



***First Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion
December 1, 2024***

***Pastor Jay Shaffer
Assisted by - Colton Custer***

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

Prelude

**Variations on “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Janet Linker
The Wexford Carol - Mark Hayes**

Announcements

Call to Worship: Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Today is the first day of Advent. Advent is the time when we become ready for the coming of the Christ Child into the world.

Advent is a time when we remember that generation after generation of women, men, and children waited for the Messiah and God’s promises were fulfilled in the birth of the baby Jesus.

Advent can be for us a time to remember that God fulfills promises, even when the wait is long. Because of God’s faithfulness, we can be hopeful, even in difficult times.

Today we light the candle of hope as a witness to our belief in God’s faithfulness, the source of our hope.

***Hymn No. 25**

Immortal, Invisible

Call to Confession

God of all people, we confess that many times we lose hope. We take our minds off of your love and become overwhelmed with our problems and worries. We think we must face all the problems of this world on our own. We forget that you have promised to walk with us at all times. Forgive us for our lack of trust and faith. Help us to look into the future with optimism instead of focusing all our attention on today. The problems of this world are fleeting but your love and grace endures forever. Amen

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Response Hymn No. 66 To God Be The Glory - Verse 1**

***The Affirmation of Faith
"The Creed of the United Church of Canada"**

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 to 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**

Offertory Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer [using debts and debtors]

Hebrew Scripture:
Jeremiah 33:14-16

14 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

Epistle:
Thessalonians 3:9-13

9 For what thanksgiving can we render to God for you, for all the joy which we feel for your sake before our God,
10 praying earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?
11 Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you;
12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all men, as we do to you,
13 so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Gospel:
Luke 21:25-36

25 “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves,
26 men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
27 And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
28 Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29 And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees;

30 as soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near.

31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all has taken place.

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

34 “But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare;

35 for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth.

36 But watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Hymn No. 123

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**Sermon
“Hope”
Jay Shaffer**

***Hymn No: 323**

Let Us Break Bread Together

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 to God.

Let us give thanks to the 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.

Holy, Holy, Holy God of Love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!

Hosanna in the highest!

Please be seated.

We remember that on the 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 the 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

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 us.

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 of 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.

***Benediction**

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

Surely the Presence of the Lord

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

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 the Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Mary Jane Harding, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor, Ruth Elaine Whitacre.

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman, Tammy Coughenour, Wilma Durst, Reon Engleka, Paul Gallick, Don Gary, Nancy Gindlesperger, Marlene Gotchen, Karen Griffith, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris, Joy Hay (Dwayne), Larry Hay, Cindy McCullen Janicki, Peter Kaltenbaugh, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen, Cathy Meyers, Joyce Miller, Laura Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, Brian Robb, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis, JoAnne Smith, Phyllis Stoy, Brooke Stutzman, Larry Tinkey, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Rick Work, Gerald Zorn

"Our Deepest Sympathy and Condolences to the family of Adeline Vieregge in her departure to our Lord last Sunday". May the Almighty God uphold you and every member of your family with his Mighty Hands

Prayer List Update

Please let the office know of the status of anyone you have placed on the Prayer List.

Prayer Calls:

If you are not receiving our one call prayer calls, please contact the office. The number that calls is an "877" number. This may appear to be spam. If your phone is blocking spam calls, this may be one reason why. If you prefer to receive the calls on your cell vs. landline we would like to know that as well.

We put out two calls this week, so if you didn't get them, please let us know.

The Saints In Action

TODAY – 1st Sunday of Advent / Holy Communion
Congregational Meeting Following Worship
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Hanging of the Greens / Brunch

Wednesday – Trinity Bell Rehearsal 6:30

Next Sunday – 2nd Sunday of Advent
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m.

Giving From 11/24/2024

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$2310.00	\$3155.58	-\$845.58
Ben	\$140.00	\$182.69	-\$42.69
Maint	\$500.00	\$163.46	\$336.54
Mem	\$250.00		
Total	\$3200.00	\$3501.73	-\$551.73

Not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$5, Operation Christmas Child of \$120, Adopt-A-Family of \$300, Camp Living Water of \$50, Berlin Fife & Drum of \$50, Knotty Knotters of \$50 and Quilters Group of \$50.

