



Welcome to Worship  
Seventh Sunday  
of Easter  
Sunday after Ascension

***Seventh Sunday of Easter  
“Ascension Sunday”***

This Sunday focuses on the prayer of Jesus for his disciples to be united, just as he and the Father are one. The theme emphasizes the importance of unity and love among Christians.

***May 21, 2023***

***Guest Speaker – Bill Deal***

***Assisted By – Vesper & Truitt Ogburn***

***Trinity United Church of Christ***

***600 Main Street***

***Berlin, Pennsylvania***

## Preludes

**When in Our Music, God is Glorified**  
– Anna Laura Page  
**My Tribute – Andrae Crouch**

## Announcements

### 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

Beloved, let us worship God!

**Let us give praise to God, the one who rides upon the clouds!**  
Parent to orphans and Protector of widows,  
**God gives the desolate a home and leads the imprisoned into prosperity.**

As God led the Israelites through the wilderness and provided for them,

**we too find our dwelling in God's goodness and provision.**

The Rider in the heavens speaks throughout creation;

**We gather to listen and ascribe power to God!**

**Awesome is God in the sanctuary of creation!**

**Blessed be God! Amen.**

### Trinity Bells "Festive Rondo"

### Prayer of Confession:

**God, we confess that we rarely recognize the Holy Spirit at work, even when She smacks us in the face. Worse yet, even when we do recognize this work of the Spirit, we don't acknowledge that it is you at work in our lives and in the world.**

**This week, you sent angels to watch over us. We barely uttered our thanks. We hurried on our way. Forgive us our inattentiveness and reluctance to credit you loudly and joyously. Teach us to tell our children and our children's**

**children of your goodness. Teach us to tell our parents of your goodness. Teach us to tell even the supermarket clerk of your goodness!**

**We long to hear the good news of the resurrecting love of Christ Jesus. Still our hearts long enough for us to hear that you are with us. Amen.**

### **Silent Confession**

#### **Assurance of Forgiveness:**

Hear these comforting words:

If you repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy, your sins are forgiven. Trust in God's promises and begin anew your life with God and all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.

#### **\*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 Dedication:**

God of wisdom and guidance, steer us, we pray, through our anxious times. The gifts we bring this day are a small part of all we have received. We push back our inclination to be more generous because of our anxiety about the economy. We hold back on sharing our faith and advocating for compassion and justice out of anxiety about the division in our world and in our neighborhood. We hold back on inviting neighbors to church out of anxiety about how they might view the church right now. Remind us that it is Jesus we offer to the world, not us. Help us to cast the anxiety on Jesus, for the one the tomb could not hold can carry our anxiety with ease. In the name of Jesus, who broke the hold of death once and for all. Amen.

#### **The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)**

## **Scripture:**

### **Acts 1: 6-14**

**6** So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

**7** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority.

**8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

**9** And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

**10** And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

**11** and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

**12** Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away;

**13** and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

**14** All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

## **Epistle**

### **1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11**

**12** Beloved do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you.

**13** But rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

**14** If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

**6** Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you.

**7** Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you.

**8** Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world.

**10** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you.

**11** To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Gospel**

### **John 17: 1-11**

**1** When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee,

**2** since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him.

**3** And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

**4** I glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do;

**5** and now, Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made.

**6** "I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word.

**7** Now they know that everything that thou hast given me is from thee;

**8** for I have given them the words which thou gavest me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from thee; and they have believed that thou didst send me.

**9** I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine;

**10** all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and I am glorified in them.

**11** And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

**Trinity Bells**  
**“Praise to the Lord Almighty”**

**Sermon**  
**Guest Speaker – Bill Deal**

**Trinity Bells**  
**“An American Medley”**

**Benediction**

Easter people, God has done great things for you! Go, now, carrying the story of God’s work in your lives that in all things, good and difficult, you can ask with confidence, “How will God show up now?” knowing all the while that God will, indeed, take all our caring and point us toward joy. Amen.

