Rivera office@shilohucc.com
Website:	<b>www.shilohuccyorkpa.org</b>
Facebook Page	<b>www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa</b>

Find us on Facebook

The **Soup Kitchen crew** is asking for donations of wrapped candy; i.e., any snack-sized wrapped candy or mini candy canes). Please put candy donations in the boxes labeled **“Soup Kitchen” in the church gallery or kitchen**. The deadline for donations is today! We will fill gift bags with the candy and distribute them at Our Daily Bread in December.



The **2024 Team Lists** for greeters, nursery duty, offering collection & collating are available on a table in the gallery.

A reminder to join us for the potluck luncheon following the **musical program today. at 11:30 AM in room 100**. Place settings and beverages will be provided. Please plan to join us for good food and fellowship. We hope to see you there!



It's that time of year to warm up with a nice cup of **coffee** from **Costa Rica!** A new shipment has come in and it includes decaffeinated coffee as well as whole coffee beans for a fresh grind! Please contact Linda Little if interested at 717-309-4523

**Annual Reports** for all organizations and committees of the church and Sunday School are due in the church office by **Sunday, December 31 2023**.



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

**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.

