

The image shows three wooden crosses of varying heights silhouetted against a dramatic sunset sky. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, with the sun low on the horizon. The crosses are positioned on a grassy hill. The text "GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

**GOOD FRIDAY  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**

***April 3, 2026  
Trinity United Church of Christ  
600 Main Street  
Berlin, Pennsylvania***

***Pastor Dave Creamer  
Pastor Tammy Horner  
Pastor Bob Keplinger  
Pastor Tom Sprowls  
Pastor Brian Cershner  
Pastor Johnathan Dickey***

***“Please silence your cell phone”***

## **Preludes**

**Prelude on “Neumark” – Robert Graham**

**Ah, Holy Jesus – Franklin Ritter**

## **Welcome**

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

## **Opening Prayer and Call to Worship:**

Palms have been Placed; Hosanna has been shouted.

**Reeds have blown in the wind, our voices quieted by disbelief.**

The temple has been cleaned, made ready for a sacrifice.

**The house of prayer is silent, Christs lament for Jerusalem fills our ears.**

The last supper is complete, Christ the servant, Christ the king, betrayed.

**Christ must bear the cross, He will carry the sins of the world, may we worship again our Lord!**

## **Let us Pray:**

**Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before you. We gather tonight at the foot of the cross. Unworthy of the gift you have placed upon it, of the sacrifice your Son made for us. We are grateful for your mercy. Reassure us with your Spirit that we may accept the love and grace that your Son gives to us. Help us always to know, that we do all things in Jesus Name.**

**Amen**

**Hymn No. 188**

**At the Cross**

## **A Liturgy of the Word:**

**Matthew 26: 47-56 The Betrayal of Christ**

**Pastor Tammy Horner, Beach Dale Church of the Brethren**

**47** While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.

**48** Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him.”

**49** And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Hail, Master!” And he kissed him.

**50** Jesus said to him, “Friend, why are you here?” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

**51** And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

**52** Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

**53** Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

**54** But how then should the scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

**55** At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me.

**56** But all this has taken place, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples forsook him and fled.

## **Matthew 26:59-68 The Trial of Christ**

**Pastor Brian Cershner, Three Seasons Church**

**59** Now the chief priests and the whole council sought false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,

**60** but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward

**61** and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.’ ”

**62** And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”

**63** But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

**64** Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

**65** Then the high priest tore his robes, and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy.

**66** What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death."  
**67** Then they spat in his face, and struck him; and some slapped him,  
**68** saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

**Matthew 27:11-26 Christ Condemned**  
**Pastor Bob Keplinger, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

**11** Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so."

**12** But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer.

**13** Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?"

**14** But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly.

**15** Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted.

**16** And they had then a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas.

**17** So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?"

**18** For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.

**19** Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream."

**20** Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

**21** The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."

**22** Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified."

**23** And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified."

**24** So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

25 And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

26 Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

**Matthew 27:45-54 The Crucifixion of Christ**  
**Pastor Tom Sprowls, Berlin Brethren Church**

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabach-thani?" that is, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

47 And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "This man is calling Elijah."

48 And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink.

49 But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

50 And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split;

52 the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,

53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

**Message**  
**"Who Carries the Cross Now"**  
**Pastor Dave Creamer**

**The Meditation of the Cross, Prayers of the People, Receiving the Offering**

Behold the Cross on which hung the salvation of the world.  
**Come, let us worship the Christ, the child of God.**

**Let us Pray**

**Hymn No. 178**

**O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

**\*Benediction and Closing Prayer**

**Pastor Johnathan Dickey, Three Seasons Church  
Numbers 6:24-26**

**24** “The Lord bless you and keep you:

**25** The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:

**26** The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

**\*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**

**Crucifixus – Fred Binckes**

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## **Assisting in Worship**

**Sound:** Pam Bush, Cohen Clark

**Ushers:** Bob Brown, Ken Miller

**Acolyte / Lector:** Cohen Clark

**Organ:** Rick Kimmel

***The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by***

*Dave Creamer, Pastor*

*Church Secretary: Pam Bush, Jean Ann Darr*

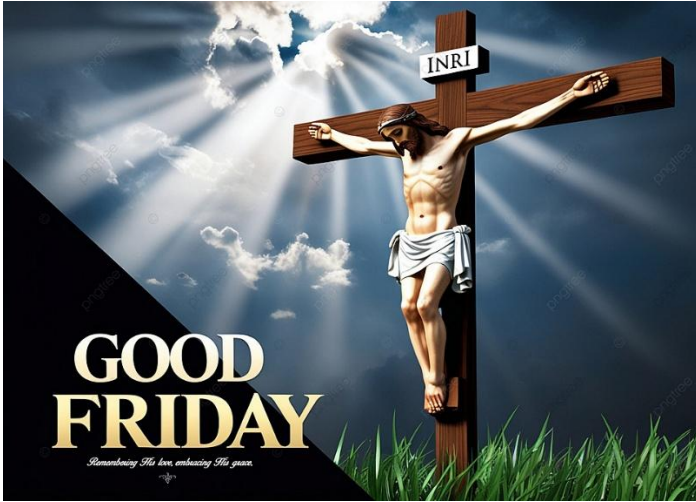
*Financial Secretary: Renee Gindlesperger*

*Chancel Choir Director Emeritus: Linda Gallick*

*Handbells: Jeanne Hillegas*

*Organist: Rick Kimmel*

**Help Celebrate Our Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday** by joining the community musical presentation of "I Love America" which will be presented on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at **Trinity United Church of Christ in Berlin**. Rehearsal will be held **Sunday afternoons from 2 PM – 3:30 PM** beginning **Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. If interested, please let Norman Menhorn know by emailing: [normanmenhorn@gmail.com](mailto:normanmenhorn@gmail.com) or phone 814-267-4073 or 233-6307. If leaving a message, please give me the following information~ name, email or phone number and what part you will be singing. Thank you!



Heavenly Father,

On this solemn day, we gather as one community, united in gratitude and reverence. We remember the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who bore the weight of our sins with love beyond measure.

We pray for hearts that are humble, for faith that is steadfast, and for compassion that reaches beyond our walls. May the cross remind us of the depth of Your mercy and the hope that rises even in the shadow of sorrow.

Bless our neighbors, near and far. Heal the broken, comfort the grieving, and guide the lost. Let our words and actions reflect the light of Christ, so that our community may be a living testimony of His love.

As we leave this place, may we carry the spirit of Good Friday into every moment—serving, forgiving, and loving as Christ has loved us.

In His holy name we pray,

**Amen.**