



Everlasting God,

the radiance of faithful souls,
you brought the nations
to your light and kings to the
brightness of your shining.

Fill the world with your glory,
and show yourself
to all nations.

Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ
Worship and Communion Service
January 5th, 2025
10:00 AM

MEDITATION

“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.” – Albert Schweitzer

PRELUDE

“Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow”

Leatherman

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

INSTALLATION OF CONSISTORY AND ORDINATION OF NEW DEACONS

Pastor: Let us remember the model of leadership provided by our Lord, who came not to be served, but to serve, and who said to his disciples, “Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whosoever would be first among you must be slave of all.”

Consistory: In Christ’s name and by his grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people.

Pastor: Let us remember the unity that God has given us: one body, one spirit, one hope of our calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Creator of all, over all, through all, and in all.

Consistory: We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love which binds us to God and to one another.

Pastor: Let us remember the church we are chosen to serve using the gifts with which we are equipped “for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

ACT OF ORDINATION

Pastor: The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God’s call to ministry in the lives of faithful men and women and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon you **Debbie Myers, Rick Trimble, Tammy Hildebrecht, and Lin Heckert**, for the position of deacon.

Laying on of Hands

Pastor: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of deacon in Christ’s church and equip you with everything good to do God’s will. Receive authority to execute your office in the name of Christ.

People: Amen.

Pastor: And now do you all gladly accept the duties of members of the consistory to which you have been elected, and do you promise to fulfill those duties?

Consistory: I do, the Lord being my helper.

Pastor: Do you, members of Shiloh UCC, agree to encourage these Elders and Deacons and respect their decisions, as together we seek to witness to Jesus Christ?

People: We do.

Pastor: Let us pray,

People: We thank you, God, for these who have accepted special servant roles in the life of Shiloh UCC. We are blessed by the gifts they are willing to share in our mutual ministry. Preserve the resolve each of these servants has at this moment. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus, Christ. Amen.

Pastor: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of *deacon and elder* in Christ’s church and equip you with everything good to do God’s will. Receive authority to execute the office of deacon or elder in the name of Christ. Amen.

2025 CONSISTORY

ELDERS

Linda Little

Bev Arnold

Amie Baker

Mary Reiber

DEACONS

Debbie Myers

Rick Trimble

Tammy Hildebrecht

Lin Heckert

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Women: We have seen the star in the east, and we are following.

Men: We have remembered God’s wonder and promise, and we are worshipping.

All: We have come not to get presents, but to give them!

One: Lift up your eyes and look around; God's people now gather together to open our hearts and sing out our praise.

All: The mystery of God's wonder and grace is here: Come, let us adore! Let us worship Christ!

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: God of wonder and mystery, today we remember how you surprise us in every age. Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light; into emptiness, you bring abundance; into the cold, you bring warmth. Into the hardness of the world, you bring the greatest power we have known, in the seemingly powerless form of an infant. Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us, and move us to joyful adoration of your mystery and wonder. In Christ's name we pray. **All: Amen.**

***HYMN** *"We Three Kings of Orient Are"* Special Hymnal #13

CHILDREN'S SERMON

All children (including infants) and youth who desire to come forward for the Children's Sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parent's/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message.

***HYMN** *"God Is With Us"* *The Afters (video)*

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

SPECIAL MUSIC

Third Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON *"Who Is Wise?"* Pastor Melinda

***HYMN** *"He Is Born"* Insert vs. 1&3

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORDS 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

From the prophet Isaiah, the wealth of the nations; from Paul the Apostle, the joyous news of mysterious grace; from the sages from the East, an homage of rich treasure: one after another, we hear grateful praise for the God who makes a home with humanity. We respond, as well: bringing our own treasure; singing our own joy; offering our own wonder. Let us give, richly and boldly. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** “Epiphany Doxology”

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would bring my heart.
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart. Amen.**
(Tune: Cranham)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: God of every good gift, here we present our offerings. There is money here, fulfilling our pledges to support the ministries we do in your name. There are gifts that we give in response to your Spirit, which we remember in joyful song and holy story, in prayer and silence. And there are other gifts, not physically on this table but held in the altar of our hearts. God, we offer them all to you. We ask your blessing on all that we give, so that your loving care reaches into us and out to all the world, ever more deeply and gracefully. We ask it in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

(All are welcome to partake of communion)

COMMUNION HYMN “*We Are People on a Journey*” #340 vs. 1-3

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #887

Leader: We are not alone; we live in Gods’ world.

