

# Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ Communion Service First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023 8:30AM and 11:00AM

#### **MEDITATION**

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

- Desmond Tutu, 20th century

**PRELUDE** 

**8:30**AM *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"* Roberts **11:00**AM *"Still, Still, Still/How a Rose E'er Blooming"* Arr. Berry

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CHANCEL CHOIR "Advent, Alleluia" Althouse

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Please stand if you are able)

One: We come into God's presence in hopeful anticipation.

All: We await the coming of the Son of God.

One: The sun may be dimmed, the moon may lose its light, and the stars may fall from the sky...

All: Still, God is with us.

One: Like clay in the hands of the potter

All: We are the work of God's creative hand.

One: We are all God's people.

All: Our God is slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love. Let us worship our loving God!

\*HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (Vs. 1, 3, 5, 6) #116

## \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Let us pray!

In this season as the days grow shorter and the shadows lengthen, we gather in eager expectation for the Light of the World to dawn. Help us, God, to lay aside all the works of night, even our cynicism, as we enter this sacred season. During this holy hour of worship, send your Spirit to empower us to live in the light with hope. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

#### LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE THE PROMISE OF HOPE

CHOIR

"Light of Light"

Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.

God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

Advent is a time of self-examination.

God of light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.

Advent is a time of joyful expectation.

God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our faith.

Advent is a time of service and searching.

God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.

## Candle Lighting

Today we light the first candle – the candle of hope – reminding us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. Hope for a world free from war and pain, hope for a sense of purpose and belonging, and hope for peace and prosperity for our children and our children's children. When Christ came, he brought us the Light of Lights. Light that fills us with hope, illuminates our lives, and shines in our hearts.

HYMN

"Light of Light"

Insert

#### CLOSING PRAYER

God of light, we pray today that you will fill us the hopeful expectation, and that you will cause us to become your children of light. Help0 us to spread your light into the world around us. Help us to recognize our opportunities to brighten the lives of others. Help us to live each day as beacons of live filled with joy, peace, and hope. 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

"Change My Heart, O God"

Insert

#### WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

\*HYMN

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

#122

Third Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

SERMON

"Where is God?"

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

We are the work of God's hands, and God continues to shape us each day into a people of goodness and compassion. This morning, we bring our gifts – our talents, time, and treasure – to create a more beautiful world through the ministry of Shiloh UCC and the witness of our lives. Let us gather our gifts together and present them as holy 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!

God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways in which you reveal yourself to us. Help us to clear away the many distractions of this season, and offer our whole lives as gifts to you. May these offerings nurture all of the ways in which your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and justice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

(All are welcome to partake of communion)

\*HYMN

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

#342

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

NCH #886

## INVITATION

One: Jesus Christ said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

All: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

One: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

One: God is present to us, but we don't always feel it. God is good to us, but we can't always accept it. Fact is, there are things within and around us that attempt to step between us and our relationship to God's goodness. There are things that we think, things that we do, that act to separate us from God. The church calls that "sin."

All: God of all mercy, I confess that sin grips me and I cannot break free. The sin is in my mind, on my lips, in my acts done or even ignored and stands between me and you. My entire heart is not always yours. My love of neighbor falls short. In the name of Jesus, have mercy on me. Grant me your renewing forgiveness. Lead me on your paths of righteousness, and I shall delight in you, and I shall follow you, giving glory to your holy name. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The God who gives, gives all. The God who loves, loves all. The God who forgives, forgives all. Through Christ, our sins, everyone one of them: the sins of commission, the sins of omission, the sins we confessed with contrition all are forgiven.

All: By the grace of God, we are forgiven. Alleluia!

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

One:Let us greet each other in Christian Friendship.

The peace of God be with you.

All: And also with you.

\*HYMN "Let There Be Peace on Earth" #14 Special Hymnal

#### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

#### SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The members of Consistory will serve you the bread and juice. To demonstrate our unity in Christ, we will take the elements together. Please wait until everyone has been served.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us pray!

