

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP
January 28, 2024 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by Craig Davis, "In honor and celebration of Bjorg Davis' Birthday."

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Come to worship this day. Bring with you all your joys and sorrows.

P: Jesus will offer hope.

L: Come to worship this day believing in the power of God through Jesus Christ.

P: Jesus will bring us healing.

L: Come to worship this day feeling the presence of God.

P: Jesus will teach us new ways to live. AMEN.

PRAISE & WORSHIP: We Believe

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

Open our hearts and spirits this day to hear the great good news of your power and presence with all your people. Fill our hearts with rejoicing as the words are proclaimed in song and story. Enliven us and remind us that you are with us, through the ministry and love of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: "He Has Made Me Glad" – The Halos FWS #2270

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Dear God we love you so much. However there have been so many times in which our humble help would have been a blessing to someone, but we have placed our comforts before serving others. In the competing voices of today's world, we have turned around and around, trying to find the way to live. Help us, merciful God, to again listen to you and to truly open our eyes. Remind us again of your great love and presence in our lives. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to all. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the Good news! Quiet your hearts, beloved of God, for God is speaking to you with love. Rest your spirits, struggling ones, for God will surround you with peace. Open your lives to God's power and presence and do not be afraid. God is with us, now and for all time. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Colossians 3:1-17 (NIV)

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "He Is The Vine, We Are The Branches" –The Halos

GOSPEL: John 15:1-17 (NIV)

SERMON: Hidden With Christ

1. Seek Heavenly Things
2. Remain in His Love
3. Bear Fruit

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY: "I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me" – FWS #2153

DOXOLOGY:

CLOSING HYMN: "I'm so Glad Jesus Lifted Me" - FWS #2151

BENEDICTION:

Jesus comes to us, offering healing and hope, speaking and acting with authority. Listen to him. Go into this world, confident in God's love and healing power. Go in peace and may God's love and peace always be with you. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:1-17 (NIV)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-17 (NIV)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

P: The word of God to the people of God

L: Thanks be to God

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, Feb 3rd, 2024 9:30 am

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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=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0plRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

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

As we look ahead to the fast approaching Lenten season, there is lots coming up. Please mark your calendars for the following dates.



Lent begins on Feb. 14, 2024 with:

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 14th. There will be two services that day; a daytime Chapel service at 12:00 pm and the traditional evening service at 7:00 pm.

Lenten Bonfire and Pot Trust – Feb. 17th, beginning at 5:00 pm with a light Pot Trust dinner before the Bonfire.

Maundy Thursday Service – March 28th at 7:00 pm

Good Friday – March 29th – The sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation from 12:00 – 3:00 pm, and there will be a Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: Will not meet this Sunday, Jan. 28th, so that all can attend the Pancake Brunch or on Feb 4th so all can participate in the making of the Valentine's Day cards. Class will resume on Feb. 11th

ANNUAL NEW YEAR PANCAKE BRUNCH: The Annual Pancake Brunch is this Sunday, Jan 28th, following worship. As Always, “Flapjack” Casey and family will be blessing us with his infamous pancakes, however, this IS a Pot Trust event so please plan to bring a dish to share!

VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS: The congregation is invited to join our youth this year, on Feb 4th, in spreading the love. Please stay after worship, enjoy a light soup lunch, and help make Valentine's Day cards for our local nursing home residents.

UPCOMING FEB. EVENTS: Our annual “Souper Bowl of Caring” is Sunday, Feb. 11th and the Lenten Bonfire and Pot Trust dinner is Saturday, Feb 17th. Mark your calendars!

REACH US ON FACEBOOK

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

<https://www.facebook.com/Blessedassurancetoday>

There is a link to the Church's website.

Pastor Sandy will post inspirational verses regularly.

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