

***First Sunday After Christmas
December 29, 2024***

***Student Pastor – Dave Creamer
Assisted by - Cohen Clark***

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

Prelude

We Three Kings - Diane Bish
Pastorale on "The Angel Gabriel" - Dick Sanderman

Announcements

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord from the Heavens, praise Him in the heights.

Praise the Lord!

Praise Him all his Angels, praise Him all his hosts!

Praise the Lord!

Praise Him Sun and Moon, Praise Him all the shining stars.

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord!

***Hymn No. 8**

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty

Call to Confession

Seeking forgiveness is not always about feeling lost and alone. Sometimes we hide those emotions under confidence and defiance. Let us look to God for the Peace his Love brings.

Confession

Heavenly Father, we call out to you. Forgive us of our sins. Replace the things we do that get in between us with meaningful emotions, actions, and plans. Help us to serve you better. Help us to do your will. Guide us into the new year, clearly seeing the things that matter.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

As surely as time moves forward into the New Year, God's forgiveness for us is here, ready for us, given. If we want to clearly see the things that matter, then we only need to ask for his help to do so.

**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 humble ourselves before you. Sharing our gifts, we offer to you a part of the abundance you have given us. We pray your will is done and the people and places that need these offerings receive them. We pray for our world, a place we don't understand, bring it peace as only you can. We pray for our community that its faith in you is strong and that we serve each other. We pray for our homes that you make them places filled with your Spirit, helping us to grow and be a fruitful people. We pray for your Church, help us to carry it with us to make it part of all we do. Heavenly Father we pray for those on our prayer list. The people on our hearts and minds. Please bring your healing presence to them. Let your Amazing Grace be with all those who

don't think they need it. Strengthen the care givers. Help them find the strength, love, and compassion to be what people need them to be.

Bless us all with your Spirit, your steady presence. Help us to be more than we think we can be. We thank you heavenly Father for Jesus. His sacrifice for us our redeeming Grace. We offer to you the Prayer He taught to us.

Our Lord's Prayer [using debts and debtors]

Special Music - Allen Strasser

Scripture:

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

18 Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy girded with a linen ephod.

19 And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you children by this woman for the loan which she lent to the LORD"; so then they would return to their home.

26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with men.

Epistle:

Colossians 3:12-17

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience,

13 forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel:

Luke 2: 41-52

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom;

43 and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,

44 but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances;

45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions;

47 and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously."

49 And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

50 And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them.

51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

Hymn No. 133

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Sermon
“Kids Do the Darndest Things”
Dave Creamer

Hymn No. 47

God Will Take Care of You

***Benediction**

***Response – Sung with Dismissal**

Surely the Presence of the Lord

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Going Forth

Postlude

Toccata on “Adeste Fidelis” - David Hegarty

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Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for the Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Mary Jane Harding, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Debbi Luteri, Lois Saylor, Ruth Elaine Whitacre.

Healing Concerns:

Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Paige Boyer, Father Elijah Bremer, Rhonda Brown, Ray Coleman, Tammy Coughenour, Wilma Durst, Reon Engleka, Paul Gallick, Nancy Gindlesperger, Marlene Gotchen, Karen Griffith, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Joe Harris, Michael Harris, Joy Hay (Dwayne), Larry Hay, Cindy McCullen Janicki, Peter Kaltenbaugh, Barry Landis, Brenda & Larry Leister, Jim Little, Judy McCullen, Larry McCullen, Cathy Meyers, Joyce Miller, Laura Miller, Robert "Lee" Miller, Carl (Edison) Paul, Kathy Picking, Brian Robb, James Robb, Brett Sarver, Tammie Saylor, Nancy Schrock, Curt Shaulis, JoAnne Smith, Phyllis Stoy, Brooke Stutzman, Larry Tinkey, Robin Walker, Nancy Weighley, Rick Work, Allison Zimmerman, Gerald Zorn

Prayer List Update

Please let the office know of the status of anyone you have placed on the Prayer List.

Prayer Calls:

If you are not receiving our one call prayer calls, please contact the office. The number that calls is an "877" number. This may appear to be spam. If your phone is blocking spam calls, this may be one reason why. If you prefer to receive the calls on your cell vs. landline, we would like to know that as well.

The Saints In Action

TODAY – 1st Sunday After Christmas
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Next Sunday – 2nd Sunday after Christmas
 9:00 a.m. Worship
 10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 12/22/24

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$4337.00	\$3155.58	\$1181.42
Ben	\$180.00	\$182.69	-\$2.69
Maint	\$1260.00	\$163.46	\$1096.54
Mem	.00		.00
Total	\$5777.00	\$3501.73	\$2275.27

Not included in Benevolence were Donations to Food Pantry of \$160

Worship Attendance December 22: 89
Worship Attendance Christmas Eve: 80

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 & Jim Darr

Ushers: Deb Boyer, Jean Hart

Acolytes: Cohen Clark

Organ: Amanda Custer

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:

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

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

Sunday School

Who is God?