Worship Attendance: 75
Sunday School: 31

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: Ginger Fair (Sound technician) & Pam Bush

Ushers: Sheron Engleka, Julie Petro

Acolytes: Colton Custer

Organ: Ann Slifco

Flowers on the altar given in loving memory of my parents
William E. Tamblyn & Martha H. Tamblyn by Judy T. 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:

*Rus Ogburn, Vice President, 814-267-5650
Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166
Jim Darr, 814-483-0957*

Consistory Deacons:

Pam Bush, Leanna Coughenour, Tom Croner (President) 814-442-6740, Amanda Custer, Jean Hart, Gale Hay, Bill Landis, Julie Petro, Ann Slifco

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 8 Steve Dinning
December 15 Dave Creamer
December 22 Dave Creamer
December 24 Dave Creamer
December 29 Dave Creamer

Bolded dates indicate “Communion” Sundays.

Sunday School

Who is God?

A true, intimate relationship with God is not based on our own ideas about what God is like. If we really desire to know God, we must approach Him based on the knowledge of who He reveals Himself to be in His Word. Join Dr. Steven J. Lawson in this in-depth study as he articulates a biblical understanding of fifteen divine attributes and explores how a right understanding of God can affect every aspect of our lives. This 16-week adult Sunday School series will begin on December 22nd and be led by Sue Coughenour.

Sunday, December 15th- Church Christmas Play “Joy Story”

Any youth interested in participating, please contact Jean Hart at 814-267-5667 ASAP. We need you! Even if just a small part or to play the Rainbow Bells and if interested please contact Amanda Custer at 814-483-4283. We are planning on practicing during church (9-10 AM) December 8. Everyone is welcome!

Escaping Egypt - Youth Rally at Camp Living Waters Friday, December 6, 2024 - Sunday, December 8, 2024 where you will try to help the Israelites escape. Cost for the weekend is \$25. If interested, please contact the church office for more information.

Glade One-Room Schoolhouse Historic Christmas Tours

Sunday, December 15th, 6:30 pm, 7:15 pm and 8:00 pm. Parking at Unity UCC, 2074 Huckleberry Hwy, Berlin. Parking will also be available by the schoolhouse for those who need easier access.

Bring the whole family to experience the Christmas that would have been celebrated in the early 1900's hosted by the Berlin Area Historical Society! Unity UCC will have some time period activities with refreshments in the social hall between tour times. You will walk with a guide from the church to the one-room schoolhouse at the times designated above to immerse yourself in a Christmas celebration from the past with a real decorated tree, caroling, and traditions that would have taken place! There will be a fire started in the schoolhouse in the potbelly stove but be sure to dress for the weather. No registration is required for this free event! Take a step back in time and appreciate the history of this building while learning about old Christmas traditions.

Children and teens of all ages are needed to help with tours, refreshments, activities and more. Contact Dave Creamer if you are interested in helping.

Contact Leanne Calvert 814-341-0589 or Tine Hillegass 814-442-3094 with questions.

Adopt-A-Family

We will be taking up a special collection for our Adopt-A-Family Christmas project. We have been helping local families for over a decade by supporting them with essential gifts and food for the holiday season. If you would be interested in supporting this project, please make your donations to the church marking "Adopt-A-Family" on your offering envelopes. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Petro (814) 442-5124. Thanks.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held December 1st, **TODAY**. The agenda will include minutes from our previous meeting, budget, election of new consistory members and old/new business.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2025 will be available for pickup during Sunday Services on November 24, December 1 & 8. All remaining boxes will be mailed by the end of the year. Please help us cut postage costs by picking up your boxes or making arrangements for them to be picked up.

Christmas Flower Orders

If you notify the office on Tuesday of this next week, there still may be time to order your Christmas poinsettias. We may not be able to guarantee colors.

Christmas Decorating:

It's beginning to look like Christmas....everywhere you go in the church!!!!!! Thank you, Ann Slifco and her mighty elves Nancy Bittner, Jean Ann Darr, Carol Tataleba, Jeanne Hilligas and Chris King for providing a holiday atmosphere to behold. Thank you, Jim Darr, for coordination of our beloved giant Christmas Tree and to everyone who so willingly helped. We are all so, so, so, very grateful to you all.

For those who attend Sunday School following the Congregational Meeting, we will be having Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 1st during the class time. This will include a covered-dish brunch, with signup sheets at both entrances. We hope all the youth and children will come help decorate the Fellowship Hall for the Christmas season. This is always a fun event as the children love seeing all the memorable decorations made and donated over the years.

