

EPIPHANYTIDE

First Sunday after Epiphany



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January 7, 2024

Guest Speaker – Pastor Jay Shaffer

Assisted by Colton Custer

Trinity United Church of Christ

600 Main Street

Berlin, Pennsylvania

Prelude

**Toccatina on “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen-
Douglas Wagner**

In the Bleak Midwinter – William Heller

Welcome

Greeting and Announcements

Morning Prayer

Hymn No. 18

“Come We That Love the Lord”

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 humbly offer our confessions.

God of all peoples and nations, we confess that we struggle to be inclusive. We claim we are all brothers and sisters in Christ but the truth is we do not live that way.

We do not like all people.

We are quick to judge those who act and live differently than we do.

We get uncomfortable around those who express their faith in ways we find inappropriate.

Lord, forgive us for thinking that we are always right and that we are your perfect people.

Help us to listen and learn from those who differ from us.

Amen.

Silent Confession:

Assurance of Forgiveness

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.

Consistory Installation

Recognition of outgoing Consistory members, Debbie Boyer, Tom Calvert, Amy Clark, and Gaye Maust.

Installation of new Consistory members, Pam Bush, Jim Darr, Jean Hart, and Bill Landis.

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

Offering Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Scripture:

Genesis 1:1-5

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

Epistle:

Acts 19:1-7

1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples.

2 And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism."

4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus."

5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

7 There were about twelve of them in all.

Gospel:

Mark 1:4-11

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey.

7 And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove;

11 and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."

***Hymn No. 249 "Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart"**

Sermon - "What's Missing"
Guest Speaker – Pastor 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 come 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 scatter, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray.

Amen.

***Benediction**

***Hymn No. 601**

"Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

***Going Forth**

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.**

**Postlude Trumpet Tune on “See Amid the Winter’s Snow”
David Lasky**

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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,
 Peggy Stayrook,
 Betty Strasser, Larry Tinkey, Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge,
 Robin Walker, Harry Watkins, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

The Saints In Action

TODAY- 1st Sunday after Epiphany / Holy Comm / Baptism of Christ

9:00 a.m. Worship
 10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Monday – 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting

Next Sunday – January 14th - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Worship
 10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 12/31/2023

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$2045.00	\$3155.58	-\$1110.58
Ben	\$266.00	\$182.69	\$83.31
Maint	\$241.00	\$163.46	\$77.54
Mem	\$25.00		\$25.00
Total	\$2577.00	\$3501.73	-\$949.73

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$10 and Birthright of \$25, Happy Cookers \$100.

Worship Attendance: 43
Sunday School: 19

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: Lori Gindlesperger / Cohen Clark (Board), Gaye Maust (Camera)

Ushers: Ann Slifco, Chris King

Acolytes: Nathan Spangler

Flowers on the altar in memory of their parents, Sherman and Anna Berkley and Chalmers and Elizabeth Means by Lewis & Barb Berkley

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, 814-267-5260

Consistory Deacons:

*Pam Bush, Leanna Coughenour, Tom Croner (President),
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.

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 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.

The Souper Bowl Competition is underway. 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.

Blood Drive, Monday, January 8th, 12:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. at Berlin Community Veteran’s Home Association of Berlin, Social Hall, 419 Meadow Street, Berlin.

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.

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 Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.



Our Blessings for A Wonderful Week Ahead