

**United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 - First Sunday after Christmas**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers on the altar are given by Asha and Sundeep Thomas, "In loving memory of Sundeep's father, Israel Suderhanam."

**GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Praise be to God who has given God's light to us.

**P: Honor and praise to God for God's most precious gift.**

L: The darkness that enveloped the people,

**P: Has been pierced by the Light.**

L: Let us rejoice in God's blessed goodness!

**P: Let us continually praise God with great joy and thanksgiving.**

**AMEN.**

**PRAISE & WORSHIP:** (YouTube)

**PRAISE SHARING**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Lord of mercy and joy, You have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

**OPENING HYMN:** "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" - UMH #240

**PRAYER of CONFESSION:**

We confess, O God, that we are not ready to come down from the Christmas "high." So much was spent in gathering, wrapping, and delivering gifts; in preparing for family gatherings and times with friends; in decorating our homes. But somehow, right after Christmas Day, we feel a letdown. We don't want that "high" to be over. We want to feel the "peace on earth" feeling, but we let it go. We push it aside when we begin our journey of complaining and blaming others for everything that is going wrong. We ignore the blessing of the gift when we refuse to help those in need. Shake us up, Lord! Get us ready to be people of compassion and hope. Wake us up, Lord! Help us see the beauty and possibilities of peace around us. Fill us up, Lord! Fill us to overflowing with joy. Let our words, our thoughts, and our actions speak of your love for us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

### **WORDS of ASSURANCE:**

Hear the Good News: Behold! God has given God's Son that we might have life - new, vital, and sparkling. Feel the wondrous power and love of God in your heart this day and know that God is with you always. In the Name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven, Thanks be to God. AMEN.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3 (NIV) Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV)

**CHILDREN'S MOMENTS** (*children will be dismissed right after*)

**HYMN of PREPARATION:** "There's a Song in the Air" – UMH # 249

**GOSPEL:** Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)

**SERMON:** Hold on to Hope

1. Never give up
2. Show up
3. Promise fulfilled

## **PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** "Away in a Manger" – UMH # 217

**DOXOLOGY:**

**CLOSING HYMN:** "Joy to the World" - UMH #246

### **BENEDICTION:**

We have been given the Great Light, which has come into the world. This light of peace and hope, joy and love, shines on us, in us, and through us, to all whom we meet. Go now in peace, and let the light of God's great love go with you. AMEN.

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Isaiah: 61:10 – 62:3 NIV**

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

<sup>2</sup> The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

<sup>3</sup> You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### **Galatians: 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

<sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

<sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "*Abba*, Father."

<sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **Luke 2:22-40    Jesus Presented in the Temple**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”),

<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

<sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

<sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

<sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

<sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

**P:** The word of God, to the people of God

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

*The Poinsettias On  
the Altar were donated  
by the following members:*



Pastor Sandra Mantz and Family

"In memory of Loved Ones and In Joyous Celebration of the birth of  
our Lord."

Glen and Marilyn Bucher

"In honor of Family and Friends"

Maxine Haigh

"In loving memory of my husband, Richard Haigh Sr."

Kathy Casey

"In loving memory of our wonderful mothers, Edna Klausman Valentine  
and Marie Casey."

Bev Goodman

"In memory of loved ones from the Goodman and Harrington Families,  
and in honor of Hope and Lucas."

Linda and Peter Hoernes

"In loving memory of Linda's parents, Bob and Barbara Reed."

Barbara and Curt Conklin

"In loving memory of Barbara's parents and to the glory of God."

Annette and Russ Reynolds

"In loving memory of Annette's mother, Anna Piucci; and in honor of Russ's mother, Grace Reynolds."

William and Glenda Geis

"In memory of loved ones, Rose and Bill Geis, May and Bill Paesler, Blandina Rivera, and Fred and Tess Rivera."

Deborah Vesuvio

"In memory of loved ones and in honor of our church family."

Lynne and Hank Schrot

"In loving memory of Henry and Alma Schrot and Charles and Ingel Wallance."

Kelley and Brent Horton

2 Anonymous Donors

## **UMCSO SCHEDULE**

Zoom links are included in Mailchimp. Please contact us with your email (umcso.ny@gmail.com) or call 914-245-4682 if you would like to receive Mailchimp emails.

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP:** Monday, 7:00 pm, (ZOOM)

**MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Tuesday 10:00 am (In Person)

**EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** Tuesday 7:00 pm (ZOOM)

**SMALL GROUP 1:** Wednesday, 1:00 pm (ZOOM)

**PRAYER GROUP:** Thursday, 11:00 am (Chapel)

**EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** Thursdays, 7:30 pm with Pastor Sandy (ZOOM). (See link below).

**SMALL GROUP 2:** Friday, 10:00 am (phone 1-267-807-9495; 656355452#)

**CRAFTS FOR A CAUSE:** Friday, 11:00 am - 12 noon (various homes)

**MEN'S GROUP:** Saturday 8:00 am (ZOOM)

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** 9:30 am in the GP room (In person)

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS MEETING:** Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024 at 9:30 am

**TRUSTEE'S MEETING:** Monday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

**++++**

### **Pastor Sandy Mantz invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

Topic: Bible Study

Date/Time: Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2610447551?pwd=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0pIRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,2610447551#,,, \*246240# US

+16465588656,,2610447551#,,, \*246240# US (New York)



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Will resume Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024 following worship.

**ANNUAL NEW YEAR PANCAKE BRUNCH:** We are blessed each year by the gifts of food, sharing, and hospitality of “Flapjack” Casey and the Casey family! Join us and let's welcome the New Year together on Sunday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> following worship

**POINSETTIAS:** Please remember to take your Poinsettias home!

**~ A BLESSED AND HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL ~**

### **REACH US ON FACEBOOK**

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

<https://www.facebook.com/Blessedassurance.today>

There is a link to the Church's website.  
Pastor Sandy will post inspirational verses regularly.

.....