



***Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021
Service of the Word***

Prelude

Invitation

Call to Worship

from Psalm 80

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

² **Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might and come to save us!**

³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

⁴ **O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶ **You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved! ¹

Confession and Forgiveness:

O God our Father,

you are our Creator, and we are the work of your hands; you are our Shepherd, and we are your flock; you are our Redeemer, and we are the people you have bought back. We have sinned against you and against others; we repent of all our sins and ask for your forgiveness. We pray that you would not remain angry with us; that you would not recall our sin, to punish it; but that you would continue the work you have begun in us by your Spirit, that the whole earth may recognize that you are our God and Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Silent Confession

Hear now the good news of the gospel! As a called and ordained Minister of the Church of Christ, and by Christ's authority, I

¹ *Revised Common Lectionary*. (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

thereby declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen

***Advent Carol: No. 127**

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

**The shepherds were the first to hear
the joyful announcement of Christ's birth—
the good news of great joy for all the people.**

Upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed.

**We have also heard this wonderful news.
We welcomed the message with the joy given by the
Holy Spirit.**

Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him;
and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.

And we are filled with an expressible and glorious joy.

—based on Luke 2:10, 17-18; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:8, NIV

***Christmas Carol: No. 138**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Morning Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer [using *debts* and *debtors*]

Old Testament

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the
LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace. ²

***Canticle: No. 27**

Tell Out, My Soul - *The Magnificat*

***Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ**

St. Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me
blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

² *Revised Common Lectionary*. (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home. ³

***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.**

Proclamation of God's Word

"PD"

Sing!

***Christmas Carol: No. 133**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

***Dismissal and Blessing**

***Going Forth**

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Medical Debt Offering – This past Lent Trinity participated in the endeavor of the Penn West Conference to join in an effort to retire medical debt for those whose lives are severely hampered by medical debt. A company purchases debt for pennies on the dollar and it is retired with a letter sent to those who receive such consideration stating your local United Church of Christ congregation has given you this gift. David Ackerman has

³ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version.* (2016). (Lk 1:39–56). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

informed the conference that the company that provides this service states that there is no medical debt that meets their requirements within 30 counties of the boundaries of the Conference. There are two options – allow the national UCC to use the gift to retire medical debt in another region or ask that the gift be returned. Pastor is now seeking information should the gift be returned how we might assist people through our local institutions as there are surely people who are burdened with significant medical debt. Consistory will take up this matter on Monday evening. If you gave a gift, Consistory members would like to know your feeling about having the gift returned to be used locally or left with the national UCC.

In December at Trinity and in the Area

The Berlin Brethren “Handbell Choir & Just Brass” will present a concert of Christmas Music on Sunday, December 19th at 2 p.m.

Christmas Eve – December 24th

5 p.m. Family Christmas Eve – Trinity

7 p.m. Christmas Communion & Candles – Zion, Meyersdale

11 p.m. Carols and Candles – Trinity

The Saints In Action

TODAY – *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Trinity Bells Rehearsal

Friday – Christmas Eve

Next Sunday – *December 26 – Second Day of Christmas*

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 12/12/21

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$4337.00	\$2434.93	\$1902.07
Ben	\$512.00	\$213.46	\$298.54
Maint	\$300.00	\$163.46	\$136.54
Mem	510.00		
Total	\$5659.00	\$2811.85	\$2337.15

Benevolence includes Food Pantry of \$10.00 and Adopt a Family (Secret Santa) of \$200.00

Worship Attendance: 83
Sunday School: 15



Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Lew & Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Janet Gindlesperger, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Deb Luteri, Lois Saylor.

Healing Concerns:

Sally Altfather, Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Carol Boyer, Jim Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Dana Dawson, Dawn Gindlesperger, Andrea Shaulis Harris, Barry Landis, Larry McCullen, Bonnie Murphy, Nancy Schrock, Avis Specht, Kelly Tharp, Robin Walker, Harry and Jane Watkins, Heather Weighley, Nancy Weighley, Karen Will, Kimberly Kay Roos Zimmerman

Prayer Concerns:

For the Family of Dirkje “Dicky” Stellingworth

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: Tom Croner, Gaye Maust

Acolyte: Nathan Spangler

The Flowers on the altar in memory of his parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Saylor, sisters Mary, Phyllis and Helen, brother Richard, and her parents Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Barron by Carl & Karol Saylor

The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by

Pastor: Rev'd Dr. David A. Williams

Church Secretary: Pam Bush

Financial Secretary: Renee Gindlesperger

Chancel Choir Director Emeritus: Linda Gallick

Handbells: Jeanne Hillegas

Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday

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

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234

Snail Mail: PO Box 86, Berlin, PA 15530

Email: berlinucc@yahoo.com

Website: www.berlinucc.org

Pastor's Contact Information

Cell Phone: 814-241-3919

E-Mail: uccvicar@gmail.com

603 Fletcher Street, Berlin, PA 15530