



***First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023***

***Guest Speaker – Steve Dinning
Assisted by Matt Miller***

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

Prelude

**Ding Dong, Merrily on High – Mary McDonald
Gloria – Jason Payne**

Announcements

Call to Worship

Advent has come and along with it another journey in need of beginning.

We gather in hopeful anticipation of our Savior's birth.

This journey of waiting will have moments of sabbath and service.

We take a break from our busy lives to ponder and wonder.

As we seek the newborn king, worship is that which directs our search.

We seek that which has saved and will save us forevermore.

Come, let us worship and seek our savior with hope and thanksgiving!

***Hymn No. 124**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Call to Confession:

We are called to lift up our souls to God.

Often, we would prefer only to lift up the parts of our soul that we are proud of.

But it is equally important that we lift up to God our sins as well.

Let us do so together with honesty and courage.

Silent Confession:

Assurance of Forgiveness:

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us

that the days are surely coming

when God will fulfill the promise God made to us.

A righteous branch is springing up!

God shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

The Lord is our righteousness!

Friends, I proclaim to you that our sins are forgiven!

Alleluia! Amen!

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 Candle of Hope"

Gracious God, As the Advent season begins, we cry out to you.

We come to you looking for hope. When everything else we rely

on fails us, our only hope is in you. When we do not understand

what has happened, we hope in you. We can hope for better days

because we trust you. We know you and we know you are here

with us no matter what we are facing. Some of us see only

darkness this time of year. Some of us find life overwhelming.

Some of us are filled with Advent joy. Wherever we find ourselves

today, Loving God, remind us that our hope is in you. Be with us

on this journey. **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

Everlasting Father, thank you that you are the light of the world, guiding our steps on your path. Your word says that the earth is yours, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to you. We recognize everything we have belongs to you. We acknowledge that our very lives belong to you. We now offer back to you a portion of what you have given us. May God the Father prepare our journey, Jesus the Son guide our footsteps and the Holy Spirit watch over us, on every path that we follow. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

As our Lord taught us to pray: The Lord's Prayer [using debts and debtors]

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at thy presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make thy name known to thy adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at thy presence!
3 When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for,
thou camest down, the mountains quaked at thy presence.
4 From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides thee,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 Thou meetest him that joyfully works righteousness,
those that remember thee in thy ways.
Behold, thou wast angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one that calls upon thy name,
that bestirs himself to take hold of thee;
for thou hast hid thy face from us,
and hast delivered us into the hand of our iniquities.

8 Yet, O Lord, thou art our Father;
we are the clay, and thou art our potter;
we are all the work of thy hand.

9 Be not exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and remember not iniquity for ever.
Behold, consider, we are all thy people.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
thou who leadest Joseph like a flock!
Thou who art enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh!

Stir up thy might,
and come to save us!

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

4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long wilt thou be angry with thy people's prayers?

5 Thou hast fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

6 Thou dost make us the scorn of our neighbors;
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

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

17 But let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand,
the son of man whom thou hast made strong for thyself!

18 Then we will never turn back from thee;
give us life, and we will call on thy name!

19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!
let thy face shine, that we may be saved!

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of
God which was given you in Christ Jesus,

5 that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and
all knowledge—

6 even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you—

7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ;

8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel:

Mark 13:24-37

24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

30 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place.

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 “But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33 Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come.

34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

35 Watch therefore—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning—

36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

37 And what I say to you I say to all: Watch.”

***Hymn No. 123**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Sermon
Steve Dinning

Sacrament of Communion

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Communion Prayer:

God be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history. We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints and all the company of heaven, we glorify you.

p *mf* *f*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Sa - ba-oth; Heav-en and earth are

full, are full of the ma-jes-ty of Thy Glo - ry, Ho-san - na, ho -

san - na, ho-san-na in the high-est! Bless-ed is He that com-eth in the

crescendo *f*

name of the Lord, Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high-est!

We remember that on that night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.
Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup:

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! Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. **I died, and behold I am alive for evermore. Alleluia!**

Sharing the Elements:

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

The body of Christ, the living bread.

Amen!

The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

Amen!

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

Hymn No. 120

The Advent of Our God

***Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace.

***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

Festivity on “Here We Come A-Caroling – Douglas Wagner

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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, 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, 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

Additional prayers for comfort for the family of Al Knotts

The Saints In Action

TODAY- 1st Sunday of Advent and Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Worship

Congregational meeting following worship – No Sunday School

Community Bell Choir Concert

2:00 p.m.

Next Sunday – December 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 11/26/2023

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$2968.00	\$3155.58	-\$187.58
Ben	\$186.00	\$182.69	\$3.31
Maint	\$146.00	\$163.46	-\$17.46
Mem			
Total	\$3300.00	\$3501.73	-\$201.73

Benevolence includes Donations to Food Pantry of \$15 and Adopt a Family of \$125, Operation Christmas Child \$376

Worship Attendance: 59

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: Chris King (Board), Lori Gindlesperger (Camera)

Ushers: Ken Miller, Leonard Gary

Acolytes: Matt and Kaitlyn Miller

Flowers on the altar in loving memory of her parents her parents
by Judy McCullen

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

Congregational Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held today following our worship service. The agenda will include minutes from our previous meeting, budget, election of new consistory members and old/new business.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2024 are available for pickup today. Any remaining boxes will be mailed. Please help us cut postage costs by picking up your boxes or making arrangements for them to be picked up.

Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.

December 10 DeWayne Hay

December 17 Jim Vander Schuur

December 24 Peter Kaltenbaugh (Both Services)

December 31 David Ackerman

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

Sunday, December 17th- Church Christmas Play - any youth interested in participating, please contact Amanda Custer at 814-483-4283 or Kathy Spangler at 814-279-2336 ASAP. We need you! Even if just a small part or to play rainbow bells. We are planning on practicing during Sunday School (10-11AM) December 3rd and 10th with a dress rehearsal Saturday December 16th- time TBD.

Laurel Highlands Chorale

We will present our annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 10th at 3:30 p.m. and Monday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Somerset Church of the Brethren on Berlin Plank Road.

We are pleased to present “Christmas Favorites” where we hope to sing at least one of YOUR favorite Christmas songs. We are excited to have Rick Kimmel return as our accompanist and Brandon and Allyn Lambert will add their instrumental talents to the concert as well.

Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available at the door. For additional information, please contact Dorene Friedline at 814-926-3610 or 814-442-0460.

Thank you for supporting this non-profit, non-professional chorale group. We appreciate your support! God Bless

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.

Veterans Program Disks

Each veteran or those that are serving received quilts and cards at Veterans Sunday. For those that were unable to attend and/or would like a CD of the service, please contact the office and we will see that you get a copy.

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.

**A PRAYER FOR THE
First Sunday of Advent**

God of light and life,
give us hope as we wait
for your coming again.
When we are tempted
to be grateful to have found you
while others are lost,
send us out into the darkness
in search of those
who need you most.
Amen.

www.archtoronto.org



Have a Blessed Week!