



Christmas Eve At Trinity
Guest Speaker – Pastor Peter Kaltenbaugh
Assisted by Cora Wright
December 24, 2023

Trinity United Church of Christ
600 Main Street
Berlin, Pennsylvania

Prelude

**Silent Night – Jayson Payne
Stille Nacht – Charles Callahan**

Welcome:

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

Announcements:

***Call to Worship**

Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

This is the night of the Holy Birth!

Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.

Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

Christ our Savior is Born! Hallelujah! AMEN.

***Hymn No. 132**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Call to Confession:

Lord of Light and Hope, our minutes and hours have been swallowed up in preparation for this night and for the coming day. We have been so caught up in the preparations for gatherings and gifting that we have pushed aside the wonder of what you have done for all Creation. Forgive us when we so easily get entangled in our own plans and forget to pay attention to the true event. Help us to relax and listen, instead of rush and shout. May the songs of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, and the joy of the Holy Family become part of our preparations and our lives. Open our ears, our eyes, our hearts and our spirits to again hear the old, old story, spoken by new voices in new ways. Remind us again of your never-changing love for us. Prepare us to serve you by serving others. This night we offer this prayer of our hearts to you, gracious God. **AMEN.**

Silent Confession:

Assurance of Forgiveness

In Christ, the Light, the Word, the Glory of God's love shines in our hearts, and we are forgiven and given strength to go forward into a new future. Let us give thanks that in Jesus, Emmanuel, God is truly with us.

Response Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

***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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: "*The Christ Candle*"

O Holy God, as we light this fifth candle, the Christ Candle, we celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light of the World. As His light shines in our hearts and homes, may we remember the true meaning of Christmas – the gift of Your love and grace. Thank You for the hope, peace, joy, and love that this Advent season has brought into our lives. We welcome the birth of Jesus with open hearts and gratitude. In His name, we pray.

Amen.

With Joy We Now Offer Our Gifts

***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**

Prayer of the Offering

Glorious God, we sing with the angels to celebrate the tremendous gift of your Son Jesus! We rejoice with gladness. You give us wonderful joy and peace in our Savior. May we exult in your goodness with the exhilaration of children opening presents. As we bring our offerings, we ask that our lives would reflect your joy and generosity.

The Trinity Bells

What Child Is This

Scripture:

Isaiah 60: 1-6

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
3 And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
4 Lift up your eyes round about, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far,
and your daughters shall be carried in the arms.
5 Then you shall see and be radiant,
your heart shall thrill and rejoice;
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,

and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Psalms 119: 105-112

105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe thy righteous ordinances.

107 I am sorely afflicted;
give me life, O Lord, according to thy word!

108 Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me thy ordinances.

109 I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget thy law.

110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from thy precepts.

111 Thy testimonies are my heritage for ever;
yea, they are the joy of my heart.

112 I incline my heart to perform thy statutes
for ever, to the end.

Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

1In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all
the world should be enrolled.

2This was the first enrollment, when Quirini-us was governor of
Syria.

3 And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth,
to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because
he was of the house and lineage of David,

5 to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her to be
delivered.

7 And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in
swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no
place for them in the inn.

8 And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping
watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

10 And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;

11 for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!”

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

16 And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child;

18 and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Trinity Bells

Angels We Have Heard on High

Sermon:

“The Light Still Shines!”

Guest Speaker- Pastor Peter Kaltenbaugh

***Candle Lighting Hymn No. 147**

Silent Night, Holy Night

***Benediction**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***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 to the World – Diane Bish

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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, Melvin & Bonnie Baughman, Donnie Baxter, Jim
Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer,
Rhonda Brown, Clinton Clark, Ray Coleman,
Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Greg Croner,
Pam Crooks, Nancy Custer, Reon Engleka, Tory Foltz, John Foor,
Nancy Gindlesperger,
Art & Marlene Gotchen, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Michael Harris
Larry Hay, Cindy McCullen-Janicki, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim
Little, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen, Bonnie Murphy,
Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, Larry Pritts, Brian Reed, James
Robb, Brett Sarver, Nancy Schrock, JoAnne Smith,
Peggy Stayrook,
Betty Strasser, Larry Tinkey, Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge,
Robin Walker, Harry Watkins, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

Extra prayers for the family of Harry Gindlesperger.

For some of us, as we enter the season of celebrating the joy in the birth and life of our Savior, we may also be feeling the pain and loss of a loved one or their illness, at the same time. Please take the time to say an extra prayer for those who might be in need.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;

for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for ever.

