

Third Sunday of Lent



***Third Sunday in Lent
March 3, 2024
Guest Speaker – Pastor Jay Shaffer
Assisted by Matt Miller***

***Trinity United Church of Christ
600 Main Street
Berlin, Pennsylvania***

Preludes

**A Mighty Fortress is Our God – Jason Payne
For the Beauty of the Earth – Mark Hayes**

Welcome

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at Trinity United Church of Christ.

Greeting and Announcements

Morning Prayer

Hymn No. 204

“Rock of Ages”

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us humbly offer our confessions.

Confession

Dear God, you have created us and called us to be your children, yet we turn away from you. Our sin pulls away from your embrace of love. As we continue our Lenten journey we become aware of the distance we have moved from you. Our souls are in need of healing and comfort. Forgive us Lord, as we confess our sins as a community and as individuals.

Restore us to a relationship with you through the grace of Jesus, your Son. Heal our wounded souls that we might live each day for your glory and not ours. Amen

Silent Confession:

Assurance of Forgiveness

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.

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hades.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

With Joy We Now Offer Our Gifts

***Presentation of the Offering – Singing of the 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

Offering Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Hebrew Scripture:

Exodus 20: 1-17

1 And God spoke all these words, saying,

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

5 you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,

6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

8 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work;

10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates;

11 for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

13 "You shall not kill.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Epistle:**1 Corinthians 1: 18-25**

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart."

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,

23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Gospel:**John 2: 13-22**

13 The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers at their business.

15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple; and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade."

17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for thy house will consume me."

18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign have you to show us for doing this?"

19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

21 But he spoke of the temple of his body.

22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

***Hymn No. 364**

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

**Sermon - “What Caused That?”
Guest Speaker – Pastor Jay Shaffer**

Hymn No. 323

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Sacrament of Communion

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

***Communion Prayer**

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

It is right to give God Thanks and Praise.

Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it.

We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you.

**Holy, Holy, Holy God of Love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.
Blessed is the one who come in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Please be seated.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives us.

Resurrection Acclamation

Alleluia! Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. **I died, and behold I am alive for evermore. Alleluia!**

Sharing of the Elements

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

The body of Christ, the living bread.

Amen!

The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

Amen!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scatter, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray.

Amen.

***Hymn No. 188**

"At The Cross"

***Benediction**

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

***Going Forth**

Go Now in Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Postlude O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing – Mark Hayes

+ + + + +



Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor.

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Melvin Baughman Family, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Kathy Blough, Jessica Borosky Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman, Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Nancy Custer, Reon Engleka, Tory Foltz, John Foor,

Nancy Gindlesperger, Cheryl Glessner, Art & Marlene Gotchen, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Michael Harris, Larry Hay, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Joyce Miller, Bonnie Murphy, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Peggy Stayrook, Betty Strasser, William Tamblin, Larry Tinkey, Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

Additional prayers for the Family of Lewis Berkley following his passing.

Please Update

Please let the office know of the status of anyone you have placed on the Prayer List.

The Saints In Action

TODAY- 3rd Sunday in Lent / Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday – **NO** Trinity Bell Practice

Next Sunday – 4th Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 02/25/2024

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$5001.00	\$3155.58	\$1845.42
Ben	\$226.00	\$182.69	\$43.31
Maint	\$311.00	\$163.46	\$147.54
Mem	\$65.00		\$65.00
Total	\$5603.00	\$3501.73	\$2101.27

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$1

Worship Attendance: 99

Sunday School: 22

Where You May Find. . .

The Nursery: *is on the lower level for children and their parent. A big screen TV is mounted in the room so that you may watch the service.*

At the Sanctuary Entrances. . .

Large Print Bulletins

Hearing Amplifiers

Recycling Boxes for Bulletins

These Days – Devotional

Assisting in Worship

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger (Board), Chris King (Camera)

Ushers: *John Wisler, Jean Hart*

Acolytes: Matt & Kaitlyn Miller

Flowers on the altar in memory of Richard and Ronald Hittie by Nancy Hittie and Family.

Special flowers on the altar are in recognition of the second Anniversary of Jean Ann Darr joining Trinity United Church of Christ, Berlin as our Secretary and her dedication and the services she provides to the Congregation.

The Bulletin is in recognition of the second Anniversary of Jean Ann Darr joining Trinity UC of Berlin as our Secretary and her dedication and the services she provides to the Congregation.

The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by

Church Secretary: Pam Bush, Jean Ann Darr

Financial Secretary: Renee Gindlesperger

Chancel Choir Director Emeritus: Linda Gallick

Handbells: Jeanne Hillegas

Virtual Organist: Rick Kimmel

Consistory Elders:

Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650

Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166

Jim Darr, 814-267-5260

Consistory Deacons:

Pam Bush, Leanna Coughenour, Tom Croner (President) 814-

442-6740, Amanda Custer, Jean Hart, Gale Hay, Bill Landis,

Julie Petro, Ann Slifco

Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234

Mailing Address: PO Box 86, Berlin, PA 15530

Email: berlinucc@yahoo.com

Website: www.berlinucc.org

Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.

March 10 Dave Creamer

March 17 Jay Shaffer

March 24 Bill Deal

March 31 Jay Shaffer (Easter)

Bolded dates indicate “Communion” Sundays.

No Sunday School on Easter Sunday

Sunday School

Join us, as we are currently involved, in a 10-week study on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah. This is a video series by Ray Vander Laan that takes us into the Holy Land and brings Scripture alive as we delve into the historical and cultural lives of that day. If you think you know that story of Easter, think again! Ray has a unique way of bringing new light to stories we have long treasured. So, if you have been thinking about joining Sunday School this is a great time to begin. Each session is its own lesson, and you can begin or give it a try at any point in these

sessions. Sue Coughenour will be leading the class in the fellowship hall following the morning worship service. We always have good fellowship and discussion.

