



***Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024
Guest Speaker – Dave Creamer
Assisted by Cohen Clark***

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

Preludes

O Church Arise – Jason Payne

The Power of the Cross with When I Survey the Wonderous Cross – Jason Payne

Welcome

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

Greeting and Announcements

Call To Worship

Psalm 107, 1-3 and 19-22.

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever!

2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble

3 and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;

20 he sent forth his word, and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.

21 Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to the sons of men!

22 And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

Hymn No. 4

“How Great Thou Art”

Call to Confession

Joining together in confession unites us together. Side by side we are one faith. All seeking the Love, Peace, and Grace that knowing Jesus in our hearts brings.

Confession

O Sovereign God, we confess that we have allowed so many things to come between us and the Gospel. We lose sight of the light of Christ. We do not listen to your voice calling us to be Faithful. We lose our nerve when faced with the challenges of this

world. As you forgive us again dear Lord lift the veil that blinds us, clear our minds so we can know your will, strengthen us and our Faith, and bless us with the peace that Jesus brings.

Silent Confession:

Assurance of Forgiveness

By simply believing that Jesus lived and died for us we are saved. Renewed in Faith with a strengthened resolve we are forgiven. Listening to the still small voice of God and following the light of Jesus we go forward. Amen!

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.**

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

Heavenly Father we humble our selves before you, a blessed and grateful people. Amazed by your gifts, the talents you give us, and the things we can share with other. We are thankful. Heavenly Father we lift up to you all those on our prayer list. Those people and places that weigh heavy on our heart. We pray for your mercy, salvation, and healing. Heavenly Father we pray for our world, filled with chaos and suffering, we pray that you bring us understanding, justice and peace. God, we ask you to bless us with the presence of your spirt helping us to be fruitful in our work, loving and compassionate in our deeds. Heavenly Father in this our Lenten season we are grateful for your Son. His sacrifice on the cross brings us saving Grace and hope. His prayer to you our shining guide.

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Scripture:

Numbers 21:4-9

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient on the way.

5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food."

6 Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

7 And the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

8 And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live."

9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole; and if a serpent bit any man, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Epistle:
Ephesians 2:1-10

- 1** And you he made alive, when you were dead through the trespasses and sins
2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.
3 Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind, and so we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us,
5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
6 and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7 that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—
9 not because of works, lest any man should boast.
10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Gospel:
John 3: 14-21

- 14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up,
15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”
16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
17 For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.
18 He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.

***Hymn No. 92 “Love Devine, All Loves Excelling”**

Sermon – Guest Speaker Dave Creamer

**“As Easy as Looking Up When Poisonous Snakes are All
Around Your Feet.”**

***Hymn No. 185 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

***Benediction**

***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.

Going Forth

Postlude

How Firm A Foundation – Jayson Payne

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Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor.

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Melvin Baughman Family, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Kathy Blough, Jessica Borosky Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman, Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Nancy Custer, Reon Engleka, Tory Foltz, John Foor, Nancy Gindlesperger, Cheryl Glessner, Art & Marlene Gotchen, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Michael Harris, Larry Hay, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Joyce Miller, Bonnie Murphy, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Peggy Stayrook, Betty Strasser, William Tamblin, Larry Tinkey, Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

The Saints In Action

TODAY- 4th Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Monday – 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting

Wednesday – 6:30 Trinity Bell Practice

Saturday – 6:00 p.m. Youth Overnight “Lock In”

Next Sunday – 5th Sunday in Lent
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 03/03/2024

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$3017.25	\$3155.58	-\$138.33
Ben	\$226.00	\$182.69	\$43.31
Maint	\$311.00	\$163.46	\$147.54
Mem	\$80.00		\$80.00
Total	\$3634.25	\$3501.73	\$52.52

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$40

The Memorials included \$50 to the Memorial Music Fund and \$30 to the Memorial Fund

Worship Attendance: 87

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

Hearing Amplifiers

Recycling Boxes for Bulletins

These Days – Devotional

Assisting in Worship

Sound: Colton Custer (Board), Russ Hillegas (Camera)

Ushers: Ann Slifco, Chris King

Acolytes: Cohen Clark

Flowers on the altar in memory of her parents, Virgil and Harriet Vaughn by Bob and Colleen Glotfelty

The Bulletin is in recognition of the ongoing military service of 1st Lieutenant Jacob K. Janicki, U.S. Army Fort Polk by Jacob's parents, Ken & Cindy Janicki and grandparents, Larry & Judy 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, 814-267-5260

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.