People: We believe in God: Who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, The Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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. **Amen**

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

To demonstrate our unity in Christ, we will take the elements together. Please open the cup containing the bread first, then please open the juice. Thank you!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us pray!

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” Special Hymnal #15

BENEDICTION

One: Go forth in the light of God’s star.

Go forth committed to a journey of faith and courage.

Go forth to give the precious gift of your life to Christ.

All: We will go forth and let the star guide us.

We will share with others the journey of life.

We will praise God, for the gift beyond measure Jesus Christ! Amen.

POSTLUDE

“March of The Wise Men”

Blake

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US FOR WORSHIP TODAY!

- **VIDEO TEAM:** Lew Wallace, Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel, Matt Hildebrecht,
- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** Thank you to Pastor Melinda, Shiloh UCC staff, consistory, members and ELC staff for their dedication to our church and community by Sue and Brad Jacobs.
- **LITURGIST:** Jeff Hershey
- **USHERS:** Mark Garber
- **GREETERS:** Wilbert & Charlotte Mickley
- **NURSERY DUTY:** Patti Goodyear & Kaitlin Rentzel
- **COFFEE CONNECTIONS:** Katie Bentzel

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, Elaine Krout, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Jay Mummert, Arlene Myers, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Rick & Sue Trimble, Elva Winter

THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Robertson Family, The Hombach Family,
The Overmiller/Bentzel/Heindel Family

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

Morning Prayer (by Nylse Esahe)

As a child of yours, Lord, I know that I am your masterpiece though I feel so far from it. Help me to remember my worth in you when I'm faced with challenging situations. When I feel depressed, help me to remember that I'm fearfully and wonderfully made in your image – a replica of you and that you loved me so much you thought that I was worth dying for. I don't know too many people that would die for me, but you did, and I'm eternally grateful and humbled. I submit all to you today. Amen.

Evening Prayer (by Rachel Wojo)

Dear Father, I can't sleep. I'm tossing and turning. Again. I'm so thankful You never grow weary and You never sleep. I'm thankful that You are here with me right now, even when my mind won't stop churning and my head won't stop spinning. Even when I know that worrying gets me nowhere and my heart needs to rely on You. I need You — the Good Shepherd — Because counting sheep just doesn't work. Would you comfort my heart as only You can? Will you rescue me from my own spiral of thoughts? For I know that when I rest in You, peace like a river overflows my soul and I can praise You in advance for sweet rest. Amen.

In case of inclement weather for church and Sunday school, please check the **church's website, Facebook page, or your email** for closings or delays. We will also submit the information to **Fox 43 News and WGAL New 8**. If services are held, please use your best judgement as to whether you are able to attend.

