



***Second Sunday After Christmas
Holy Communion
January 5, 2025***

***Student Pastor – Dave Creamer
Assisted by – Vesper & Truitt Ogburn***

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

Prelude

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice – Paul Manz
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime – John David Peterson

Announcements

Call to Worship

Heavenly Father, set us on a path that leads to you.

Father guide our steps.

Heavenly Father, help us see the things that matter to you.:

Father help us see what matters.

Heavenly Father, help our hearts to care for one another.

Father grant us your Spirit as our guide. AMEN!

***Hymn No. 131**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Call to Confession

Starting a New Year, starting fresh, brings us a chance to become different. It lets us try to become more than we were last year. Let us gather for confession to seek Grace in this exciting time.

Confession

Heavenly Father hear our prayer, we seek forgiveness for the sins we commit. Things done and said and left undone. Let Jesus be our teacher and the Spirit be our guide.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

It is a new year for us, but the grace God gives is the same. Each time we call out in prayer, ask for forgiveness, in this year and forever, we are redeemed. Amen

**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.**

***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**

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, our hearts overflow with gratitude. We are a thankful people. With joy we offer to you, our gifts. We pray your will is done, and the people and places that matter to you receive them. We pray for peace in a world we do not understand. It is a new year, but the problems are the same. We pray that your presence strengthens us, reassures us, and that your Spirit will guide us through this new year. With belief in our hearts that your comforting and healing presence will change our world we lift up to you those on our prayer list. People on our hearts and minds. People lonely, lost and confused. Heal them as only you can. Help us to be the care givers we need to be. Strengthen our resolve, grant us determination to say and do what helps each other, help

us to be more than we think we can be. Bless us with your Spirit, let your Will be our guide. Jesus showed us many things. We are most grateful for his life, sacrifice and gift. We offer to you the prayer he taught us to pray.

Our Lord's Prayer [using debts and debtors]

Scripture:

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

7 For thus says the Lord:

“Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'The Lord has saved his people,
the remnant of Israel.'”

8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
the woman with child and her who is in travail, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

9 With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will make them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I am a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my first-born.

10 “Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands afar off;
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'”

11 For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.

13 Then shall the maidens rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
14 I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,
and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,
says the Lord.”

Epistle:
Ephesians 1 3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
5 He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,
6 to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace
8 which he lavished upon us.
9 For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ
10 as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
11 In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will,
12 we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory.
13 In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
14 which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Gospel:
John 1: 1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God;

3 all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.

8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

9 The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not.

11 He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.

12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God;

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

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

16 And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace.

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

18 No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

Sermon
“Alphabet Soup ”
Dave Creamer

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.

The Body

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave 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."

The Blood

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."

***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. 161

Our Day of Joy Is Here Again

*Benediction

*Response – Sung with Dismissal

Now Unto Him Who Is Able

**Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling.
To make you stand in His presence blameless and with great
joy. To the only God our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Be the glory, and the majesty, dominion, and authority.
Both now and forevermore, Amen.**

Going Forth

Postlude God Rest You Merry, Gentleman – Raymond Haan

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Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for the Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Mary
Jane Harding, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois
Saylor, Ruth Elaine Whitacre.

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer,
Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman,
Tammy Coughenour, Wilma Durst, Reon Engleka,
Paul Gallick, Nancy Gindlesperger,
Marlene Gotchen, Karen Griffith,
Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris,
Joy Hay (Dwayne), Larry Hay, Cindy McCullen Janicki,
Peter Kaltenbaugh, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister,
Jim Little, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen, Cathy Meyers,
Joyce Miller, Laura Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul,
Kathy Picking, Brian Robb, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie
Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis, JoAnne Smith, Phyllis Stoy,
Brooke Stutzman, Larry Tinkey, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley,
Rick Work, Allison Zimmerman, Gerald Zorn

Prayer List Update

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

Prayer Calls:

If you are not receiving our one call prayer calls, please contact the office. The number that calls is an "877" number. This may appear to be spam. If your phone is blocking spam calls, this may be one reason why. If you prefer to receive the calls on your cell vs. landline we would like to know that as well.

