



Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 1, 2023

Guest Speaker – Steve Dinning

Assisted By – Colton Custer & Cora Wright

Trinity United Church of Christ

600 Main Street

Berlin, Pennsylvania

Preludes

How Deep the Father's Love for Us Beneath the Cross ~Jayson Payne~

Announcements

Welcome

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, the Lord of glory, Jesus Christ, sends his greeting to you. And his greeting is this: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the working of the Holy Spirit. This is the greeting of Christ, who arose from the grave.

He died and rose that we might have eternal life. All thanks be to him!

This same Christ has ascended to the Father. He ascended that we might experience God's presence and power.

All praise be to him!

Opening Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the gift of another day, another Sunday, to come before you and lift our voices in praise. We pray that this service will bring glory and honor to your name.

***Hymn No. 262**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Call to Confession:

Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's grace.

Prayer of Confession:

We have promised to live as your people, God.

Yet, we confess that we fail you and one another.

We do not honor one another as we should.

As the body of Christ, we are often disjointed and clumsy.

We do not work together as one to your glory.

We refuse your cry for help in the voices of the poor and hungry.

**We have not been faithful to the trust you have placed in us.
Merciful God,
Receive us as we are and forgive us.
Encourage us with your love that we may commit ourselves
anew to live as those who belong to you;
through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us!
God has promised: "I will not keep silent, and I will not rest
until the vindication of my beloved people
shines out like the dawn and their salvation like a burning torch.
My people shall no more be termed 'forsaken'
and their land shall no more be termed 'desolate.'"
We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new
name: "My delight is in them."

**Thank you, God for delighting in us even now,
for forgiving us our slow action, our silence, and our
weariness, for empowering our work
and inviting us once again
to create with you the Beloved Community you long for.**

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God who is love and who has given the to all
people.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free
us from all forms of oppression.**

**We believe in the spirit of God, who works in and through all
who turned towards the truth.**

**We believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at
the service of all people.**

**We believe in God's promise to finally destroy the power of sin
in us all, and to establish the kingdom of justice and peace of
all humankind.**

**We believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all people, in
the power of non-violence.**

We believe that all men and women are equally human, that order based on violence and in justice is not order.

We believe in the beauty of simplicity, in love with open hands, in peace on earth.

We dare to believe, always in in spite of everything, in God's power to transform and transfigure, fulfilling God's promise of a new heaven and a new earth were justice and peace will flourish.

In joy, we now offer our gifts to God.

***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

Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. Blessed be God forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Exodus 17:1-7

1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink.

2 Therefore the people found fault with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you find fault with me? Why do you put the Lord to the proof?"

3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people murmured against Moses, and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?"

4 So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

5 And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand the rod with which you struck the Nile, and go.

6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the faultfinding of the children of Israel, and because they put the Lord to the proof by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Philippians 2:1-13

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

3 Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves.

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

13 for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21:23-32

23 And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

24 Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you a question; and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things.

25 The baptism of John, whence was it? From heaven or from men?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’

26 But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are afraid of the multitude; for all hold that John was a prophet.”

27 So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

28 “What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’

29 And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he repented and went.

30 And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go.

31 Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.

***Hymn No. 90**

In the Name of the Lord

Sermon

Guest Speaker: Steve Dinning

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Communion Prayer:

God be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to 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:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Sa - ba-oth; Heav-en and earth are

full, are full of the ma-jes-ty of Thy Glo - ry, Ho-san - na, ho -

san - na, ho-san-na in the high-est! Bless-ed is He that com-eth in the

name of the Lord, Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho-san - na in the high-est!

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

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.

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup:

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Resurrection Acclamation:

Alleluia! Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one.
I died, and behold I am alive for evermore. Alleluia!

Sharing the Elements:

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

The body of Christ, the living bread.

Amen!

The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

Amen!

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 scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

***Hymn No. 601 Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing**

***Benediction**

The grace of God, deeper than our imagination;
the strength of Christ, stronger than our need;
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
richer than our togetherness;
guide us and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows.
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

Postlude The Happy Trumpeter – Gordon Young

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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, Bill Arandt, Melvin & Bonnie Baughman, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Clinton Clark, Ray Coleman, Terry Coslic, Jim Coughenour, Tammy Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Nancy Custer, John Durst, Reon Engleka, Sheron Engleka, Art & Marlene Gotchen, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Larry Hay, Fae Hetrick, Cindy McCullen-Janicki, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Larry McCullen, Bonnie Murphy, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Lois Saylor, Nancy Schrock, JoAnne Smith, Mark Stahl, Peggy Stayrook, Larry Tinkey, Paul Trulick, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Harry Watkins, Nancy Weighley, Gerald Zorn

The Saints In Action

TODAY –18th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 Sunday School – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday – 6:30 p.m. Budget Meeting

Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bells

Next Sunday – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School (Fellowship Hall Only)

Giving From 09/24/23

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$3284.00	\$3155.58	\$128.42
Ben	\$90.00	\$182.69	-\$92.69
Maint	\$335.00	\$163.46	\$171.54
Mem	\$0.00		\$0.00
Total	\$3709.00	\$3501.73	\$207.27

Also not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$20, and Operation Christmas Child of \$100, Adopt a Family of \$100 and Keystone Family Alliance of \$90

Worship Attendance: 81
Sunday School: 24

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 (Board), Lori Gindlesperger (Camera)

Ushers: Leonard Gary, Julie Petro

Acolyte: Cora Wright / Colton Custer

The Flowers on the altar are in memory Charles and Mary Esther Smith, by Nancy Bittner & Family

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.