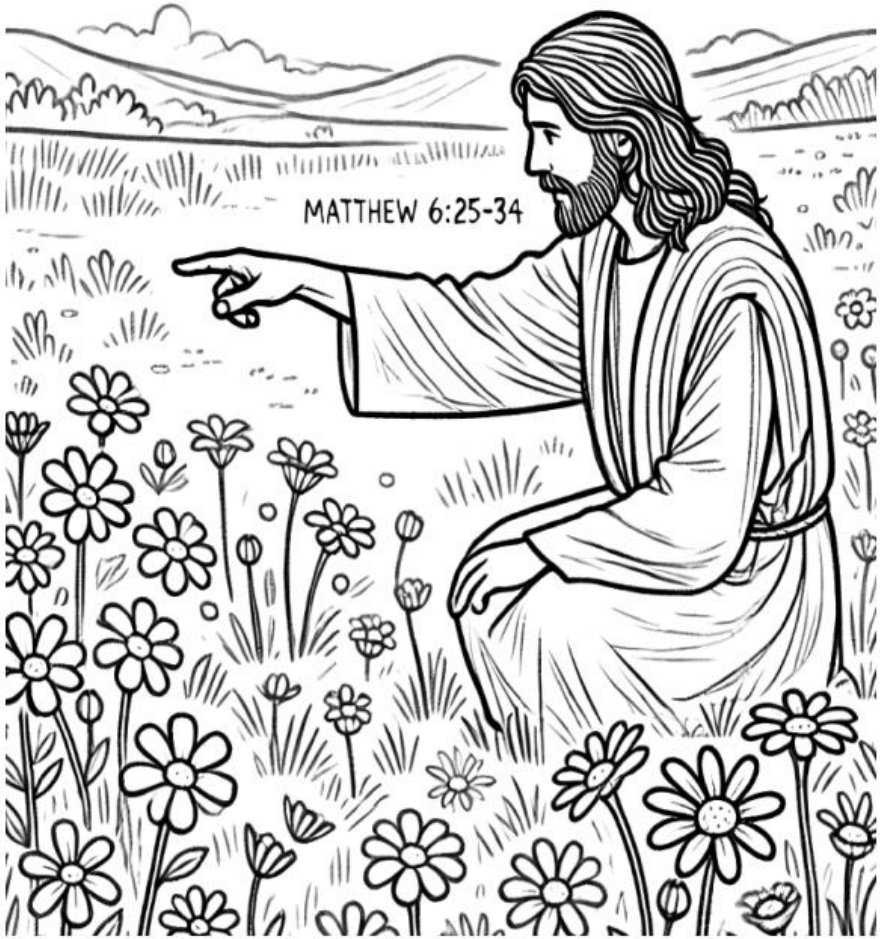


Epiphany Word Search



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|---------------|------------|----------|
| FIRST MIRACLE | REVELATION | MELCHIOR |
| FRANKINCENSE | BALTHAZAR | BAPTISM |
| WISE MEN | BETHLEHEM | HOLIDAY |
| THREE KINGS | CHRISTIAN | JANUARY |
| TWELFTH DAY | EPIPHANY | CASPAR |

Coloring Page - Do Not Worry



He Is Born

(Il Est Né)

Refrain (Unison)

He is born, the ho - ly Child, play the o - boe and
 Il est né, le di - vin En - fant, jou - ez haut - bois rè - son -

bag - pipes mer - ri - ly! He is born, the ho - ly Child,
 nez mu - set - tes! Il est né, le di - vin En - fant,

sing we all of the Sav - ior mild. 1. Thru long a - ges
 chan - tons tous son a - vè - ne - ment! 2. O how love - ly,
 3. Je - sus, Lord of

of the past, proph - ets have fore - told his com - ing;
 O how pure is this per - fect child of heav - en;
 all the world, com - ing as a child a - mong us,

thru long a - ges of the past, now the time has come at last!
 O how love - ly, O how pure, gra - cious gift to hu - man - kind!
 Je - sus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heav - en - ly peace.

*“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	Communion/Installation of Consistory
	9:45	Sunday School (100)
	9:45	Wired Word (202)
MON	1:00	Woman’s Guild
TUES	6:30	Cub Scouts (100)
WED	9:30	Bible Study
	5:00	TOPS (100)
THUR	6:30	NA Group (100)
	6:30	Choirs
SUN	10:00	Worship

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 68

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.
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717-764-3569

Pastor Melinda office hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9 AM – 1 PM

Director of Music Stephanie Limbert
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Missionaries in Costa Rica Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson
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