The Saints In Action

TODAY – 2nd Sunday After Christmas & Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Next Sunday – Baptism of the Lord

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 12/24/24

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$1304.00	\$3155.58	-\$1851.58
Ben	\$60.00	\$182.69	-\$122.69
Maint	\$60.00	\$163.46	-\$103.46
Mem	\$35.00		\$35.00
Total	\$1459.00	\$3501.73	-\$2042.73

Not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$150.

Giving From 12/29/24

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$2311.00	\$3155.58	-\$844.58
Ben	\$175.00	\$182.69	-\$7.69
Maint	\$175.00	\$163.46	\$11.54
Mem			
Total	\$2661.00	\$3501.73	-\$840.73

Not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$15.

Worship Attendance: 63

Sunday School: 25

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

Recycling Boxes for Bulletins

Hearing Amplifiers

These Days – Devotional

Assisting in Worship

Sound: Pam Bush & Jim Darr

Ushers: Ann Slifco, Chris King

Acolytes: Vesper & Truitt Ogburn

Organ: Jean Ann Darr

Flowers on the altar in memory of her husband, Lewis, and in honor of her family by Barbara Berkley.

The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by

Dave Creamer, Student Pastor

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:

Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166

Jim Darr, 814-483-0957

Allison Zimmerman, 814-267-4324

Consistory Deacons:

Pam Bush, Tom Croner (President) 814-442-6740, Amanda

Custer, Jean Hart, Bill Landis,

Julie Petro

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

Helen Diest has been transferred to Meadowview Nursing Center. Her new address is Meadowview Nursing Center, 1404 Hay St, Berlin, PA 15530

There will be a Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 12th, following the church service.

Thank You

Jeannie and I want to say a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to everyone for all the Christmas wishes from our Trinity Family. We are grateful for all of them and each one of you. We are looking forward to an exciting New Year! Pastor Dave Creamer

Trip to Sight and Sound

There are 11 tickets available for the show June 26th, 2025. The current price is Adults \$184 and children 12 and younger \$132. Final Price will less after a fundraiser in January. Cost includes the bus, dinner, and the show. If you are interested in attending contact Vanessa Gardner, vgard59@gmail.com, reach out on Unity UCC's Face Book, or talk to Pastor Dave (cell 814-777-2280)

Trinity Bells

There will not be bell practice for the month of January.

Sunday School

Who is God?

A true, intimate relationship with God is not based on our own ideas about what God is like. If we really desire to know God, we must approach Him based on the knowledge of who He reveals Himself to be in His Word. Join Dr. Steven J. Lawson in this in-depth study as he articulates a biblical understanding of fifteen divine attributes and explores how a right understanding of God can affect every aspect of our lives. This 16-week adult Sunday School series will begin on December 22nd and be led by Sue Coughenour.

Birthright Christmas Tree

Once again, we will be sponsoring the Birthright Christmas Tree. It will be located in Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to look at it and see if there is some way you can help those in need.

The Souper Bowl Competition is underway. There will be two winners again this year, so we will have to be on our game and regain our #1 spot as we lost it last year. The four quarters of the competition will be the four Sundays in January and the two Sundays in February before the actual Super Bowl. If making monetary donations, please mark your envelope "Souper Bowl" and make your check payable to Trinity UCC.

Meals on Wheels of Somerset County needs volunteers to deliver meals in Berlin and the surrounding area on Mondays. If you would be interested and want more information, contact Meals on Wheels at 814-443-2787 or Rose Shaffer, Berlin driver coordinator, at 814-267-5310.

Hugs & Kisses

Sunday, January 12th - 6:00 p.m. Game Night. Bring your favorite family board games and a snack/drink to share. This is for ALL ages so come join in on the fun!

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 Dave Creamer, Student Pastor for Trinity at 814-777-2280. If Dave is not available, please contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.



Blessings For a Wonderful Year Ahead