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and make the powerful care. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your good news in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

## PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

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

One: Be people of hope.

Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet.

Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity.

Share hope by listening to someone's story.

Share hope by praying for our world.

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

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations,

share hope with those you meet.

All: Amen.

#### **POSTLUDE**

**8:30**AM "Keep Awake, Be Always Ready" Ritter **11:00**AM "O Holy Child" Bartlett

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 our parents John and Sophie Gessert and Ethel and Parke W. Bentzel by Rose and Jim Bentzel Sr.

- ➤ THE BULLETINS are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of Dick Hodgson's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 19. With all our love from the Steward families and your wife Helen of 66 years!
- ➤ VIDEO TEAM: Lew Wallace, Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel, Matt Hildebrecht, & Nathan Limbert.
- ➤ LITURGIST: 8:30AM: Tim Bentzel 11:00 AM: Bobby Limbert
- ➤ GREETERS: 8:30AM Jackie Taft & Judy Clark 11:00AM: Shirley Lohmann & Joyce Mummert
- NURSERY: 8:30AM: Patti Goodyear & Kaitlin Rentzel 11:00AM Jessie Sechriest
- > MUSIC: Chancel Choir, Joan Hamme, Sandy Bamberger

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

Morning Prayer in Advent (onlineministries.creighton.edu)

Loving God, I sense that all is your creation and everything, and all of us, are being drawn back toward your loving heart.

Help me to be a person of peace, to speak about it in an uneasy world, And to live it among the people you have put into my life every day.

Light in me a desire to prepare for your coming to stand in the darkness, waiting, eager and filled with joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening Prayer in Advent (onlineministries.creighton.edu)

God of strength and protection, I turn to you because I need help. I long to be free enough to trust that I can lean on you.

The Power of Prayer

But I become afraid. Help me to trust in you, Lord. Your strength and power are a gentle place of protection.

Be a safe refuge when I am being trampled. I long for your help, your protecting care. Help to deliver me from the cold loneliness of these dark nights. In Jesus' name. 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



Today is the last day for ordering poinsettias. Each poinsettia is \$6.00 for a 6 in. pot. They will be delivered for display on Sunday, December 24 and Christmas Eve. You may take your poinsettias home after the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. Ordering envelopes will be in the gallery Thank

you for support of this project to help decorate the sanctuary for this important holiday.

The Women's Guild will be meeting December 4, at 1:00 pm in room 202. The program will be from our study book Encouraging One Another. Chapter



Nine: "One Another" Actions. Zoe Bordes will be leading this chapter. Special offering this month is for New Life for Girls and Cash Rally. We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.



The next **Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast** will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at 8:30 am at Dover Valley Restaurant. Contact Brad Jacobs for more information.

Engaging Women will be meeting on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor For additional information, contact Sally Curren at dgft25@hotmail.com.





The **2024 Offering Envelopes** will be on a table in the gallery and available to pick-up on Sunday, December 17.

The 2024 Team Lists for greeters, and nursery duty will be available on Sunday, **December 17** on a table in the gallery. Please contact the office if you have a change that needs to be made prior to December 17. The lists will be emailed if you have an email address on file.



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





Shiloh UCC is sponsoring two families for Adopt-a Family. We are asking for your support by donating money for our volunteers to purchase from the Adopt-a-Family requested items on their lists. These families also need

daily household items such as: laundry detergent, fabric softener, cleaning supplies, paper towels, paper plates, garbage bags, baggies, Tylenol, storage containers, dish detergent and air fresheners. You can designate Adopt-A-Family on your offering envelope or use a separate envelope which can be placed in the collection plate or mail it in to the office by December 3. Please make checks payable to Shiloh UCC. Thank you for your support as we prepare for the Christmas season!

The Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc. is conducting a cookie collection and distribution event to provide a little home away from home for truck drivers during the holiday season. Individuals from local churches and other groups prepare cookies and place 6-8 cookies in decorated bags along with a note, tract or Bible verse



(Homemade cookies are preferred but we understand if they aren't). Try to package your individual bags in something to preserve their freshness, if possible. There will be a table placed in the gallery near the parlor beginning Sunday, November 26 through Sunday, December 10 for donated cookies. Thank you for caring! Please contact Brian Curren at bcurren@hotmail.com with any questions.

\*\*Please Note\*\* Due to ongoing Covid concerns, we are asking you to wear masks and gloves while preparing and packaging cookies and that you seal the bags with staples, bows, etc.



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

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The Woman's Social & Support Group will meet for lunch at Red Lobster on East Market St. on Friday, December 15 at 12:00 pm. Please call Joyce Bowers at §717-767-8966 by December 11 if you plan to attend.





On Sunday, December 17, you are invited to attend a potluck luncheon following the musical program held at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 AM in room 100. Place settings and beverages will be provided. Please plan to join us for

good food and fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be in the gallery beginning **Sunday November 26th**. Please indicate how many are attending and the dish you will be bringing to the luncheon. We hope to see you there!

Beginning **November 28**, 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 Sunday, December 17. We will fill gift bags with the candy and distribute them at Our Daily Bread in December.



**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.

"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	8:30 & 11	First Sunday in Advent/Communion
	9:45	Sunday School (100) & Wired Word (202)
MON	9:00	Moms in Motion (100)
	1:00	Women's Guild (202)
TUES	6:30	Cub Scouts (100)
WED	9:30	Bible Study
	5:00	TOPS (100) UNITED CHURCH
	6:00	Advent Study
THUR	6:30	NA Group
	6:30	Choirs
FRI	4:00	Sunshine Class (100)
SUN	8:30 & 11	Second Sunday in Advent/Annual Budget
		Meeting/Election of Consistory/Blanket
		Sunday/Tree of Warmth
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ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 76

#### THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.

pastormelinda@shilohucc.com

717-764-3609

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

Early Learning Center Director

Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson
Allison Hartnett

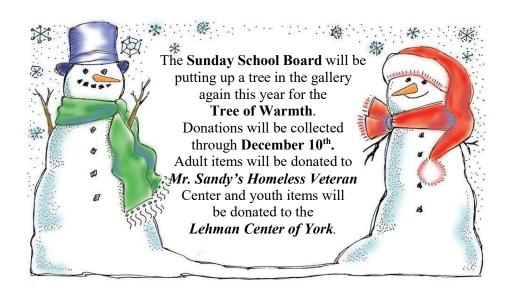
Early Learning Center Director
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Allison Hartnett
Maira Rivera

office@shilohucc.com 717-764-3569

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Facebook Page www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa





Veteran's Helping Hand was created by Sandy Walker, a Vietnam Veteran who did not want any of his fellow Veterans to feel isolated or unwelcomed after coming home from war. The mission of Veteran's Helping Hand is to provide immediate aid to homeless Veterans and any Veteran that needs assistance. Veteran's Helping Hand offers a variety of services including: emergency shelter, mental health counseling referrals, emergency food baskets, clothing, hot meals on weekends and many more!

The *Lehman Center* was started in 1913, by a group of compassionate and dedicated individuals who made a contentious decision to do something to help orphaned, neglected, and indigent children to change their life situation. Today, their team of compassionate and dedicated professionals, volunteers, churches, businesses and community organizations collaborate to create the Children's aid Society. Their vision, is that all children are safe and feel loved by helping them and their families build stronger healthier lives through their compassionate and professional services of; children centered creative art & play therapy, crisis nursery respite care, family advocacy, *Incredible Years* Parent Support & Education groups, children's clothing bank, and their 24-hour Parenting Hotline and York Cares Coffee Spot. The Children's Aid Society is unique in our commitment to help all children and their families regardless of their economic or social circumstances.

The Sunday School Board thanks you for your consideration in donating to these two organizations!