

**United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - First Sunday after Christmas**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flowers on the altar are given by the Antonucci family, "In honor of Michael and Thomas's grandmother, Phyllis Maskiell; and in loving memory of their grandparents, Joseph Maskiell Jr. and Doris, and Mike Antonucci Sr."

**GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Let the seas roar and the mountains quake.**

L: Everything came into being through the Word. What came into being was life, and the life was the light for all people.

**P: Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.**

L: The Word became flesh and blood, and lived among us to bring all people to the light.

**P: Let heaven and earth break forth into joyous song, singing praises to our God.**

L: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

**P: Christ, our light, shines forth in glory. Christ, our life, brings grace and truth. Let us worship. Alleluia! Amen**

**PRAISE & WORSHIP:**

**PRAISE SHARING**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

How beautiful upon the mountains, O God, are messengers of your light and love who come announcing peace. How delightful in the congregation are voices singing the good news of our salvation. How wonderful in the wretched places of our world are heralds of your justice and mercy who proclaim the coming of your reign. Bring us your peace, Holy One, and remind us once more of the good news of our salvation, that we might sing with joy this day, and shout for all the world to hear. Amen

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

**PRAYER of CONFESSION:**

God of love and light, you have blessed us with a priceless gift—the gift of your very self in the person of Jesus. Forgive us, Holy One, when we deny your gift or neglect your promise in our lives. Forgive us, Mighty God, when we fail to acknowledge Christ as the reflection of your glory and majesty. Purify our hearts, purge our sins, and make us your beloved children, that we may be full of your righteousness, grace, and love. Amen.

**SILENT CONFESSION****WORDS of ASSURANCE:**

Hear the good news! Christ judges us with righteousness and equity, and loves us with grace and mercy. Through the gracious gift of God, and the gift of Christ, we are forgiven! In the Name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-12

**CHILDREN'S MOMENTS** (*children will be dismissed right after*)**HYMN of PREPARATION:** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” - UMH #184**GOSPEL:** John 1:1-18**SERMON:** And the Word Became Flesh

1. Gift of God
2. Full of Grace and Truth
3. Jesus Came for Us

**RESPONSE HYMN:** “Once in David’s Royal City” - UMH #250 vs.1,2**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY:** “Special Music Selection“

**DOXOLOGY:**

**PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD’S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN:** “Hark The Herald Angels Sing” - UMH #240

**BENEDICTION:**

L: Go now, bringing the joy of God’s love with you to all that you meet. Remember that God is with you in all you do. Rejoice, dear people, for God’s Light has come for the whole world. Go in peace and may God’s glorious peace always go with you. **AMEN**

[https://ministrymatters.com/2018-01-01\\_december\\_25\\_2019\\_christmas\\_day/](https://ministrymatters.com/2018-01-01_december_25_2019_christmas_day/)

\*<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2121/worship-connection-december-25-2016>

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Isaiah 52:7-10** (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup> The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

## **Hebrews 1:1-12** (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

<sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

<sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup> And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,

<sup>12</sup> like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **John 1:1-18** (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.

<sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

<sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

<sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”)

<sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

## **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) **No meeting this week**

**PRAYER GROUP:** Thursday, 11:00 am (Chapel) **No Meeting this week**

**SMALL GROUP 1:** Thursday, 1:00 pm (ZOOM) **No meeting this week**

**EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** Thursdays, 7:30 pm with Pastor Sandy (ZOOM). (See link below). **No meeting this week**

**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)

**TRUSTEE'S MEETING:** First Monday of every month. Next: Monday, January 5th, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS MTG:** Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am (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=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0pIRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

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



# Announcements and Upcoming Events

**NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH:** Our annual pot trust New Year's Brunch is next Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. As is customary, Flap Jack Casey will provide the pancakes, but please sign up in the breezeway to bring something to share.

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Your 2026 Offering envelopes are now available for pick up after worship!

**MEETING CANCELLATIONS:** The following meetings are cancelled for the coming week in observance of the holidays:

**Tuesday** - AM Bible Study (Will resume on 1/6/26)

**Thursday** - AM Prayer group, Afternoon Small Group, and Evening Bible Study (Will all resume on 1/8/26)

**Sunday Bowling Group** - No bowling on 12/28 or 1/4 (resumes on 1/11/26)

**Bowling Fellowship Fun Continues!** The group, now known as "The UMCSO Holy Rollers," meets on Sundays at JV Lanes and all are welcome. See the sign-up sheet in the breezeway or contact Wesley Battle Sr. (914-837-4835) for more information. Practice from 1:30-2:00 pm, bowl from 2-5 pm. (Will not meet the weeks of 12/28 and 1/4)

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** If you have a child going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade, please speak to Pastor Sandy or Kathy Casey regarding upcoming confirmation classes.

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP FORMING!** We are excited to be starting a Young Adult Group at UMCSO this fall! If you are a young adult, please fill out this survey so we can find a good time for our first meeting. If you know of a young adult who may be interested, please forward this link to them, or have them speak to Pastor Sandy or Lisa Grace. We look forward to growing this new ministry!

**[Young Adult Meeting Survey](#)**

## **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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## **This Week's Birthdays:**

Russ Reynolds	1/1
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## **No Anniversaries This Week**