



***Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023***

***Guest Speaker – Dwayne Hay
Assisted by Cohen Clark***

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

Prelude

**Sing We Now of Christmas – Diane Bush
The Wexford Carol – Mark Hayes**

Announcements

Call to Worship

The day of God is coming; lift up your voices. Cry out with the strength God provides.

We await God's coming day with anticipation. We seek the peace and patience God provides.

Comfort, comfort my people, says our God. Speak tenderly to my suffering people.

We will prepare the way for the One who is coming. We look forward to baptism in the Spirit.

***Hymn No. 285**

In Christ There Is No East or West

Invocation

Call to Confession:

God of Glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our massive self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our everyday lives. We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect. Pardon us Lord and change us we pray. Amen

Silent Confession:

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

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 from Romans (NIV)**

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (8:1) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose. (8:28) We are sure that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (8:38-39)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: “The Candle of Peace”

Father, this second week of Advent, keep us in perfect peace as our mind is stayed on the truth of your powerful love. Thank you for your mighty, sovereign hand. Help us to trust fully in you and rest in the peace that you offer. It's in the precious name of Jesus we pray. 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

Prayer of the Offering

While we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking, O God, to act as faithful followers. May our offerings extend the promise of salvation to people whose lives are broken by neglect, abuse, bad choices, and sinful ways. May these gifts offer hope to all whose suffering and loss seem too heavy to bear. May our church be a listening, caring presence for all its members, and through us for all those we meet in our work and leisure. In the name of our Lord Christ Jesus we pray...(Lord's Prayer using debts and debtors).

Scripture: Psalm 85

1 Lord, thou wast favorable to thy land;
thou didst restore the fortunes of Jacob.

2 Thou didst forgive the iniquity of thy people;
thou didst pardon all their sin.

Selah

3 Thou didst withdraw all thy wrath;
thou didst turn from thy hot anger.

4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away thy indignation toward us!

5 Wilt thou be angry with us for ever?
Wilt thou prolong thy anger to all generations?

6 Wilt thou not revive us again,
that thy people may rejoice in thee?

7 Show us thy steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us thy salvation.

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his saints, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

12 Yea, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness will go before him,
and make his footsteps a way.

Isaiah 40:1-11

1 Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

6 A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people is grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

9 Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

10 Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,
“Behold, I send my messenger before thy face,
who shall prepare thy way;

3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight—”

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey.

7 And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

***Hymn No. 237**

We Shall Behold Him

Sermon – "The Truth Shall Make You Odd"

Dwayne Hay

***Hymn No. 458**

Gentle Shepherd

***Benediction**

Send us forth to become to peace we wish to see in this world

And as we go,

May Steadfast love and faithfulness meet

May Righteousness and peace embrace

May Faithfulness spring up from the ground

And May righteousness look down from the sky.

Amen.

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen

*Going Forth

Postlude

The First Noel – Mary McDonald

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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,
Nancy Gindesperger,
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, JoAnne Smith,
Peggy Stayrook,
Betty Strasser, Larry Tinkey, Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge,
Robin Walker, Harry Watkins, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

The Saints In Action

TODAY- 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Monday – 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting

Tuesday – 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bell Rehearsal

Saturday – 9:00 a.m. Youth Play Practice

Next Sunday – December 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship & Childrens Christmas Play

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 12/03/2023

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$3535.00	\$3155.58	\$379.42
Ben	\$339.00	\$182.69	\$156.31
Maint	\$456.00	\$163.46	\$292.54
Mem	\$30.00		\$30.00
Total	\$4360.00	\$3501.73	\$858.27

Benevolence includes Donations to Food Pantry of \$115 and Adopt a Family of \$75, Operation Christmas Child \$285

Worship Attendance: 93

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: Jim Darr (Board), Russ Hillegas (Camera)

Ushers: Ken Miller, Leonard Gary

Acolytes: Maelyn Fochtman, Cohen Clark

Flowers on the altar in honor of Bob and Mike Chappie by Dave, Missy, Matthew, and Kaitlyn Miller.

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

Website: www.berlinucc.org

Changes to upcoming Supply Minister assignments.

December 17 Jim Vander Schuur

December 24 Peter Kaltenbaugh (Both Services)

December 31 David Ackerman

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.

Hugs & Kisses

Sunday, December 17th- Church Christmas Play - any youth interested in participating, please contact Amanda Custer at 814-483-4283 or Kathy Spangler at 814-279-2336 ASAP. We need you! Even if just a small part or to play rainbow bells. We are planning on practicing during Sunday School (10-11AM) December 3rd and 10th with a dress rehearsal Saturday December 16th- time TBD.

Laurel Highlands Chorale

We will present our annual Christmas concert starts **TODAY**, Sunday, December 10th at 3:30 p.m. and Monday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Somerset Church of the Brethren on Berlin Plank Road.

We are pleased to present "Christmas Favorites" where we hope to sing at least one of **YOUR** favorite Christmas songs. We are excited to have Rick Kimmel return as our accompanist and Brandon and Allyn Lambert will add their instrumental talents to the concert as well.

Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available at the door. For additional information, please contact Dorene Friedline at 814-926-3610 or 814-442-0460.

Thank you for supporting this non-profit, non-professional chorale group. We appreciate your support! God Bless

Birthright of Somerset Tree

The Birthright tree has been posted in Fellowship Hall once again, just inside the door on the Vine Street entrance. It has tags on it so please take the tag, purchase the item on the tag, and return the item and the tag so that the tag can be used again next year.

Thank You Trinity: The family of Al Knotts would like to thank the Trinity UCC church family for all the prayers, cards, and visits to his viewing and service. The family appreciated all of the

beautiful decorations in the church. Also thank you to the church ladies (and gentleman) for serving the delicious meal after his service. All of this was very much appreciated.

Thank you, Church Family

We are truly appreciative to each and every person who worked so hard behind the scenes to provide the Veterans Sunday Service. Special thanks for the beautiful throws provided to each of our loved ones. All aspects are emotional as we think about the many sacrifices of military men and woman and their families, which included so many members of this congregation. The kindhearted concerns and caring that you all have expressed for us, for one another, and for all others, is remarkable. Thank you!
Larry & Judy McCullen

A Handbell Concert Thank You!!!!

A huge thank you to the incredible handbell choirs from Trinity UCC, Holy Trinity Lutheran, and the Berlin Brethren Church for an amazing concert!!! What an absolute pleasure it was for all of us. If you would like to view the concert again, go to our website at berlinucc.org to view the entire concert. If you would like a dvd copy of the concert, please contact the UCC church office.

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 or YouTube under Trinity United Church of Christ, Berlin PA.

Pastoral Care: For those in need of pastoral care please contact Tom Calvert, President of Consistory at 814-267-3771, 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!