



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
www.shupchurch.org

10:15 am WORSHIP
February 2, 2025

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Imagine a circle of compassion and no one is standing outside of it.
- Father Gregory Boyle, Founder of Homeboy Industries*

*Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
- 1 Corinthians 13:7*

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Introit: *Come, Now Is the Time to Worship*

B. Doerksen

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship.

Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

CCLI #1065469

Call to Worship (from Psalm 71)

Liturgist: Marla Bruschi

Leader: Our hope is in God all our lives.

People: God is a rock of refuge: a fortress against threat and shame.

Leader: God has held us since our birth.

People: So we are never in full grasp of the unjust and cruel.

Leader: In love, God saves and supports us.

People: Trusting in God, we continually offer our praise!

*Hymn: *Christ of the Upward Way*

No. 344

*Call to Confession (based on Jeremiah 1)

Leader: God calls us to speak the truth, even when it is difficult, to others but also to ourselves. Confessing our sin in prayer, we dare to speak the truth about ourselves to God, who desires to deliver us and to cast out fear. Let us pray together with the prayer of confession.

*Unison Prayer of Confession

God, our Deliverer, we confess that we are too reluctant to speak and to live according to your truth. We grow comfortable with the way things are, passively condoning injustice. We see ourselves as “insiders,” excluding those we consider “outsiders.” We find it easier to pluck up and pull down, to destroy and overthrow, than to build and to plant. Forgive us, O God, for being timid disciples. Empty us of fear and shame and fill us with love that is humble and patient and kind. We pray this in the name of the One who humbles himself, Jesus Christ.
(Silent Confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God has loved us since the beginning, and God’s love for us will never end. Do not fear, therefore, but have faith in God’s steadfast love and God’s ability to make all things new.

People: Amen!

*Response: *Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Speaker: Peace be with you.

Respond: And also with you.

Brother, sister, lend an ear, I'm headin' for the promised land!
Troubles soon will disappear, I'm headin' for the promised land!
When I reach it there will be love and happiness awaitin' for me.
Come along and you will see! I'm headin' for the promised land!

I'll be singin' freedom's song. I'm headin' for the promised land!
That's the place where I belong, I'm headin' for the promised land!
I'll get there one day I know; now I've started I'm a-rarin' to go
Where the milk and honey flow. I'm headin' for the promised land!

O, listen, don't you hear that trumpet, sounding forth the call?
O, children, won't you rise and follow, one and all?

Better days are now in view, I'm headin' for the promised land!
All my dreams are comin' true, I'm headin' for the promised land!
Want to leave the past behind, face the future with a hopeful mind,
Peace and joy I'll surely find, I'm headin' for the promised land!

CCLI #1065469

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

No. 304

Children's Story Time

Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 71:1-6

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

²In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

incline your ear to me and save me.

³Be to me a rock of refuge,

a strong fortress^[a] to save me,

for you are my rock and my fortress.

⁴Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

⁵For you, O Lord, are my hope,

my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

⁶From my birth I have leaned upon you,

my protector since my mother's womb.^[b]

My praise is continually of you.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss

Hymn: *Though I May Speak*

No. 335

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastoral Prayer

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread

The Sharing of the Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Reception of New Member: Amy Sumner

Blessing Hymn: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (vs. 1)

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.2

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to eternal life.

Minute for Mission: Jody Colby

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

Presenting Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

*Response: *Doxology*

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

DEPARTING TO SERVE

Hymn: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* (Tune: Ode to Joy)

No. 298

*Benediction: *(to be sung)*

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you; wherever he may send you:
may he guide you through the wilderness; protect you through the storm: may
he bring you home rejoicing; at the wonders he has shown you: may he bring
you home rejoicing; once again into our doors.

*Postlude

**If you are able to do so, please stand.*

Happy Birthday to Hannah Rosen (2nd), Ginny Bowman (5th), Bill Ney (6th), and Connor Brumfield (7th)!

The Chancel Flowers were given today by the Greenfield family in memory of loved ones.

Deacon Greeter(s)/Flower Deliveries Made By: Debbie Edwards and Pat Ellis

Most Needed Items for SHIM: Dried beans, lentils, pasta sauce in jars, cereal & oatmeal, soup, condiments, spices, adult diapers, baby diapers (size 4-6), dog and cat food, and personal care items.

SHIM Clothing Closet: Accepting donations of clothes (in season), shoes, and linens (no large household items). Located at the Church of Nazarene (5601 Library Road). Drop-off hours: Monday – 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. *If you are not able to deliver your donations during their hours, you can leave them in the closet outside of Findley Hall and a Mission Commission member will deliver them for you.*

Hospital visits by Pastor Laura can be scheduled through the church office. If you or someone you know is having surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know so that Pastor Laura can be there to visit and pray with you and your loved ones.

Scheduling a Meeting with Pastor Laura: if you would like to meet with Pastor Laura to discuss a matter that is **not** a medical or pastoral care emergency, please reach out to her. You can contact her via email at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com or by calling the church office at (412)561-6261 to schedule a meeting. Dropping in to say “hi” is always appreciated, but scheduling a meeting ensures that Pastor Laura can dedicate the necessary time to your discussion if needed.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer Circle – Jan Paulsen and Dave Petty

February -

Ongoing - Nancy Brumfield; Ben McCoy; Mya Kelly; Joanna; Becca; our mission co-workers at the U.S.-Mexico border, the Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar and their children, Cindy, Anna Flor, and Nathan; our sister church in Malawi, Africa, Litchenza CCAP; our WorldVision child, Pabatso Makhalanyane; and all those who are affected by natural disasters.



WELCOME TO SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

CONNECT with us!

Phone: 412-561-6261

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Address: 900 Country Club Dr. Pgh, PA 15228

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Laura E. Strauss

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. William Gracey

Website: www.shupchurch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shupchurch/>

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun, Feb 2

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall
9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
10:45 am Children’s Church
5:00 pm AA – Findley Hall

Mon, Feb 3

1:00 pm Findley Hall Bible Study
6:30 pm Troop #46920 – Rm. 110

Tues, Feb 4

12:30 pm Tues. Afternoon Bible Study – Cort Rm.
5:30 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall
6:30 pm Campanile Bells
7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall
7:00 pm Counseling Group – Rm. 6
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice

Wed, Feb 5

10:00 am Days for Girls – Wilson Hall
4:00 pm Quilters – Findley Hall
6:30 pm Tai Chi – Crystal Hall

Fri, Feb 7

5:00 pm AA – Crystal Hall

Sun, Feb 9

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall
9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
10:45 am Children’s Church
4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall
5:30 pm Troop #16212 – Crystal Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Today - “Spread the Love” with the Deacons:** Join us in Findley Hall to spread the love! The Deacons provide greeting cards, including Valentines, pens, and stamps, so you can write a note or a card to someone that brightens their day. Please join us!
- ❖ **LifeLine Screening:** LifeLine will be here to conduct screenings for Carotid Artery Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, and Atrial Fibrillation on Monday, February 17th. To learn more and/or sign up for the screenings, please visit their website at www.LifeLineScreening.com.
- ❖ **Women’s Retreat:** Join us on Saturday, March 1st for the first women’s retreat of the year from 9am to 3pm in Findley Hall. We will enjoy good food and fun while we learn about the Art of Faith with pastor and educator Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss. The cost is \$30 by check or Venmo. More information coming soon!