March 17 Jay Shaffer

March 24 Bill Deal

March 31 Jay Shaffer (Easter)

Bolded dates indicate “Communion” Sundays.

No Sunday School on Easter Sunday

Sunday School

Join us, as we are currently involved, in a 10-week study on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah. This is a video series by Ray Vander Laan that takes us into the Holy Land and brings Scripture alive as we delve into the historical and cultural lives of that day. If you think you know that story of Easter, think again! Ray has a unique way of bringing new light to stories we have long treasured. So, if you have been thinking about joining Sunday School this is a great time to begin. Each session is its own lesson, and you can begin or give it a try at any point in these sessions. Sue Coughenour will be leading the class in the fellowship hall following the morning worship service. We always have good fellowship and discussion.

Our Annual Church Picnic is in need of someone to coordinate this event. If you would like to see this tradition continue, please consider stepping up to be in charge of making the arrangements. Our Hugs and Kisses are already doing a lot for our church, so perhaps we can find a more "senior" person to handle this. Please contact Kathy Spangler if you have questions or are interested.

Holy Trinity will present a Lenten drama "The Power of Lent" beginning Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 7:00 PM and continuing through March 20, 2024. Maundy Thursday service will be on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Hugs & Kisses

Saturday, March 16th 6:00 PM- Youth Overnight "Lock-In"- Many fun activities are being planned to include, dinner, baking cookies, games, Bible Bingo, assembling shut-in baskets for Easter and a movie. So bring your sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, and church clothes for Sunday morning. We will then be waking up, eating breakfast, and attending church together. Only adults with clearances will be allowed to stay overnight with the children. Any younger children who want to come participate in activities and not stay overnight is ok too. We plan on having our homemade cookies packaged and available for the congregation after church-donations will be accepted.

Easter Flowers:

Please note that Easter is March 31, a full week earlier than last year. Enclosed in this issue of the newsletter, please find the order form for your Easter flowers. We would like to get the orders in as soon as possible in order to provide the information to the florist in a timely manner. We have a variety of choices so please include your phone number in the event the office has any questions. The forms are also available in the church near the Daily Devotionals.

UPMC Family Hospice, formerly In Touch Hospice, will be holding a spring Grief Support Group beginning March 20 at our Somerset location, 314 S. Kimberly Avenue (Back Entrance of Hillman). The group is free and will run for 6 weeks. Please join us to share your feelings with others, who are grieving a loved one's death.

Baby Grand Piano

Betty Strausser is looking for a baby grand piano. If you or anyone you know has one for sale, please contact Betty at 814-267-2598.

Blood Drive

Berlin Community Veteran's Home, Monday March 18th, 12:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday Community "Cross" Walk

March 29th 6:00 p.m.

Beginning at the Berlin Community Building Lot and Ending at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Participants are invited to take a turn carrying the cross. Be sure to dress appropriately for walking and the weather.

There are several stops scheduled followed by a Community Good Friday Service at Trinity Lutheran Church. You may join at any point in the walk. It is suggested that you park at the Brethren Church parking lot as the community building may be full due to the fish fry at the Veteran's Home. A flyer is posted at the Vine Street entrance with complete information. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

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.



Too often, too easily, our eyes are drawn down, God,
to the suffering of victims and the pain of perpetrators,
to the wounds we inflict on others
and the wounds we inflict on ourselves.

We need to see these things and pray,
But we also need our eyes to be lifted, God,
to the signs of your life among us,
to the touch of your healing on our souls,
to the cross that casts its liberating shadow
across all human affairs.

We need our eyes to be lifted, God, so our hearts may be filled
with faith and hope and love.

Amen.

Our Blessings for A Wonderful Week Ahead