



Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

“Rally Sunday”

September 10, 2023

Guest Speaker – Dwayne Hay

Assisted By – Matt Miller

Trinity United Church of Christ

600 Main Street

Berlin, Pennsylvania

Preludes

**Voluntary on “Hyfrydol” – Jason Payne
Great Is Thy Faithfulness – Jason Payne**

Announcements

**Fletcher Bible Presentation
Presented by Leanna Coughenour**

Recipients:

**Hayleigh Albright
Elizabeth Hart
Taelyn Miller
Truitt Hawkins Ogburn
Sadie Suder**

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

Tell the whole congregation of God’s people
This is a day for new beginnings.

THIS IS A TIME OF GOD’S APPEARING.

THIS IS A MOMENT FOR FAITHFUL RESPONSE.

Praise God in the assembly of the faithful.

Make melody to God and sing a new song.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE LIFE ENRICHED BY LOVE

PRAISE GOD FOR THE LOVE THAT FULFILLS GOD’S LOVE

This is the hour to wake from our sleep.

The energy of God’s love fills this place.

HERE WE CLAIM OUR IDENTITY AS CHRISTIANS.

HERE WE BECOME THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.

Opening Prayer

**This is a festival day, glorious God, a day of remembering
your faithfulness through the centuries, a time for celebrating**

your vibrant presence with us, a pause of anticipation for the seasons yet to be. We rejoice at the assurance that you take pleasure in us, that we are known by you, called by you, empowered by you to live honorably and humbly, in the spirit of Christ. We would exalt your name and sing for joy, knowing that we can trust you for the guidance and direction we need. Amen.

Hymn No 87

May Jesus Christ Be Praised

Call to Confession

Our ancestors in the faith sometimes sought vengeance on their enemies. Jesus challenged his friends to listen and reconcile those with whom they disagreed. Paul counseled followers to put away quarreling, jealousy, and harmful behavior. There is much in our lives that is harmful to ourselves and others, much that leads to brokenness and lasting pain. Let us confess our need for healing.

Prayer of Confession:

O GOD, WE HAVE NOT BEEN FAITHFUL TO YOUR COMMANDS. WE HAVE BEEN MORE READY TO CONDEMN THAN TO CONSOLE, MORE EAGER TO JUSTIFY OURSELVES THAN TO WORK FOR THE UNDERSTANDING. WE FEED THE FLAMES OF DISSENT INSTEAD OF WELCOMING THE FREEING POWER OF FORGIVENESS. WE GATHER AS TWO OR THREE, NOT TO WELCOME YOUR PRESENCE BUT TO GOSSIP ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ABSENT. OUR SINS ARE DESTROYING US, GOD. TURN US AROUND TO A NEW WAY OF BEING.

Silent Confession – “Amen”

Assurance of Forgiveness:

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show

the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

***Affirmation of Faith**

UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.

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 (Unison)

May these offerings help to free your people, O God, from the bondage to sin. Untie us in a community of mutual caring in which differences are resolved as we listening to one another and seek to offer understanding. May the light of your love shine through all our efforts to share your good news. Keep us in the light when we are tempted to ignore and violate your commandments. With these prayers, we dedicate our gifts. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray singing:

Hymn No. 426

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture – Psalm 149

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful!

**Let Israel be glad in his Maker,
let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King!**

Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with timbrel and lyre!

**For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory.**

Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their couches.

**Let the high praises of God be in their throats
and two-edged swords in their hands,**

to wreak vengeance on the nations
and chastisement on the peoples,

**to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with fetters of iron,**

to execute on them the judgment written!

This is glory for all his faithful ones.

Praise the LORD!

Exodus 12:1-14

1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt

2 “This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.

3 Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household;

4 and if the household is too small for a lamb, then a man and his neighbor next to his house shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats;

6 and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening.

7 Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them.

8 They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.

9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled with water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts.

10 And you shall let none of it remain until the morning, anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

11 In this manner you shall eat it; your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’S Passover.

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

13 The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

14 This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generation you shall observe it as an ordinance forever.

Romans 13:8-14

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other

commandment, are summed up in this sentence, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;

12 the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

13 let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20

15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Hymn No. 43

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Sermon – "A Friend in All Times"
Dwayne Hay**

***Hymn No. 108**

Come Christians, Join To Sing

***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.

Postlude

**Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
Jayson Payne**

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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, Bill Arandt, Melvin & Bonnie Baughman, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Terry Coslic, Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks, John Durst, Reon Engleka, Sheron Engleka, Art & Marlene Gotchen, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Larry Hay, Fae Hetrick, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Larry McCullen, Bonnie Murphy, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Lois Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Owen Shaulis, JoAnne Smith, Mark Stahl, Peggy Stayrook, Larry Tinkey, Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Harry Watkins, Gerald Zorn

Lew & Barb Berkley are now both home. Their daughter Michelle says they are both doing well and enjoying the cards and well wishes. Please take a moment to either call or send a card to remind them that we are thinking of them both. Their address is 1430 Salco Rd., Berlin PA 15530.

Lillian Potter is home recovering from a hip replacement, so prayers for healing would be appreciated as well as cards. Her address is 54 Broadview Lane, Berlin PA 15530.

Additional prayers for **Harry Watkins** as he recovers from surgery followed by a fall and pneumonia. Harry is home now and recovering, but it will be a while before he will regain his strength. If you can, please take the time to send a card to Harry (and Jane) at 218 Indigo Ln, Somerset, PA 15501

Prayers to the Barry Landis family in the loss of his brother Kerry Landis.