A true, intimate relationship with God is not based on our own ideas about what God is like. If we really desire to know God, we must approach Him based on the knowledge of who He reveals Himself to be in His Word. Join Dr. Steven J. Lawson in this in-depth study as he articulates a biblical understanding of fifteen divine attributes and explores how a right understanding of God

can affect every aspect of our lives. This 16-week adult Sunday School series will begin on December 22nd and be led by Sue Coughenour.

Birthright Christmas Tree

Once again, we will be sponsoring the Birthright Christmas Tree. It will be located in Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to look at it and see if there is some way you can help those in need.

The Souper Bowl Competition is underway. There will be two winners again this year, so we will have to be on our game and regain our #1 spot as we lost it last year. The four quarters of the competition will be the four Sundays in January and the two Sundays in February before the actual Super Bowl. If making monetary donations, please mark your envelope "Souper Bowl" and make your check payable to Trinity UCC.

Meals on Wheels of Somerset County needs volunteers to deliver meals in Berlin and the surrounding area on Mondays. If you would be interested and want more information, contact Meals on Wheels at 814-443-2787 or Rose Shaffer, Berlin driver coordinator, at 814-267-5310.

Hugs & Kisses

Sunday, January 12th - 6:00 p.m. Game Night. Bring your favorite family board games and a snack/drink to share. This is for ALL ages so come join in on the fun!

Trinity Bells

After providing us with a couple of simply wonderful performances, Trinity Bells will take a small break and resume rehearsals on January 29th. Thank you all, you are truly a blessing.

Join Holy Trinity for a Chili Cook Off!

And stay for an afternoon of Board Game Fun! We're looking for some great cooks to share with us your favorite chili recipe. (Other soups will be available). January 19th, after 10:40 a.m. service. Bring your own games to enjoy! Free Will offering for the

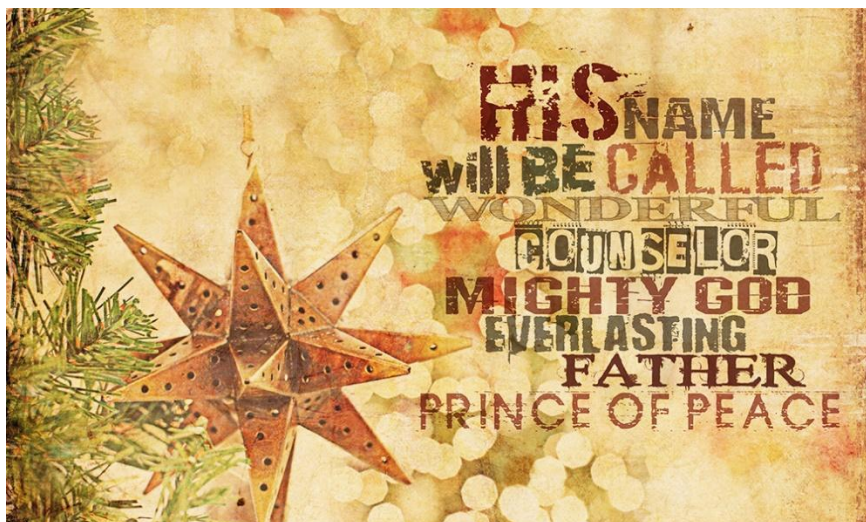
“Souper” Bowl Food Pantry. To sign up to be a chef or for more information, contact Lacey at 814-233-8195.

Garrett Christian Community Church Choir and Friends will present their annual Christmas cantata, “Mary Did You Know?” on Sunday evening, January 5, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at their church at 800 Walker St., Garrett. There will be candle lighting and a time of fellowship will conclude the evening.

Sight and Sound - Noah

There are 11 tickets available for the Trip to Sight and Sound. The date is June 26th, 2025. The current price is Adults \$184 and children 12 and younger \$132. Final Price will be less after a fundraiser in January. Cost includes the bus, dinner, and the show. If you are interested in attending contact Vanessa Gardner, vgard59@gmail.com, reach out on Unity UCC’s FaceBook, or talk to Pastor Dave (cell 814-777-2280)

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 Dave Creamer, Student Pastor for Trinity at 814-777-2280. If Dave is not available, please contact Jay Shaffer at 814-483-0398.



Almighty one, we thank You for the birth of Your Son that has given us hope and prosperity. As we look forward to the coming year we pray that You keep and protect us all. We pray that we will always delight in the Lord and that You will grant us the desires of our hearts. We pray for Your continual blessings from this day forward (first Sunday after Christmas) and that You will continue to direct our paths as we look to You for guidance, Amen.