



***Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022
Guest Speaker – Pastor Art Gotjen***

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

Prelude

I Saw Three Ships – Douglas Wagner
The First Noel – Mary McDonald

Welcome

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

*Call to Worship

The Lord has done great things for us!

And we are filled with joy!

Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

our tears into songs of joy!

O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

and remain in us forever.

*Hymn No. 124

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Dave, Missy, Matthew & Kaitlyn Miller

“We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy”
May the joyful promise of your presence, O God,
Make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.

Isaiah 35:1-10

1The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus

2 it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

**“Be strong, fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”**

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

**6 then shall the lame man leap like a hart,
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;**

7 the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

**8 And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not pass over it,
and fools shall not err therein.**

9 No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

**10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

***Hymn No. 82**

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Matthew 11:2-11

2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ,
he sent word by his disciples

3 and said to him, “Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

4 And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:

5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

6 And blessed is he who takes no offense at me.”

7As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind?

8 Why then did you go out? To see a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings' houses.

9 Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

10 This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.’

11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

James 5:7-10

7 Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and the late rain.

8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

9 Do not grumble, brethren, against one another, that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the doors.

10 As an example of suffering and patience, brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Sermon

“Two People Called By God” Pastor Art Gotjen

Trinity Bells
"Carol of the Bells"
"Advent Carol"

Prayer of Confession:

Lord Christ,

**we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.**

**We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.**

**We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming
love but also our resistance to follow you without question.**

**In this Advent time, forgive us our failure
to respond as we should.**

**Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;**

with gratitude, as Simeon;

with obedience, as Mary;

with love, as you have loved us.

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

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

***Hymn No: 128**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

***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

**Fanfare on “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
Dick Sanderman**

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Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

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

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jason Benning, Jim Benoit, Carol
Boyer, Rhonda Brown, Terry Coslic, Jim Coughenour,

Pam Crooks, John Durst, Alvin Harbaugh, Mary Jane Harding, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Larry Hay, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Larry McCullen, Bonnie Murphy, Grace Pritts, James Robb, Nancy Schrock, Tracey Smith, Avis Specht, Kelly Tharp, Larry Tinkey, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Caleb Wedding, Heather Weighley, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

Prayer List Update

Once again, we are in need of your assistance in updating our prayer list of healing concerns. If you have placed someone on our list, please confirm that they are still in need of prayer or hopefully taken off thanks to God's power of healing and your prayers. Please contact the office to help us with this update.

One Call Now Prayer List

Please remember that we have the ability to request prayer for church members, families, friends and anyone in need of prayer. Never underestimate the power of prayer. One small prayer can change your life or someone's life dramatically. To request prayer calls, simply contact Pam, our secretary at 541-990-0832 or at the office during business hours. If you are not on the one call now prayer phone receipt list and would like to be, we can do that as well.

The Saints In Action

TODAY –Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 Sunday School Following Meeting

Monday – 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting

Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bell Rehearsal

Next Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 12/04/22

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$2996.00	\$2434.93	\$561.07
Ben	\$260.00	\$213.46	\$46.54
Maint	\$395.00	\$163.46	\$231.54
Mem	\$0.00		
Total	\$3651.00	\$2811.85	\$839.15

Benevolence includes Donations to Food Pantry of \$15, Adopt a Family (Secret Santa) of \$75

The **2023 Offering Envelopes** will be available for pickup at the Church on Sunday, November 20th – December 4th. All offering envelopes remaining after December 4th will be mailed. We are trying to cut down on the cost of postage, so any arrangements that can be made for pick up would be greatly appreciated.

Worship Attendance: 79
Sunday School: 19

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: Jim Darr (Board), Lori Gindlesperger (Camera)

Acolytes: Matt Miller

The Flowers on the altar in honor of Bob and Mike Chappie by Dave, Missy, Matthew & Kaitlyn Miller.

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:

Tom Calvert, President, 814-267-3771

Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650

Alan Brick, 814-267-6628

Consistory Deacons:

Amy Clark, Jean Ann Darr, Ann Slifco

Leanna Coughenour, Gale Hay, John Wisler

Alissa Wright, Debbie Boyer, Gaye Maust

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

Adopt A Child Wrapping Party is scheduled for December 19th at 5:00 p.m. If anyone is interested in helping to wrap the Adopt-A-Family gifts, please come! We do have some wrapping paper but please feel free to bring extra along with scissors and tape. We will conclude our evening with some food and fellowship so if you would like please bring a favorite dish to share.

Youth Christmas Play

Practice is underway!! You are in for a special treat at the December 18th Sunday service.

Birthright Christmas Tree

Please stop by fellowship hall and visit the Birthright Giving tree. Do anything you can to help young mothers who are struggling to provide for their babies.

The Parsonage Conference Room Sunday School Class will be following this schedule until the end of the year:

Dec 11 – *Who Needs Christmas*

Dec 18 – *Who Needs Christmas*

This class will not be meeting on Dec 25th or Jan 1st.

This class is open to adults of **ALL** ages and is led by Sue Coughenour. *Come join us!*

Bethlehem Experience is being held **TODAY** December 11, 2022, 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is a drive through event and will begin at the Berlin Brethren Church parking lot. The Borough Building will host refreshments. In the event of inclement weather, it will be necessary to cancel.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Please join us for a special candlelight service on December 24th at 11:00 p.m. Our virtual organist, Rick Kimmel, will be playing live! Conference Minister, David Ackerman, will be leading us in worship, our Trinity Bells will be ringing, and we will be singing the praises of our Lord.

Christmas Day Service

Pastor Art Gotjen will lead us in prayer and a short message. Marlene Gotjen will be playing the piano. Together we will share in the blessings of Christmas Day and sing carols of choice as received in weeks prior to the service.

Do you have a favorite Christmas Carol?

We are asking for requests for your favorite Christmas carol to be played at the Christmas morning service. Please let us know so that we can get the music to Marlene. Let's sing our favorites!

New Year's Day Service

Please watch your bulletins for information on this service soon.

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Calvert, President of Consistory at 814-267-3771, 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.



These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be
in you, and that your joy may be full.

~John 15:11~

Have A “Blessed” Week