

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 8th, 2024 – Second Sunday of Advent

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by Daryl and Len Lindholm, “In loving memory of our daughter and son, Audrey and Kyle Lindholm.”

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Welcome today to this time of preparation.

P: Although we have been preparing for celebrations, we come seeking to prepare our hearts to receive God's Good News.

L: Get ready! The Lord is bringing to us Hope and Peace.

P: How wonderful it is that the Lord is showering us with Peace.

L: Open your hearts and let your spirits be quieted. Be at peace with the Lord.

P: Lord, prepare our lives and bring us peace. AMEN.

PRAISE & WORSHIP:

PRAISE SHARING

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE - FWS #2090 (v.1&2)

OPENING PRAYER:

We have prepared our homes, and our gifts, Lord, but we need help in preparing our spirits to receive your message of Peace. Free us from the stresses and strains of this time, and place your peace which passes all our understanding in our hearts. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: “Angels From the Realms of Glory” – UMH #220

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Lord, hear us this day as we open our hearts and our spirits to you. These times in which we live are often confusing and fearful. We are pushed to make preparations for a season which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses and shut the door to your healing love and compassion. We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, can do enough. You answer our fears with your voice, "Peace, be still". Help us to hear you. Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than shout, to stop and rest rather than run.

Cause us to look around at situations and people who are in need and to place our focus on helping them. For it is in helping your people and reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the Good News: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. Be at peace and know, because of Jesus' love, we are all forgiven. AMEN.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FROM PASTOR SANDY

SCRIPTURE READING: Malachi 3:1-4 (NIV)
Philippians 1:3-11 (NIV)

HYMN of PREPARATION: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" – UMH #196

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6 (NIV)

SERMON: A Refiner's Fire

1. We are Loved
2. Refined and Cleansed
3. Better Days are Ahead

RESPONSE: "Love Came Down at Christmas" – UMH #242

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" – UMH #218

BENEDICTION:

Peace be with you and with all whom you love. Go now into God's world with God's peace in your hearts and lives. Go in hope and peace. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1-4 (NIV)

³ “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.

³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,

⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

Philippians 1:3-11 (NIV)

³ I thank my God every time I remember you.

⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me.

⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6 (NIV)

³ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—

² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

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, GP Room

EVENING BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

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

SMALL GROUP 1: Thursday, 1:00 pm (ZOOM)

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#)

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

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

SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG: 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 am. Next: Dec. 7th

TRUSTEES MEETING: First Monday of every month, 7:30 pm (Zoom)

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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER: The Wednesday Small Group is now meeting on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

DECEMBER EVENTS AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS:

7th: Craft Fair and Bake Sale 10:00 am – 3:00 pm (Sign-up sheet in breezeway)

8th: Caroling at the mall (following worship)

14th: Cookie Swap – 12-3 pm (A sign-up sheet is posted in the breezeway)

21st: -Tres Dias Christmas Secuela 2:00 pm in the sanctuary, followed by refreshments and fellowship in the GP Room.

- Pageant rehearsal at 4:30 in the Parish Hall with pizza dinner.

- Live Nativity at 6:30 pm

22nd: Christmas Pageant

24th: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm

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.

This Week's B'days:

Yvonne Chung	12/08
Christopher Bucher	12/09
Kathleen Mareno	12/12
Douglas Gaylor	12/13

No Anniversaries This Week

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3281/worship-connection-december-8-2024>
