



March 12, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Shadow of Betrayal

Betrayal is a common human experience. When we are betrayed, we most frequently experience anguish and confusion, just like the disciples. Jesus has experienced betrayal and can uphold us in our time of need. More than that, by identifying our betrayals with those of Christ, we can more readily trust that God will ultimately work for good following such experiences.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Ms. Karen Karosas, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

**WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICE THEME:
THE SHADOWS OF THE CROSS**

Every Wednesday we will focus on a particular event in Christ's journey to the cross. The shadow of the cross looms over every interaction, to give spiritual insight. Tonight, we focus on the shadow of betrayal. Jesus accepted his betrayal as part of God's ultimate plan for salvation, and in doing so, showed how faith in Jesus can transform the betrayals we experience in our lives.

Why no alleluias or hymns of praise during Lent? You may have noticed that the hymn of praise following the assurance of forgiveness is missing from our worship. We join other churches in omitting alleluias, glorias, and other hymns of praise as we turn again to our Lenten journey of exile and repentance. We long for the eschatological New Jerusalem "...the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:26). We walk in darkness awaiting the city of God where... "there will be no more night; the servants of God need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5). Until then, we travel with our Lord Jesus into the desert to face the devil, we join him in his triumphant procession into Jerusalem, we pray with him in the garden of Gethsemane, and we follow him to the painful cross and to the cold dark tomb. We trust that our journey with Christ does not end there. On Easter we once again join the praises of the choirs of heaven: "The Lord is risen; the Kingdom has come; our joy is complete; and, in concert with the angels and saints, we greet the risen Lord with shouts of 'Alleluia!'"

(http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No_Alleluia.htm).

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God.

Tonight we welcome the Rev. J. Kenneth Trauger, a member of our congregation, as our guest preacher. Rev. Trauger is a graduate of Ursinus College and Lancaster Theological Seminary. The Seminary Alumni/ae Council recently honored Rev. Trauger with the Robert V. Moss Award for Faithfulness in Specialized Ministry. Ken currently serves on our Evangelism Committee. He has served the following ministries:

2004-2006: Interim Executive Director, Lancaster County Council of Churches

1977-2004: Chaplain, Conestoga View

1977-1982: Community Center Director, Salvation Army

1974-1976: Associate Pastor, First Reformed U.C.C., Lancaster

1971-1974: Pastor, Zion-Immanuel U.C.C., Clarington, OH

1962-1971: United Church Board for World Ministries appointments of Rural Evangelism & Lay Training, Honduras

BY YOUR SILENCE OTHERS MAY HEAR THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF GOD!

CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:

--Share God's love with our community

--Serve God's children

--Bring healing and wholeness to those in need

--Share the Gospel in liturgy, music, and study

PRELUDE

Prelude on *St. Flavian*

Flor Peeters

(Please use the prelude as a quiet time to begin worship)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND LENTEN VERSICLES

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross.

Despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

O Jesus, we adore Thee,
upon the cross, our King.

Let us pray together.

We gather to worship, O God, under the shadow of the cross, sign of human shame and divine wisdom. Help us by your grace to follow faithfully in your ways so that we may live to you and die to you. We are your people; we belong to you. Therefore, we offer you our worship and our lives. May your name be glorified in your church as we are open to your presence this night! In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Now the Day is Over

#56

CONFESSION OF SIN

CALL TO CONFESSION

In Jesus Christ, God came among us to save us from sin and death. In walking to the cross, Christ freed us from the bondage of guilt and judgment. We come before God now, seeking grace freely given to us.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LITANY PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal,
have mercy on us.

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND CHORAL AMEN

God's love is shown to us in that while we still were sinners, Christ died for us. In the name and for the sake of Christ, I say to you: All your sins are forgiven. In the waters of baptism you were joined with Christ, reborn as children of God, and anointed with the Holy Spirit. You are free to live as God's people in the world.

Amen. *(sung)*

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE EVENING COLLECT

Let us pray together.

Blessed Lord, you speak to us through the Holy Scriptures. Grant that we may hear, read, respect, learn, and make them our own in such a way that the enduring benefit and comfort of the Word will help us grasp and hold the blessed hope of everlasting life, given to us through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

HOLY SCRIPTURES

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 24:14

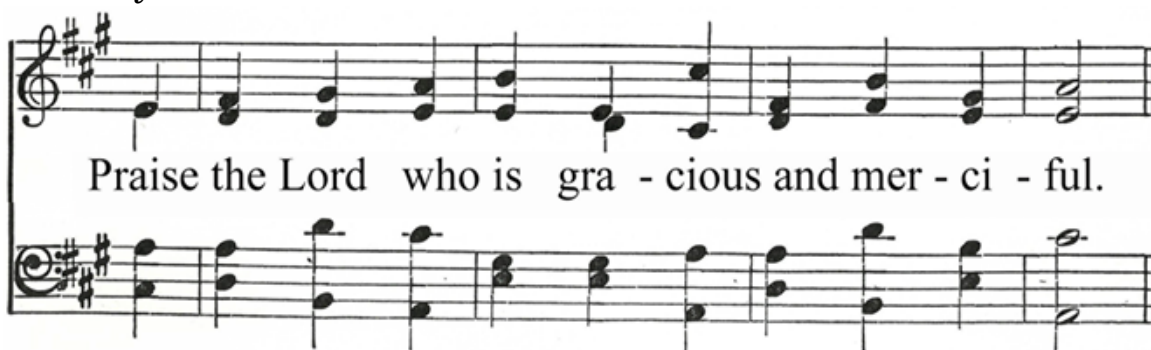
Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress; let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into human hands."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 103: 6-10

Refrain (Words by Pastor Rankin)



The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Repeat refrain

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2: 3-7

All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Mark 14: 17-28

Glory be to You, O Lord. (spoken)

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ. (spoken)

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

Rev. Ken Trauger

“Mercy Bread and Mercy Blood For Being Alive Together”

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

(CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE)

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

Ah, Dearest Jesus

#147

THE VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

THE EVENING PRAYER

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the health of all creation, for abundant harvests, that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all servants of the church, for this congregation, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Now in a time of silence, let us offer prayers for our loved ones who are in need of God's healing love.

