



2nd Sunday after Christmas

***January 4, 2026  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Christmas  
Holy Communion  
Pastor Dave Creamer  
Assisted By Cora & Lucy Wright***

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

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

## **Prelude:**

**We Three Kings – Diane Bish  
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime – John Peterson**

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: Based on the 147<sup>th</sup> Psalm, Praise for a new year.**

Bring praise to our God, Prayers to our Savior.

**God fortifies us and blesses our families.**

God grants us peace; he cares for our worries.

**God knows our needs, he sees his children.**

Snow will come and go, cold will not last, this Earth will sustain.

**God's word moves through the land, his voice a comfort, His will sustains.**

## **Hymn No. 60**

## **Morning Has Broken**

## **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 ask for the forgiveness we need.

## **Confession:**

**Have mercy on us, God our father, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, fill us with your holy Spirit, restore in us the joy of your salvation, and strengthen in us a willing spirit to serve.**

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon:**

We are justified by our Faith; we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ we have obtained Grace, in hope of sharing the Glory of God. For that we give God the Glory.

**\*Response 66 Verse 1**

**To God Be The Glory**

### **\*The 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.**

### **\*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**

### **Offertory Prayer**

Heavenly Father we come before you with our gifts. Our time, talents and resources, all things you have blessed us with. We pray that you use these things to further your will. That our humble gifts may be a blessing to others. We pray for our world. For the things we do not understand. We ask that you care for it as only you can. We pray that in this new year that your Blessings of protection and care are with our military and their families. That the first responders are safe as they do their jobs in the snow and

dark. We pray for our prayer list. We ask that your healing presence is with the people that are shut in and lonely. That you help the long days of winter pass by with comfort and warmth. We pray for the care givers. Help them as they watch over those that need care. Strengthen them with patience and kindness. Bless our lands and homes with your spirit. Help us in this new year to know your will. To do all the things we do for your Glory. You have given us so much. The gift of your Son, the Lamb of God, we are most grateful for. We offer to you the prayer he first gave to us.

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

#### **The Hebrew Scripture is from Isaiah Chapter 60, vs 1-6**

**1** Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**2** For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

**3** And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**4** Lift up your eyes round about, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far,  
and your daughters shall be carried in the arms.

**5** Then you shall see and be radiant,  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice;  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

**6** A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

#### **The epistle lesson is from**

#### **The letter of Paul to the Ephesians Chapter 1, vs 3-14**

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in  
the heavenly places,

**4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.  
**5** He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,  
**6** to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.  
**7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace  
**8** which he lavished upon us.  
**9** For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ  
**10** as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.  
**11** In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will,  
**12** we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory.  
**13** In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,  
**14** which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

### **The Gospel of Jesus Christ from The Book of Mathew Chapter 2, vs 1-12**

**1** Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,  
**2** "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him."  
**3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;  
**4** and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

**5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

**6** 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.' "

**7** Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared;

**8** and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

**9** When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.

**10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy;

**11** and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

**12** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**Hymn No. 141**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**Sermon**

**"A Journey"**

**Pastor Dave Creamer**

**\*Hymn No. 323**

**Let Us Break Bread Together**

**Sacrament of Communion**

## **\*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.

## **The Body**

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave 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."

## **The Blood**

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.”

### **\*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.**

**Hymn No. 162**

**The Birthday of a King**

### **\*Benediction**

### **\*Response – Sung with Dismissal**

**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**

**Trumpet Tune on “March of the Kings”  
Gordon Young**

**+ + + + +**





### **Those Remembered in prayer:**

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

### **Shut Ins:**

Mary Jane Harding, Cynthia Kelly, Debbi Luteri,  
Lillian Potter, Lois Saylor

### **Healing Concerns:**

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Brad Bowers,  
Paige Boyer, Chris Brant, Rhonda Brown,  
Ray Coleman, Susan Constantino, Tammy Coughenour,  
Eric Custer, Tracy Dickey, Wilma Durst, Linda Gallick, Jeff Gavel,  
Nancy Gindlesperger, Marlene Gotchen, Dennis Griffith,  
Karen Griffith, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris,  
Joy Hay (Dwayne), Kris Hay, Larry Hay, Marilyn Heiple,  
Gary Hillegas, Barry Landis, Brenda Leister, Richard Lilliston,  
Jim Little, Blair and Phylis Lyons, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen,  
Joyce Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul,  
Kathy Picking, Easton Pritts, Brian Robb, James Robb,  
Brett Sarver, Karol Saylor, Tammie Saylor, Donna Schmuker,  
Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis, Missy Shaulis, Phyllis Stoy,  
Dawn Edmiston-Strasser, Ron Tamblyn, Larry Tinkey,  
Patsy and Dave Titus, Barbara and Peter Usher,  
Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley,  
Echo Kincaid Yoder, Gerald Zorn

### **The Saints In Action**

Today- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Monday – 11:30 a.m. Trinity Ladies

Tuesday – 6:30 p.m. Hugs & Kisses Planning Meeting

Next Sunday – Baptism of Christ  
9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

### **Giving From 12/28-30/2025**

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
<b>General</b>	\$3872.00	\$3155.58	\$716.42
<b>Ben</b>	\$350.00	\$182.69	\$167.31
<b>Maint</b>	\$385.00	\$163.46	\$221.54
<b>Mem</b>	\$240.00		
<b>Total</b>	\$4847.00	\$3501.73	\$1105.27

Not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$110, Operation Christmas Child of \$250.

