

Epiphany



***First Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion
January 8, 2023
Guest Speaker – Pastor Jay Shaffer***

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

Prelude

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty – Diane Bush
Amazing Grace – Diane Bush

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**

I will hear what the Lord has to say.

A voice that speaks for peace.

Peace for all people and for all who love the Lord.

And to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest and peace to all God's people.

Morning Prayer

***Hymn No. 163**

“ As With Gladness Men of Old”

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 humble ourselves and confess our sins.

Confession:

Heavenly Father, we begin a new year by seeking your grace and forgiveness for any sin we committed this past year.

Even though we state our faith in you we know that we have not always done our best to follow your way of love. We have had impure thoughts, said unkind things, and even offended a friend or neighbor. We also confess that we have not shown love to our enemies. We find that one to be really hard! As we seek your forgiveness, we also ask that you give us strength in this new year, to live each day that others will know that we are your followers by what we say and what we do. Amen.

Silent Confession:

Assurance of Forgiveness:

We have offered our prayers and the Lord grants forgiveness.

We rejoice that the Lord forgives all who turn their hearts to him.

Let us praise our God!

***Response 66 – Verse 1**

“To God Be The Glory”

***Statement of Faith**

We are not alone; we live in God’s world.

We believe in God who has created and is creating; who has come in Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit. We trust God who calls us to be the church; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death; in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

***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**

The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Retiring Consistory Members

Alan Brick – Elder

Jean Ann Darr – Deacon

John Wisler – Deacon

Alissa Wright – Deacon

Installation of Elder and Deacons

Sheron Engleka - Elder

Tom Croner – Deacon

Amanda Custer – Deacon

Julie Petro – Deacon

Greeting

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Introduction

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of Spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Presentation

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve. These people have been called by God to serve in various ministries in God's world. They have accepted their call and desire to witness to that call in the presence of this congregation.

Covenant

Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered.

Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able, rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of Deacon and Elder in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do

God's will. Receive authority to execute the office of Deacon/Elder in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Trinity United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce you are installed in your respective positions.

In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn No 52 – Verse 1,2,3, & 6

“O God Our Help in Ages Past”

Hebrew Scripture Isaiah 42:1-9

1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him,
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

2 He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

3 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

4 He will not fail or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.

5 Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread forth the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 “I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

8 I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to graven images.

9 Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them.”

Epistle – Acts 10: 34-43

34 And Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I perceive that
God shows no partiality,

35 but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is
right is acceptable to him.

36 You know the word which he sent to Israel, preaching good
news of peace by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),

37 the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea,
beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached:

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and
with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that
were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses to all that he did both in the country of
the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him
on a tree;

40 but God raised him on the third day and made him manifest;

41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as
witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the
dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify
that he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and
the dead.

43 To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Gospel – Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he consented.

16 And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him;

17 and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Sermon

A Turning Point

Sacrament of Communion

Communion Prayer:

Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat: This is my body. Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. We remember Christ’s promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we say boldly what we believe.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died. **Amen.***

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.*

Resurrection Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Sharing the Elements

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

*Eat this, for it is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!***

*Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen!***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.

Strengthen our faith, increased our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

***Hymn No: 138**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

***Benediction**

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

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.

***Going Forth**

Postlude

Joy, Love, and Peace – Marianne Kim

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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, Jerry & Kay Barnard, 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, Gale Hay, Larry Hay, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Debbie Luteri (her sisters & family) Larry McCullen, Bonnie Murphy, Grace Pritts, James Robb, Nancy Schrock, Greg Shaulis, 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 –First Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion
Installation of Elder & Deacons
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Monday – 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting

Wednesday – No Trinity Bell Rehearsal

Next Sunday – Second Sunday after Epiphany
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 01/01/23

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$1877.00	\$3155.58	-\$1278.58
Ben	\$260.00	\$182.69	\$77.31
Maint	\$345.00	\$163.46	\$181.54
Mem	\$0.00		
Total	\$2482.00	\$3501.73	-\$1019.73

Benevolence includes Donations to Food Pantry of \$135,

Worship Attendance: 34

Sunday School: 21

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 (Board), Jim Darr (Camera)

Ushers: Jean Ann Darr, Gaye Maust

Acolytes: Maelyn Fochtman and Cora Wright

The Flowers on the altar in memory of Richard & Helen Croner by the Richard Croner Family.

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

Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166

Consistory Deacons:

Amy Clark, Julie Petro, Ann Slifco

Leanna Coughenour, Gale Hay, Tom Croner

Amanda Custer, 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

Croner Educational Fund

Trinity United Church of Christ established the Education Fund in memory of Joseph and Erma Croner with Earl D Croner and Richard F Croner as donors. First priority for the money from the Fund shall be to members of the church who are students for the Christian ministry. Second priority shall be for college students who are members of the church and have a financial need. Applications for the Croner Educational Fund Scholarship will be accepted from January 1 – March 31, 2023. A transcript of applicant/student grades is to be included with the application. Applications can be obtained at the church office.

“Souper Bowl” Competition – 5 Sundays in January

It is time for our annual “Souper Bowl” Competition. In January 2023 we will again be competing with one another for the “Souper Bowl” certificate. There will be two winners again this year. One for larger churches (over 100 families) and a second for smaller churches (under 100 families). The four quarters of the competition will be the five Sundays in January. Food items should be taken to the fellowship hall and placed in the designated location. Monetary donations should be given in an envelope marked “Souper Bowl” competition (checks should be made out to Trinity UCC)

Our local food pantry continues to grow. We are serving approximately 100 families from the Berlin and Shanksville School Districts. In this time of economic stress and the pandemic it is so meaningful for all of those who can help the food pantry. We have a great group of volunteers that truly enjoy the fellowship at the

food pantry. Nonperishable (non-expired) food, condiments, baking products, paper supplies, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and monetary donations are welcome.

Prayers are requested for our clients and volunteers. May God continue to share his blessing with each and every one of you.

“Berlin Area Food Pantry”

Somerset County Meals on Wheels

We received a **“Thank You”** from Meals on Wheels for the Church donation of \$250.00.

A Special Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, and prayers during my recent knee surgery. I am doing well. Again, thank you and God Bless.

Grace Pritts & Family

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.



Blessing for a new week:
"A brand new week, a bright
new day, may your Angels
guide you every step of the
way,
bring you love and
happiness, keep your life
calm, and most of all
protect you from harm."



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