

THE GRASS WITHERS, THE
FLOWER FADES, BUT THE
WORD OF OUR GOD STANDS

Forever.

ISRAH 4:3



Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ
Worship and Service
January 12th, 2025
10:00AM

MEDITATION

"Where there is love there is life."

- Mahatma Gandhi

PRELUDE

"Holy Is The LORD"

Leatherman

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please stand as you are able!)*

One: God is always with us and calls us by name.

All: When we pass through difficulties and stress,

One: God is with us and calls us by name.

All: When we are discouraged and feel lost or alone,

One: God is with us and calls us by name.

All: Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name.

Let us worship God! Amen

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

All: Holy God, you have called us by name. Today, we pray for the courage and the strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear the story of your Son's baptism, open our hearts also, that we may experience the renewing power of rebirth through the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our identity as your beloved children. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN**

"Sing Praise to God"

#22

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Gracious God, forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your Good News throughout the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Hear the words of our Creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah: *“I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.”*

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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.

CHILDREN’S STORY *(All children of God who desire to come forward for the Children’s Sermon are welcome. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to accompany their young child during the message.)*

***HYMN**

“Spirit Song”

Insert

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Second Reading: Psalm 29

HANDBELL CHOIR

“It Is Well With My Soul”

Third Lesson: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERMON:

“Why Get Baptized”

Pastor Melinda”

HYMN

“I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”

#283

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 OFFERINGS BEFORE GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God tells us over and over in the Bible not to be afraid. Our gifts this morning are one way that we trust God even in a world that keeps telling us to be afraid. Today, we let go of thinking that we are on our own, and want to live each day in graceful dependence on God. Remember, our giving supports Shiloh UCC's ministry that God is growing stronger each day. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *"Doxology"* #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Let us pray!

All: Gracious God, we come today with joy for your baptism; we come with praise for your glory; we come with gratitude for your love. As we offer these gifts to you, send your Spirit upon us, that our hands and our hearts may do your work in the world. As we offer our lives to you, bless us with your strength, that we may join with you to work for the blessing of peace throughout the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"* #286

*BENEDICTION

One: You are each precious in God's sight.

All: We go from this place, claiming our identity as children of God.

One: God has called you by name.

All: We go into the world to answer God's call. Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE *"All Who Believe and ARE Baptized"* *Wilson*

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

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

Morning Prayer (*Unknown writer*)

Dear Lord, this morning as I contemplate a new day, I ask you to help me. I want to be aware of your Holy Spirit leading me in the decisions I make, the conversations I have, and the work I do. I want to be more like Jesus, as I relate to the people I meet today — friends or strangers. Jesus was always about his father's business and that is what I want to do today - serve my Heavenly Father. Although I know that I am weak, I also know that by the power of your Spirit, I can be strong in the work I do. I thank you that you promised to be with me always, and for being the same yesterday, today, and forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening Prayer (*By Rebecca Barlow Jordan*)

Heavenly Father, my day is drawing to an end, and I'm ready to turn in. But before I do, I have to thank you for your faithfulness today. It's always a good day, even when things may not go the way I plan, or when the world seems in chaos because you are in control. For all the times when I was aware of your help today, all the times when your unseen presence seemed so near, thank you, God. But for all the ways you worked behind the scenes, unknown to me, moments when heaven-sent angels moved on my behalf in ways I'll never know, thank you for those also, Lord. 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, 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 Trimble/Deveney Family, The Besecker/Drais Family

- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** Presented in loving memory of my grandparents, Annie and Melvin Latchaw and my aunt and uncle, Charlotte and Ken Dittenhafer by Connie Redman

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

LITURGIST: Brad Jacobs

GREETERS: Sally & Brian Curren

USHER: Cheryl Hershey

NURSERY Patti Goodyear & Kaitlin Rentzel

COFFEE CONNECTIONS: Jane Harrison

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND
MUSICIANS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE WORSHIP SERVICE!**



JESUS' BAPTISM

*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/Communion
	8:45	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 (100)
	6:30	Engaging Woman (Parlor)
WED	7:30	Soup Prep
	9:30	Bible Study (202)
	5:00	TOPS (202)
THUR	10:30	Our Daily Bread
	6:30	NA Group (100)
	6:30	Choirs
SUN	10:00	Worship

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 64

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. pastormelinda@shilohuccyorkpa.org 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
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