Our Annual Church Picnic is in need of someone to coordinate this event. If you would like to see this tradition continue, please consider stepping up to be in charge of making the arrangements. Our Hugs and Kisses are already doing a lot for our church, so perhaps we can find a more "senior" person to handle this. Please contact Kathy Spangler if you have questions or are interested.

Holy Trinity will present a Lenten drama "The Power of Lent" beginning Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM and continuing through March 20, 2024. Maundy Thursday service will be on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Hugs & Kisses

Saturday, March 9th- "Winter Jam '24" Concert at Bryce Jordan Center in State College. Christian artists performing- open to all ages. Doors open at 5PM, concert at 6PM, \$15 ticket donation at the door (cash or check only). H&K will pay for any youth who want to attend if you RSVP to Amanda Custer by March 1st (814-483-4283). We will try to carpool once we know who is interested in attending.

Saturday, March 16th 6:00 PM- Youth Overnight "Lock-In"- Many fun activities are being planned to include, dinner, baking cookies, games, Bible Bingo, assembling shut-in baskets for Easter and a movie. So bring your sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, and church clothes for Sunday morning. We will then be waking up, eating breakfast, and attending church together. Only adults with clearances will be allowed to stay overnight with the children. Any younger children who want to come participate in activities and not stay overnight is ok too. We plan on having our homemade cookies packaged and available for the congregation after church- donations will be accepted.

Mary Forespring

Will be celebrating her 95th birthday on March 5th! Let's celebrate this milestone with her by sending cards to:

Meadowview Nursing Center – Rm 123
1404 Hay St
Berlin PA 15530

Even if they are late, they will be much appreciated!

Easter Flowers:

Please note that Easter is March 31, a full week earlier than last year. Enclosed in this issue of the newsletter, please find the order form for your Easter flowers. We would like to get the orders in as soon as possible in order to provide the information to the florist in a timely manner. We have a variety of choices so please include your phone number in the event the office has any questions. The forms will also be available in the church.

UPMC Family Hospice, formerly In Touch Hospice, will be holding a spring Grief Support Group beginning March 20 at our Somerset location, 314 S. Kimberly Avenue (Back Entrance of Hillman). The group is free and will run for 6 weeks. Please join us to share your feelings with others, who are grieving a loved one's death.

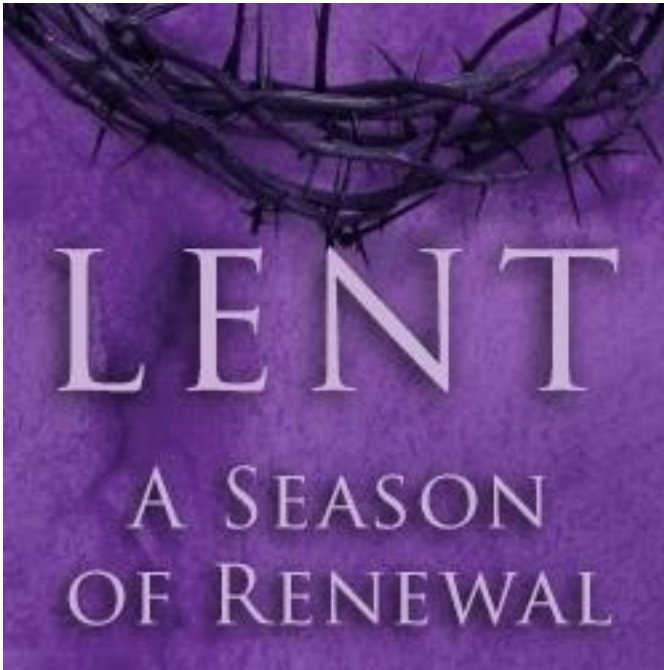
Keystone Family Alliance

Are you curious about what's so "messy" and "broken" about child welfare and want to know more? Do you believe sustaining foster families matters and want to find your "something" to help support them? Do you want to remember why you're working/volunteering to create safe and loving homes for vulnerable kids? Gather others that you think need to know this work and join us for the Somerset County Keystone Family Alliance Fundraiser and Awareness Dinner on Tuesday, February 27, 6:00 pm at Bakersville Banquet Hall with doors opening at 5:30. The theme this year is "Ripple Effect". All it takes is one caring adult to create a positive ripple effect in the life of a vulnerable child. Throughout the evening you'll hear how local churches and KFA are creating the Ripple Effect in Somerset County and beyond. Dinner is provided. The event is free; however, a financial appeal will be made to support Keystone Family Alliance. Please RSVP by Feb. 20 at www.keyfam.org/events and click on "Somerset County" Questions? Contact lydia@keyfam.org.

FREE CAPE COD BRICK HOUSE to be moved from current location **620 Main St, Berlin, PA**. Mover assumes all expenses and liability.

Please direct questions and inquiries to 814-279-6456 or 814-233-5556. Leave a voicemail.

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Croner, President of Consistory at 814-442-6740, who will arrange for a pastor to provide comfort and assurance in a time of crisis. If you need **immediate** pastoral care, contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.



*Loving Father,
So many times I turn away from you
and always you welcome me back.
Your mercy and love gives me confidence
Thank you for the invitation to share, fast and pray
so that you can form a new heart within me.
Your powerful compassion for my weaknesses
leads me to ask for mercy
and await with great hope the Easter joy you share with us.*

Our Blessings for A Wonderful Week Ahead