The Saints In Action

TODAY –15th Sunday after Pentecost

Rally Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:05 Rally Sunday Brunch

Monday – 7:00 p.m. Consistory

Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bells Cleaning

Next Sunday – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School (Fellowship Hall Only)

Giving From 09/03/23

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$432500	\$3155.58	\$1169.42
Ben	\$251.00	\$182.69	\$68.31
Maint	\$366.00	\$163.46	\$202.54
Mem			\$0.00
Total	\$4942.00	\$3501.73	\$1440.27

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$10, and Knotty Knotter of \$50, Operation Christmas Child of \$30, Adopt-A-Family of \$50 and Keystone Family Alliance of \$130

Worship Attendance: 64
Sunday School: 9

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), Pam Bush (Camera)

Ushers: Chris King, Leanna Coughenour

Acolyte: Matt and Kaitlyn Miller

The Flowers on the altar are in honor of our family: Brandon, Autumn, Kyle, Rebecca, Avery, Isla, Brennan, Anna, and Syrus by Russ & Jeanne Hillegas.

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

Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.

September 10 Dwayne Hay
September 17 James Vander Schuur
September 24 Peter Kaltendbaugh
October 1 Steve Dinning
October 15 James Vander Schuur
October 22 Peter Kaltendbaugh
October 29 Dottie Grew

Bolded dates indicate “Communion” Sundays.

Today is Rally Sunday, and it also happens to be Grandparents Day. So, kids grab your grandparents or someone special, and grandparents grab your grandchildren for a covered dish brunch after worship service today. Of course, parents are welcome too! There will be a brief program, crafts for the kids and lots of good

fellowship and food. Please plan to come to this special meal today at approximately 10:05 a.m.

Hopefully this will be a day to get families to fully engage in church and Sunday school once more.

The word “Rally” is defined as a renewal of energy in joint action, or to draw together for a common purpose.

UPDATE: All adult Sunday School Classes will now be meeting as one in the Fellowship Hall. Sue Coughenour will be starting an in-depth study of I & II Peter on Sunday, September 17th at 10:10 a.m. This study will give you a look at how to get the most out of your Bible reading. The apostle Peter wrote two short letters that are packed with so much that we need to hear in our culture today. Join us as we dig in and find many hidden treasures that you might miss in general reading. Please bring your Bible, a pen, and be ready to dive in. Hope to see you there!

Keystone Family Alliance

On July 16th Lydia Shaffer presented information about their successes working with Foster Parents. Consistory has designated **September** as a special offering to assist in the need of orphans and vulnerable children. Their focus is to bridge the gap between the desperate need in the child welfare system and Pennsylvania churches. If you choose to donate to this cause, please mark your offering envelopes “Keystone Alliance”.

Christmas Program

We are looking for a program director to head up the Christmas Program scheduled for 12/10/23. We can do adult/youth combined play this year with practice on 10/03/23 during Sunday School.

A message from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Sight and Sound

We have purchased the tickets and reserved the bus for the show, “The Miracle of Christmas” on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, in Lancaster, PA for the 3:00 PM show.

The cost is \$110 per adult and \$90 for child ages 3-12. This includes your admission and the cost for the bus.

If you would like to reserve a spot, please call the church office at 814-267-5014. Please note that payment will be due to reserve your ticket and seat on the bus.

It will be non-refundable unless you can find someone to attend in your place.

A Special Tribute for our active military and all living veterans has been given to us from the **Knotty Knotters**, Lutheran Church, Berlin. The Knotters will make throws for all of our active military and Veterans as a special **“thank you for your service”** to be given on Veterans Sunday. Any active military or veterans that have not given their names to Sheron, please contact Sheron Engleka at 814-267-4166.

The Berlin Brethren Church is planning to present a Christmas cantata at their church on Sunday, December 24th at the 10:30 service. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Norman or Joan Menhorn at (814) 289-3777 for more information.

Happy Cookers

Fundraisers have been done to provide a new stove for our kitchen, however we are still short of funds. If you would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

With a deadline of November 13th, we will be gearing up for our shoebox collection in September and October. We have boxes available if you would like to start or possibly start collecting now. Renee Gindlesperger will be doing a presentation on October 1st (as she is on a much-needed vacation now) but most of you know what we do. If you need further information, please contact the church office. We will have boxes available across from Fellowship Hall.

Adopt-A-Family

As a reminder, Adopt-A-Family will begin with a special collection during the month of October as well. We have been helping local families for over a decade by supporting them with essential gifts and food for the holiday season. Last year we helped 5 families make Christmas extra special by purchasing gifts for a total of 19

children. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Petro (814) 442-5124.

The holiday season is approaching and there (as usual) will be a lot going on, so stay tuned!!!

Save the date to celebrate Fae Hetrick!

Fae will be celebrating her 99th birthday on Tuesday, September 19th! We are planning an open house here at Trinity in Fellowship Hall from 1-4 p.m.

Please stop by to wish Fae a happy birthday....she'd love to see everyone! Cards are welcome but as requested, please, no gifts.

Rally Day Poem

We gather here on Rally Day
To celebrate and praise
The God who gives us life and grace
And guides us in His ways

We thank Him for the gift of faith
That grows in every heart
We thank Him for the teachers who
Help us to do our part

We join our voices in the hymns
That lift our spirits high
We join our hands in fellowship
That strengthens every tie

We pledge ourselves to serve the Lord
With all that we can give
We pledge ourselves to follow Him
In all that we may live

We pray that on this Rally Day
And every day to come
We may reflect His love and grace
And shine like His own Son

Rally Day



Have a Blessed Week!!