THE SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Zion Praise Thy Savior Singing
(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

arr. David Hurd

OFFERING RESPONSE

We Give Thee But Thine Own

#506

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

CLOSING HYMN
(PLEASE BE SEATED)

Before the Cross of Jesus

#261

MUSICAL MEDITATION

BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE

Holy Ground

Geron Davis, arr. Fred Bock

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ministering This Evening

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Preacher: Rev. J. Kenneth Trauger

Building Trustee: Steve Gold

Ushers/Greeters: Charlene Christy & Karen Olley

DEVOTIONALS: The January-March edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

Lenten devotionals are available on the table across from the church office.

LENTEN SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in need of ushers and greeters for our Wednesday Lenten services. If you are able to help, please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.

LENTEN SERVICES 2025 "SHADOWS OF THE CROSS"

Each Wednesday we will focus on a particular event in Christ's journey to the cross. The shadow of the cross looms over every interaction, to give spiritual insight.

March 19 (The Shadow of Servant Leadership): Rev. Sandy Morris

March 26 (The Shadow of Denial): Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

April 2 (The Shadow of False Accusations): Dr. Randall Zachman

April 9 (The Shadow of a Last Chance): Rev. Dr. Joel Hummel

April 16/Holy Wednesday Order of Healing (The Shadow of Death): Rev. Jack Esbenshade

April 17 (Maundy Thursday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.) Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin

April 18 (Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.) Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin

LENTEN DENIAL ENVELOPES: The Board of Deacons decided to support the work of Church World Service (CWS) through this year's Lenten Denial offering envelope. CWS and other faith-based relief organizations have been denied government funding for the important work that they do with refugees. This lack of funding has also impacted the way these organizations put an end to hunger and poverty and respond to natural disasters in the U.S. and around the world. Our offering will be sent to both the national office and the Lancaster office of CWS. You can find that envelope in your box of offering envelopes.

EASTER ORDER FORMS are available on the table across from the church office. The deadline to place your orders is Sunday, March 16. If you have any questions, contact Dan Otthofer.

MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST MEETING: The men will be meeting at the Family Fare Restaurant for breakfast March 15 (weather permitting) at 8:00 AM. This is open to all men of the congregation! You are encouraged to invite other men to the breakfast.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP: The Knit in God's Love Prayer Shawl Group will be meeting on March 18 at 1:00 p.m. and will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

COMMUNITY MEAL ON MARCH 27 AT ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LANDISVILLE: Trinity will be cooking and serving a sit-down community meal at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at 85 East Brandt Blvd. in Landisville on Thursday, March 27th at 5:15 PM. **Sign-up sheets are posted in the table across from the church office for food donations and servers.** Persons helping to serve the meal must arrive at Zion Lutheran by 4:30 PM. Contact Nancy Enders or Paula Dennes with questions. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.

WELCOME LUNCHEON: The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a welcome luncheon after the 10:30 service on March 30 to welcome new members or recent visitors to Trinity Church. This is a way for us to share with our guests about Trinity's story through the DVD and conversations around the tables. Mike Lichtenwalner and Pastor Rankin have updated the DVD! We hope that Trinity members will attend the luncheon to welcome new people to the congregation! **Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office!**

Preschool Fundraiser Announcement

TRINITY PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

March 3-14

We would like to thank you for supporting our fund raiser. When you redeem your coupon at S. Clyde Weaver you get to choose from our large variety of soups they carry.

Chicken Corn • Chicken Noodle
Tomato Bisque • Ham & Bean
Homestyle Chili • Split Pea
Potato, Ham & Cheddar
Italian Wedding

Redeem soup certificate at these stores:

S. Clyde Weaver Store & Cafe
5253 Main Street | East Petersburg, PA

S. Clyde Weaver at the CVS Plaza
1509-B Lititz Pike | Lancaster, PA

WWW.SCLYDEWEAVER.COM

Purchase a certificate for
A PINT OF OUR DELICIOUS
HOME-STYLE SOUP



S. Clyde Weaver
smoked meats & cheeses

Redeem for soup at these locations:
East Petersburg • 717-569-0812
Lititz Pike • 717-392- 5244

SERVING YOU
FOR 100 YRS.

Best if used by 11/15/25. • NON-PROFIT ORG.

CERTIFICATE LIMITATION

A large variety of soups, house-made and fresh-frozen. Excludes any specialty varieties with a retail price greater than \$7.00 a pint.

Price for each certificate: **\$6.00**

Deadline to order: **March 14**

Sign-up sheet on table outside office

Trinity Concert Series

Presents

J. P. MCCASKEY HIGH SCHOOL

VOICES of Freedom



Trinity UCC

2340 State St., East Petersburg, PA 17520
www.trinityeastpete.org 717-569-1632



Sunday, March 23, 2025

Concert – 3:00 PM

Freewill Offering Benefits
McCasky Friends of Music
and Trinity's Music Ministry