**Worship Attendance: 61**  
**Sunday School: 22**

### ***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:** Chris King, Lori Gindlesperger

**Ushers:** Pam Bush, Allen Strasser

**Acolytes:** Cora & Lucy Wright

**Organ:** Ann Slifco

**Flowers on the altar are in memory of** Barb Berkley and in remembrance of her birthday January 3rd

**Special flowers on the altar are presented to** Pastor Dave Creamer and his family on this special occasion of his First Anniversary as our Pastor

**Bulletin** is also in recognition of Pastor Dave Creamer becoming Trinity's Pastor

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

*Dave Creamer, Student Pastor  
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:***

*Sheron Engleka, 814-267-4166  
Jim Darr, 814-483-0957  
Allison Zimmerman, 814-267-4324*

***Consistory Deacons:***

*Pam Bush, Tom Croner (President) 814-442-6740, Amanda Custer, Lori Gindlesperger, Jean Hart, Jeanne Hillegas, Bill Landis, Julie Petro, Allen Strasser*

***Your newly elected elder and deacons for 2026 are Elder Sue Coughenour and Deacons Carrie Croner, Shawn Hart, and Amy Saylor***

***"Recognition of outgoing and installation of incoming members scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>"***

***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)

## **Sunday School**

Sunday, January 4th, the Adult Sunday School will begin a new in-depth study on the Book of Romans. Romans is known as the Apostle Paul's most powerful letter with the blueprint of the Christian faith. It explains God's message of grace, justification, salvation, and transformation through Christ. If reading Scripture is hard for you to understand, this is a good class to attend. A clear, chapter-by-chapter journey through Romans made easy to understand. Come join us at 10:10 am in the church Fellowship Hall. Class led by Sue Coughenour.

## **Hugs & Kisses**

Hugs and Kisses planning meeting Tuesday, January 6th at 6:30pm in the church basement. Please come with ideas for service projects and fun events for our youth and church families for 2026. Hope to see you there!

## **Church Cookbook Fundraiser**

Years ago, our church members put together a cookbook that many people still use today. There is nothing better than tried and true recipes. Although it is in the early stages of planning, please consider submitting your favorite recipes to add to a new book. We have a lot of GREAT cooks out there so please share. Be sure to put your name on your recipe and any hints you may have in its preparation. You can put it in the offering plate, through the office door slot, hand it to a staff member or simply leave it on the sound board desk. Some of you have also been emailing your recipes! The baking is over, but the cooking isn't!!!! This should be lots of fun! Thank you to those who have submitted.....keep them coming!

## **Trinity Ladies**

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Cup of Soul. Please remember if school is cancelled, (snow day or virtual day), we will not meet. Have a joyous Christmas. Hope to see you in January!

## **Blood Drive**

Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Berlin Community Veterans Home Social Hall, 419 Meadow St., Berlin. Sponsored by the Berlin Lions Club and Berlin Veterans Home.

### **Trinity Trumpet**

We will be publishing the newsletter this week. Once again, we encourage your participation with any information you would like to share. There are a lot of wonderful things that happened this past year as well as some that weren't so wonderful. Praise, thank you, thoughts and prayers are always appreciated. Committees, if you could please send in recaps of your past year as well as future plans it would be wonderful to share with our entire congregation.

### **Church Pictorials**

Included in the newsletter will be labels for those who have already picked up your pictorial. The labels are to be placed on the last page of members. All additional copies of the pictorials are in the church office if you would like to purchase additional copies. If you didn't order yours, there is still time to have a beautifully done piece of history of our church for years to come.

**You are a generous congregation. You really made a difference to so many people during the holiday season. Bless you all.**

### **Thank You From Berlin Brothersvalley School District**

Thank you so much for all who helped provide gifts to our BBSD families in need this Christmas. Your kindness continues to be such a blessing in our community and we appreciate your support.

### **Thank You From The Somerset County Mobile Food Bank**

Dear Trinity United Church of Christ,  
Thank you so much for your recent donation to the Somerset County Mobile Food Bank. This donation blessed many families in our county with the gift of food this holiday season.

### **Thank You From The Children's Aid Home**

Kind hearts are the gardens. Kind thought are the roots. Kind words are the blossoms. Kind deed are the fruits. The Children's Aid Home Staff and Students thank you for the pan of green beans. It certainly helped to round out a few of our meals.

**Pastoral Care:** For those in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Dave Creamer at 814-777-2280. If Dave is not available, please contact Tom Croner at 814-442-6740. If neither is available, contact Pam Bush at 541-990-0832.

## **Sermon Notes (And thoughts for the upcoming newsletter)**



### **Prayer for the Second Sunday after Christmas**

Gracious and Eternal God,  
In these days of lingering light after Christmas,  
we give thanks for the gift of Your Son,  
the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.  
You have called us out of darkness into Your marvelous light.  
Shine in our hearts, that we may reflect Your love  
in our words, our actions, and our care for one another.  
As we step into a new year,  
renew our hope, strengthen our faith,  
and guide our steps in the way of peace.  
May Your Spirit fill us with joy that cannot fade,  
and courage that will not falter,  
until all creation knows the fullness of Your grace.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Light and our Life, we pray.  
**Amen.**

**Thank You for Joining Us  
Have a Blessed Week Ahead**