



***First Sunday after Christmas  
New Year's Eve Morning Service  
December 31, 2023  
Guest Speaker – Rev David Ackerman  
Assisted by Lily Countryman***

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

**Prelude**

**We Three Kings – Diane Bish**

**'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime – John Peterson**

**Welcome**

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

**Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

**Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!**

**Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

**Praise the LORD!**

**Hymn No. 161**

**Our Day of Joy Is Here Again**

### **Call to Confession**

**Merciful God, in this Christmas season, we confess that we have sinned against you. You have come to us as a child, a babe born in Bethlehem, and yet we have doubted and denied your presence among us. We have not loved your or our neighbors as we should, and we have not trusted that you have indeed come to deliver us. Have mercy on us, God. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may live in the newness of life that you give us at Christmastime and always. Amen.**

### **Silent Confession:**

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

**Eternal God, who can make all things new, we humbly bring before you the record of our lives in the year now ending. Where life has been good to us, we give you thanks and praise. Where we have been good to others, may our reward be your smiling face. Where we have fallen short of your good pleasure, forgive us and free us from our sinful past.**

#### **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:**

**“United Church of Christ Statement of Faith”**

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify: He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.**

**He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.**

**He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.**

**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**

### **Offering Prayer**

God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale when our minds try to grasp all we have been given in this season: wholeness in our woundedness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. Like Simeon, our eyes have seen your salvation, and you give us light in our darkness. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give ourselves to others. In our Savior's holy name, we pray. **Amen.**

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

**Children's Message**

**"The Christ Candle"**

**Scripture:**

**Isaiah 61: 10 62:3**

**10** I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my soul shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
**3** You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Gospel:**

**Luke 2: 22-40**

**22** And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord  
**23** (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")  
**24** and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."  
**25** Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.  
**26** And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.  
**27** And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law,  
**28** he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,  
**29** "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word;  
**30** for mine eyes have seen thy salvation  
**31** which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
**32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to thy people Israel."  
**33** And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him;  
**34** and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against  
**35** (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also),

that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.”

**36** And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanu-el, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity,

**37** and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

**38** And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**39** And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.

**40** And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**\*Hymn No. 52 Verses 1,2,3,6 O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

**Sermon - “Witnesses to Jesus”  
Guest Speaker – Rev David Ackerman**

**Morning Prayer**

**Hymn No. 118 Of the Father’s Love Begotten**

**\*Benediction**

Let us depart in peace, and in love and charity with our neighbors. May we be joined together in the common goal of service to our God and our Country. Let us drive safely and carefully to our homes, and may God’s blessing be with us all.

**Amen**

**\*Response – Sung with Dismissal**

**\*Going Forth**

**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.**

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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 Christmas/ New Year's Eve Morning  
9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Trinity Bell Practice – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

Next Sunday – January 7 - First Sunday after Epiphany  
The Baptism of Christ

Installation of New Consistory and Recognition of the Outgoing  
Consistory

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

### Giving From 12/24/2023

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
<b>General</b>	\$5288.00	\$3155.58	\$2132.42
<b>Ben</b>	\$531.00	\$182.69	\$348.31
<b>Maint</b>	\$386.00	\$163.46	\$222.54
<b>Mem</b>	\$90.00		\$90.00
<b>Total</b>	\$6295.00	\$3501.73	\$2793.27

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$1065 and Birthright of \$50.

**Worship Attendance Morning: 87**  
**Worship Attendance Evening: 136**  
**Sunday School: 14**



**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:** John Wisler, Gaye Maust

**Acolytes:** Lily Countryman

**Flowers on the altar in memory** of his father, Poss , and his mother, Ruth by Dale Gindlesperger.

***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*

**Newly Elected Consistory Members:**

*Pam Bush, Jim Darr, Jean Hart, and Bill Landis*

**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)

**Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.**

**January 7**      **Jay Shaffer**  
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.

**Thank You** from Larry Pritts for all the prayers, cards, and concerns during his surgery. He is doing well, and rehab is going very well.

**On behalf of the Berlin Food Pantry**, thank you for your financial support. This donation will assist in helping those who struggle to make ends meet within the greater Berlin and Shanksville School District. May God continue to share these blessings.

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** would like to thank Trinity for the donation that will help tremendously in the continuing mission work of the Holy Trinity Knotty Knotters.

**Hugs & Kisses** Youth group has organized a group event to the Johnstown Tomahawks Faith and Family night on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7PM for anyone who is interested. They have created us 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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Garrett Christian Community Church Choir and Friends** will present their annual Christmas cantata, “Good News From Home” on Sunday evening, January 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at their church at 800 Walker Street in Garrett. There will be candle lighting and a time of fellowship will conclude the evening. This is the former Garrett United Methodist Church.

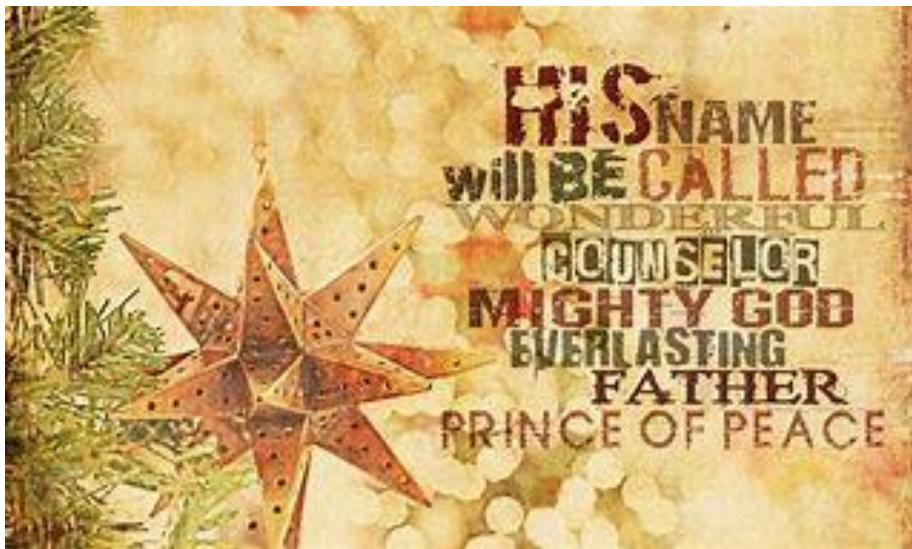
**The Souper Bowl Competition** is fast approaching. There will be two winners again this year, so we will have to be on our game and regain our #1 spot. The four quarters of the competition will be the four Sundays in January and the two Sundays in February before the actual Superbowl. If making monetary donations, please mark your envelope “**Souper Bowl**” and make your check payable to Trinity UCC.

**Blood Drive**, Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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.



Have A Blessed Week!