

# LOVE

I WILL DECLARE  
THAT YOUR **LOVE**  
STANDS FIRM FOREVER,  
THAT YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED  
YOUR FAITHFULNESS  
IN HEAVEN ITSELF.

PSALM 89:2

WELCOME TO SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
*FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*  
DECEMBER 24, 2023  
10:00AM

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

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

~ *Francis of Assisi*

**PRELUDE**

*"Christmas Reflections"*

Douglas

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*After Psalm 89*)

*(Please stand if you are able)*

One: We come to witness a miracle.

**All: We sing the miracle of God's steadfast love.**

One: New life bursts forth in unexpected ways.

**All: We shout the good news: God's covenant endures forever!**

One: The desert blooms; what was barren is fertile!

**All: With our mouths we proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations:**

**God is the Rock of our Salvation! Let us worship our loving God!**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

**Holy God, you are present in the everyday occurrences; you are revealed in startling and wondrous encounters. Let the revelation of your mystery unfold again here, this day - that we may experience it joyfully. Let the secret of the ages shed new light on our relationship with you, O God, as we praise the name of the One, who appeared to us as your unconditional, faithful, and everlasting love, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

#131

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,  
even in the midst of this season of goodwill,  
there is so 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: The light and hope of Christ lives in each of us.  
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
All: And also with you.

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE THE PROMISE OF LOVE

CHOIR

“Light of Light”

Advent is a time to let go of anger and fear.  
**God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.**  
Advent is a time to look for the best in others.  
**God of love, help us speak truth with kindness.**  
Advent is a time to share with those in need.  
**God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.**  
Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.  
**God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.**

Candle Lighting

Today we light four candles – the candle of hope, of peace, joy, and the candle representing love. This candle is a symbol of Christ’s eternal love for us, as well as a reminder that we have been instructed to love others as we love ourselves. Because God is love, and because we were created in God’s image, we ourselves are the embodiment of God’s love here on earth. Love is patient and kinds and powerful, and we all share the calling to into the world and spread that love to others.

\*HYMN

“Light of Light”

Insert

CLOSING PRAYER

God of love, we open our hearts to you today and ask that you fill us with the power of your love. Take away our bitterness, greed, and jealousy. Remind us that we are brothers and sisters, all sharing the wonderful give of life. Help us treat others with respect and love, and help us care for the world you have given us with loving hearts and gentle hands. 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

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Second Reading: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Come, Be Born Again”

Martin

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

“Fearless”

HYMN

“He Is Born”

Insert

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT 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 God of Abundance lays the bounty of all creation before us, strengthens us when we are weak, and fills us when we are hungry. Let us share deeply and joyfully, that all may come to the table of God's heavenly feast.

## \*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!

**God's steadfast love is established forever—like the moon, an enduring witness in the skies. God's faithfulness is as firm as the heavens—like stars that never grow dim. May God bless this offering that Christ's light may shine throughout the ages. Amen.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN "Once in Royal David's City" (Vs 1-3, 5) #145

## BENEDICTION

One: Be people of love.

Let love live in your heart and share the love of Christ with all you meet. Share love by loving those you see regularly. Start by loving your community. Share love by loving those you do not know.

How do your actions affect the rest of God's creation?

Share love by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share love.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share love, joy, peace, and hope with those you meet.

**All: Amen!**

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

- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nancy and LeRoy Leber by Melinda, Leon and their families.
- **THE BULLETINS** are dedicated to the glory of God and thanks to all of the volunteer members of the Music Department by Bob and Stephanie Limbert.
- **VIDEO TEAM:** Lew Wallace, Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel, Matt Hildebrecht, & Nathan Limbert.
- **LITURGIST:** Jim Bentzel
- **GREETERS:** Sallie Hagerman & Ginny Heath
- **NURSERY:** Volunteer
- **MUSIC:** Sandy Bamberger

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

## PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

**Morning Prayer** (<https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/morning-prayer/>)

Christ, as a light  
illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield  
overshadow me.

Christ under me;

Christ over me;

Christ beside me

on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me,

lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;

in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me,

lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Christ as a light;

Christ as a shield;

Christ beside me

on my left and my right. Amen.



**Evening Prayer** (<https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/evening-prayer/>)

In the shadow of Your wings  
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.  
The Lord is my light, my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the refuge of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
\*\*\*\*\*

In the shadow of Your wings  
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.  
One thing I ask of the Lord,  
one thing I seek;  
to dwell in the presence of my God,  
to gaze on Your holy place.  
\*\*\*\*\*

In the shadow of Your wings  
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.  
I believe I shall see the goodness  
of the Lord in the land of the living.  
O wait for the Lord!  
Have courage and wait,  
wait for the Lord.  
\*\*\*\*\*

In the shadow of Your wings  
I will sing Your praises, O Lord. 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>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>
	3:00	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	7:00	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
MON		Christmas Day – Office Closed
TUES		Office Closed
WED	9:30	Bible Study
	5:00	TOPS (117)
THUR	6:30	NA Group
	6:30	Choirs
SUN	8:30 & 11	Worship/Guest Preacher



**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 81**

**THE CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.  
pastormelinda@shilohucc.com  
717-764-3569

**Pastor Melinda office hours: Wednesdays 9AM-12PM & 5-8PM  
Thursdays & Fridays 9AM-12PM**

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

Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa](http://www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa)



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

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



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.



He is Born Hymn