October 8 Dwayne Hay
October 15 James Vander Schuur
October 22 Peter Kaltendbaugh
October 29 Dottie Grew

Bolded dates indicate “Communion” Sundays.

Attention All Deacons:

The budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend.

UPDATE: All adult Sunday School Classes will now be meeting as one in the Fellowship Hall. Sue Coughenour will be starting an in-depth study of I & II Peter. This study will give you a look at how to get the most out of your Bible reading. The apostle Peter wrote two short letters that are packed with so much that we need to hear in our culture today. Join us as we dig in and find many hidden treasures that you might miss in general reading. Please bring your Bible, a pen, and be ready to dive in. Hope to see you there!

Christmas Program

We are looking for a program director to head up the Christmas Program scheduled for 12/10/23. We can do adult/youth combined play this year with practice on 12/03/23 during Sunday School.

**A message from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Sight and Sound**

We have purchased the tickets and reserved the bus for the show, “The Miracle of Christmas” on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, in Lancaster, PA for the 3:00 PM show.

The cost is \$110 per adult and \$90 for child ages 3-12. This includes your admission and the cost for the bus.

If you would like to reserve a spot, please call the church office at 814-267-5014. Please note that payment will be due to reserve your ticket and seat on the bus. It will be non-refundable unless you can find someone to attend in your place.

Community Life (Living Independence for the Elderly)

Is hosting an afternoon of Patsy Cline and Polka Music at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (1845 N Center St., Somerset). October 13th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Patsy Cline songs from Cathi Rhodes as well as Polka music from the Button Box Club Polka Band. Light refreshments, no cost to attend. Please RSVP to 412-229-5505 by October 10th to reserve your seat.

A Special Tribute for our active military and all living veterans has been given to us from the **Knotty Knotters**, Lutheran Church, Berlin. The Knotters will make throws for all of our active military and Veterans as a special **“thank you for your service”** to be given on Veterans Sunday. Any active military or veterans that have not given their names to Sheron, please contact Sheron Engleka at 814-267-4166.

The Berlin Brethren Church is planning to present a Christmas cantata at their church on Sunday, December 24th at the 10:30 service. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Norman or Joan Menhorn at (814) 289-3777 for more information.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

With a deadline of November 13th, we will be gearing up for our shoebox collection in September and October. We have boxes available if you would like to start or possibly start collecting now. Renee Gindlesperger will be doing a presentation today, but most of you know what we do. If you need further information, please contact Renee or the church office. We will have boxes available across from Fellowship Hall.

Adopt-A-Family

As a reminder, Adopt-A-Family will begin with a special collection during the month of October. We have been helping local families for over a decade by supporting them with essential gifts and food

for the holiday season. Last year we helped 5 families make Christmas extra special by purchasing gifts for a total of 19 children. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Petro (814) 442-5124.

Update on Harry Watkins

Jane has informed us that Harry continues to have setbacks, most recently a possible reaction to medication that left him incoherent for a few days. He continues to have some breathing issues and will be undergoing another cat scan on his head. Please continue to keep Harry (and Jane) in your prayers as they continue to work toward healing. Remember their address is 218 Indigo Ln, Somerset PA 15530. Knowing that we are all thinking about them with a card would be welcomed.

Update on Lew & Barb Berkley

Michelle Romesburg has updated us with Lew and Barb Berkley's status.

"Mom is becoming more fragile. She doesn't eat much and is unable to gain weight. She has some issues that we are unable and unskilled at handling. So, while we are pursuing hospice for some skilled support at home, and we know we are on this journey, I want folks to also know that she is still having some very good days. We have lovingly put this in God's hands and are blessed to have my parents at home together. They've had some very touching moments together. I will certainly provide updates as things change, which they will over time."

Thank you from Fae Hetrick's daughter Barb.

Words cannot express the gratitude I have for Trinity UCC Church and the ladies of the church. They went above and beyond to make my Mom's birthday so special! After asking to use the fellowship hall for the birthday celebration with maybe some snacks and cake, they took over. Food prep, decorations, cake....they did it all. And it was fabulous! I can't begin to mention names because I would be upset if I missed anyone. Thank you to each and every one that helped in any way. Also, thanks for all the cards, visits, and birthday wishes from her church family and beyond! My Mom, I and our family appreciated it so much. Mom loves her church family. They are the best!

Blessings for the New Week

May your week
ahead be filled with:

Blessings of
Good Health,
Strength,
Friendship,
Kindness,
Compassion
and Love.



Motivational Quotes & Videos

May God bless you
and your loved ones
and keep you safe.

**Thank you for joining us in worship today.
We are happy to see you!**