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 (Board), Tom Croner (Camera)

Acolytes: Cora Wright/Colten Custer

Ushers: Alissa Wright, Bob Brown

The Flowers on the altar in honor of our Lord, Christ Jesus's birthday by Sue Coughenour.

The Bulletin is given in memory of her grandparents, Dan & Anna May Weighley, and uncle, Jamie Weighley, by Craig, Amanda, Knox, and Tatum Stiffler.

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

Newly Elected Consistory Members:

Pam Bush, Jim Darr, Jean Hart, and Bill Landis

**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.

December 31 David Ackerman

January 7 Jay Shaffer

January 14 Peter Kaltenbaugh

January 21 Bill Deal

January 28 James Vander Schuur

Bolded dates indicate “Communion” Sundays.

The Sunday School study on I Peter will be put on hold for the next several weeks. Tom Calvert will be teaching instead with very interesting videos on the Holy Land which brings the Bible alive with Jewish culture and scenery. Please join Tom in the Fellowship Hall after morning Worship Service. Snacks and beverages are usually provided.

Hugs & Kisses Youth group has organized a group event to the Johnstown Tomahawks Faith and Family night on Saturday, January 27th at 7PM for anyone who is interested. They have created us a group ticket ordering link so you can order your own tickets and we will all be put in the same section together for the hockey game.

The link is <https://fervo-enterprise.com/event/trinityunitedgroup>

If you have any trouble – email Amanda Custer at amb00rn@yahoo.com and I can send you the link via email if interested. This is open to anyone from our church, friends, and family who want to attend. Tickets are \$13.12 with taxes/fees included. Also Friday, February 9th at 6:30 PM will be family game night in our church basement. This is for ALL AGES, so bring your favorite game and a snack and come join in some fun and fellowship.

Birthright of Somerset Tree

The Birthright tree has been posted in Fellowship Hall once again, just inside the door on the Vine Street entrance. It has tags on it so please take the tag, purchase the item on the tag, and return the item and the tag so that the tag can be used again next year.

The Garrett Christian Community Church Choir and Friends

will present their annual Christmas cantata, "Good News From Home" on Sunday evening, January 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at their church at 800 Walker Street in Garrett. There will be candle lighting and a time of fellowship will conclude the evening. This is the former Garrett United Methodist Church.

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

Live Streaming Options

From time to time, despite our efforts to provide you with reliable streaming services, we encounter problems. We are still investigating the reason we did have our Veterans Program live stream to Facebook. There are two other options for viewing which is our actual website at berlinucc.org or YouTube under Trinity United Church of Christ, Berlin PA.

New Year's Day Service

We will be having a 9:00 a.m. service on New Year's Eve morning.

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.

Poinsettias On the Altar

In memory of Ed & Etta Landis, and Taylor Landis by Barb and Bill Landis.

In memory of Frank and Ruth Ream by Bill, Ann and Willie Slifco.

In memory of John and Dorothy Slifco by Bill, Ann and Willie Slifco.

In memory of Frank Ream Jr. by Bill, Ann and Willie Slifco.

In memory of Marlin, Linda and Doug McClintock by Debbie Boyer.

In memory of Edna Mae Chappie (Grandma Mae) by Dave, Missy, Matthew and Kaitlyn Miller.

In memory of daughters, Joyce Custer and Jane Countryman Emerick by Don and Nancy Custer.

To the Glory of God by Bob & Carol Brown

In memory of Carl and loved ones by Karol Saylor.

In memory of my husband Tom Bush by Pam Bush.

In memory of Carl Bittner by Nancy Bittner & Family

In memory of Charles and Mary Smith, and Phillip Henry and Mary Bittner by Nancy Bittner & Family

In memory of Frank Ream Jr. by Nancy Bittner

In memory of my mother, Donna Kimmel, grandparents, Harold and Hilda Kimmel and Lloyd and Blanche Firestone by Rick Kimmel.

In memory of Laramie Grace Ickes by Kevan and Connie Ickes.

In memory of Wayne Potter and Shirley Riley by Lillian Potter.

In honor of our family, Scott, Lauren, Andy, Melissa, Ky and Kam by Mark and Lori Gindlesperger.

In honor of our wonderful friends in Berlin by Allen and Betty Strasser.

In memory of our parents, Roy and Ruth Romesberg and John Edward and Dorothy Hay, and our uncle and aunt, Bill and Evelyn Altfather, by Larry and Gale Hay.

In honor of parents and grandparents, Walter and Myra Miller by Renee, Tyler and Kaitlyn Gindlesperger.

In honor of parents and grandparents, Lloyd and Susan Miller by Kevin, Teagan and Taelyn Miller.





Have a Blessed Christmas!