December 8th- Bethlehem Experience 2-4PM (walking tour) and 5:30-8PM (drive through tour) located in the Block Party Lot by the Firehall. Some of our own youth and church members will be performing so come and show your Christian community support!

December 14th- 5:00 PM Dress rehearsal for the children's church Christmas play. Subway subs provided, bring snack/drink or dessert to share and rehearsal will be after we eat.

December 15th- Christmas play "Joy Story" during church at 9:00 AM- if still interested in participating we are practicing during Sunday School- come join us!

Our Trinity Bells will be playing December 22nd and 24th! What a great Christmas gift to us all!

Birthright Christmas Tree

Once again, we will be sponsoring the Birthright Christmas Tree. It will be located in Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to look at it and see if there is some way you can help those in need.

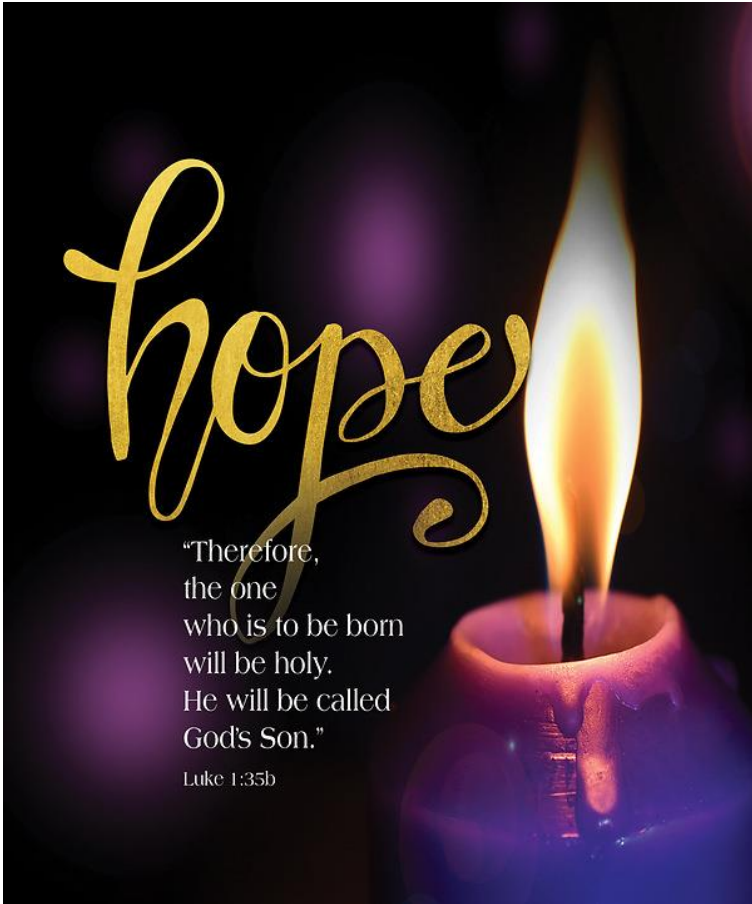
Laurel Highlands Chorale - 'Tis The Season!

The concert will be held at the Somerset Church of the Brethren, Berlin Plank Rd, on **Sunday, December 8th at 3:30 pm** and **Monday, December 9th at 7:00 pm**. Tickets are only \$5.00 and will be available at the door, or from any chorale member. Please contact Dorene Friedline at 814-926-3610 or 814-442-0460 for tickets or more information. We look forward to seeing you there!! We promise it will be a flurry of fun, favorite Christmas songs.

Hurricane Donations

The Berlin Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are seeking nonperishable food donations for holiday dinners and very gently used or brand-new toys for Christmas gifts for Hurricane Helene victims. For just a minute, put yourself in their shoes, what would make the holidays a little brighter for you? Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 8th. Donations can be placed in the donation box at the Vine Street entrance. Thank you.

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Croner President of Consistory at 814-442-6740, who will arrange for a pastor to provide comfort and assurance in a time of crisis. If you need **immediate** pastoral care, contact Dave Creamer, Student Pastor for Trinity at 814-777-2280. If Dave is not available, please contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.



Church Family, as we begin this Advent season, let's anchor our hearts in the promise of hope. From Genesis to Matthew to today, God has been faithful to keep His promises.

And as we partake in communion today, let's celebrate the gift of Jesus—the Light of the World, the Saviour of humanity, and the source of our eternal hope.