**\*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     Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing – Paul Manz**

**+++++**



**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, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Terry Coslic, Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Larry Custer, Ann Darrow, Elizabeth Deal, Monica Downard, John Durst, Medodie Glessner, Art & Marlene Gotchen, Mary Jane Harding, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Larry Hay, Faye Hetrick, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Larry McCullen Jim McKenzie, Bonnie Murphy, Harold Pritts, James Robb, Lois Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Tracey Smith, Peggy Stayrook, Kelly Tharp, Larry Tinkey, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

**Thank You:**

Pastor Art Gotjen wants to extend his “**Thank You**” to everyone for all the cards and well wishes he received during the last several months. He is overwhelmed by the kindness our church has shown to him.

**The Saints In Action**

TODAY –Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 Sunday School (Fellowship Hall Only)

Next Sunday – Pentecost Sunday, Holy Communion  
 9:00 a.m. Worship  
 10:10 a.m. Sunday School (Fellowship Hall Only)

**Giving From 05/14/23**

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
<b>General</b>	\$2143.00	\$3155.58	-\$1012.58
<b>Ben</b>	\$396.00	\$182.69	\$213.31
<b>Maint</b>	\$186.00	\$163.46	\$22.54
<b>Mem</b>	0.00		
<b>Total</b>	\$2725.00	\$3501.73	-\$776.73

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$40 and Knotty Knotters of \$95.

**Important Note:** Please be sure to make donations for Knotty Knotters directly through TUCC in order to receive donation credit.

**Worship Attendance: 70**  
**Sunday School: 27**

***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)

**Ushers:** Alissa Wright, John Wisler

**Acolytes:** Vesper and Truitt Ogburn

**The Flowers on the altar** in memory of my grandparents, Virgil & Harriet Vaughn by Alissa Wright

### ***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](mailto:berlinucc@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.berlinucc.org](http://www.berlinucc.org)

**The Parsonage Conference Room Sunday School Class will be following this schedule in Fellowship Hall:**

**April 23-July 9: Culture Shock:** A 12-part video series by Chip Ingram. Where do you stand on the issues of Truth, Abortion, The Environment, Sex, Homosexuality, Churches, and Politics? More importantly what does God say? More than ever before, believers must develop convictions based on research, reason, and biblical truth. It's equally important that believers are able (and willing) to communicate these convictions with the love and respect that reflects God's own heart. This study will help you to respond with love, even in the face of controversy. In the process, you'll discover the power of bringing light – not heat – to the core issues at the heart of society today. **Because there is a lot of interest in this class, we will be joining Tom Calvert's class in the Fellowship Hall and holding class there.**

This class is open to adults of **ALL AGES** and is led by Sue Coughenour. *Come join us!*

**Sunday School for Nursery Through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Only:**

There will be no Sunday School for the Summer for the Nursery through 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes only. Sunday School will resume on Rally Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. All other classes will continue to meet in the Social Room for the program of Culture Shock.

**Annual Conference Meeting:**

The Annual Conference will be held at California University of Pennsylvania on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Trinity UCC is entitled to three lay delegates and one youth delegate. If anyone is interested in representing our church at this meeting as a delegate, please let the church office know. Registration forms will need to be filled out and sent in no later than May 31, 2023. Tom Croner is attending this meeting and will be going both days. If you would like a ride, please let Tom Croner know. The cost of the conference will be paid by the church.

**Graduation Sunday:**

Please notify the church office about anyone graduating from High School, Trade School, or College for Graduation Sunday, tentatively, Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Search Committee:**

Next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

### **Hugs & Kisses:**

**Corn Hole Tournament – Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00** parking lot behind church, unless rain then will be in the basement. H&K Youth will provide grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and those attending can bring side dishes. Come join us and have fun- you can play or just bring a lawn chair and enjoy as a spectator. There will be a prize for the winner! **Please sign up at the side entrance so we know how much meat to prepare.**

**Save the date – VBS will be the week of June 19-23<sup>rd</sup>.** We need helpers as well as children to attend in order for us to continue to have VBS at our church as it is a lot of work for those who do the planning. So, kids invite your friends, grandparents invite your grandchildren etc. to save the date. More details to come later.

Next **H&K Planning Meeting – Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30** please come as we really need helpers to plan events and make them successful!

**Living Waters Camp** is offering various camps for June & July for all age groups. Please contact the Church Office for more details.

**The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** is trying to form teams for softball over the summer. It would be for all ages. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

**The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** VBS is June 26 – June 30, 2023.

### **Berlin Community Day:**

Mark your Calendars for **Saturday, July 22, 2023**, 9 am – 4 pm for Berlin Annual Community Day. We are coordinating our annual “Main Street” event with The Ice Cream Station’s “Christmas in July”. So far, we have Bluegrass/Gospel music, a Silent Auction, food vendors, a Kids Korner, and much more. If you are

interested in helping feel free to join us at our next meeting, Monday, May 22 at 1 pm at the Cup of Soul Café. Please contact Tracey Koontz, Vendor Coordinator, 814-442-9821 to sign up. **A portion of our proceeds will be donated to a local charity!**

**Berlin Boy Scouts** will have their traditional Memorial Day chicken BBQ at the Community Grove from 11:00 – 1:00. Complete chicken dinners or halves only will be available to eat in or carry out. Your support is appreciated. Halves - \$8  
Dinners - \$12

### **Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.**

May 21	Bill Deal
May 28	Pastor Jay Shaffer
June 4	Steve Dinning
June 11	Reverend James Vanderschurr
June 18	Bill Deal
June 25	Reverend James Vanderschurr

A huge thank you to all of our pulpit supply participants and to Tom Croner and Rus Ogburn for reaching out to these wonderful people.

**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.

Donations are needed for the Knotty Knotters at the Lutheran Church. The Knotters supply prayer shawls, Izzy dolls, dish clothes, walker catties, chemo hats, baby hats, and throws for adults, children, babies, and veterans. In 2022 they gave away over 350 covers alone. It takes many hands to do the above work from many denominations. There are several members from our

church that are very active with many hours of their time to spread the love of God to others. Any donations of money or material are used for the above projects. Please mark your donations for Knotty Knotters.

**Important Note:** Please be sure to make donations for Knotty Knotters directly through TUCC in order to receive donation credit.

**Ascension Day** occurred on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. The observance of the Solemnity of the Ascension is moved to the following **Sunday**, superseding the 7th Sunday of Easter. In case you don't have your bible handy, here is a review of those events.

The Ascension of Jesus is described in the first chapter of Acts in the Bible. It is the ascent of Christ from Earth to the Heavenly realm, which takes place 40 days after the resurrection in the presence of his disciples. As he ascends, a cloud obscures him from their view, and two men in white arrive to tell them that he will return "in the same way you have seen him go into heaven". In Christian doctrine, the ascension is correlated with the deification of Jesus, meaning that through his ascension, Jesus took his seat at the right hand of God.

**1** In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,

**2** until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

**3** To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God.

**4** And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me,

**5** for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

**6** So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

**7** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority.

**8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

**9** And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

**10** And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

**11** and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

**12** Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away;

**13** and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

**14** All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

**15** In those days Peter stood up among the brethren (the company of persons was in all about a hundred and twenty), and said,

**16** "Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David, concerning Judas who was guide to those who arrested Jesus.

**17** For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.

**18** (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

**19** And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

**20** For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his habitation become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it'; and

'His office let another take.'

**21** So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

**22** beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.”

**23** And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

**24** And they prayed and said, “Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two thou hast chosen

**25** to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place.”

**26** And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was enrolled with the eleven apostles.



Dear Lord, we pray for a good week this week. More than that, we pray for a blessed week. May we be a blessing to each person we encounter each day. And may we receive your blessing through others as well. We pray that we might see your loving hand at work throughout this week.

*Blessings To You All*