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**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. Carolyne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

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

Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

**Thanksgiving Eve**

**November 24, 2021, 7:00 PM**

**Tonight’s Theme:** Tonight’s readings reflect two of the strains that go into the celebration of a national day of thanksgiving: gratitude for abundant harvest (Joel) and civic prayer for a peaceable common life (1 Timothy). The core meaning of Thanksgiving for many of us – a home feast for extended family and friends – is not reflected in the readings; but it is reflected weekly in the church’s meal of thanksgiving (eucharist). What we wish for both these thanksgiving meals is that they will go deeper than celebration of one another and our own blessings, to recognize in our true Host one who wants everyone brought to the table.

**Prayer:** *Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**PRELUDE *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* Hustad**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving* Hustad**

***Thanksgiving Medley*  Sprunger**

Piano – Carmen Richards, Organ- Nancy Enders

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please stand if you are able)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Affirmation of baptism and invitation to the table**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Be glad and rejoice, for God has done great things.

Our mouths are filled with laughter and shouts of joy.

**A harvest of abundance surrounds us.**

**We will eat in plenty and be satisfied.**

Praise God for all the bounty we enjoy.

Give thanks for every good and perfect gift.

**We lay aside our worries and our fears.**

**God has dealt wondrously with us, and we rejoice.**

The Lord of hosts makes for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines.

**This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God’s salvation.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Amid the blessings God has provided, we are tempted to exalt ourselves rather than thank the Creator.

**We begin to think we alone are responsible for our good fortune. In prosperous times, we are less than thankful, and in adversity we feel alienated from the source of help.**

Let us confront our sin in silent prayer.

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

**silent confession of sins**

**Confession of sin**

Let us confess together.

**O God, we have worried about possessions and lost sleep over matters beyond our control. We have forgotten you as the source of all good things and the resource to strengthen us when our energy is drained and our hope exhausted. We have misused your gifts and invested our time in pursuits that tear down and destroy rather than create and build. Forgive us, God, and set us on a new and right path. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**kyrie**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**.

**aSSURANCE OF PARDON**

*(Please stand if you are able)*

**HYMN *We Gather Together***

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**HOLY SCRIPTURES**

**THE FIRST LESSON**  Joel 2:21-27

*The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God’s judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Tonight’s reading points beyond the judgment to a time when the Lord will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.*

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

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

**THE PSALTER**  Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’**

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

**THE SECOND LESSON** 1 Timothy 2:1-7

*Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers. We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.*

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all  
—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

*(Please stand if you are able)*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** St. Matthew 6:25-33

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.*

***Glory be to You, O Lord.***

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD**

***Praise be to You, O Christ.***

*(please be seated)*

**SERMON “There’s Always Enough” Pastor Rankin**

*(Please stand if you are able)*

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PEOPLE’S OFFERING**

**OFFERING DEDICATION**

**For food and water, for all the blessings of the land you have given us, for family and friends who enrich our lives, our hearts overflow with thanksgiving to you, O God. We have been sheltered and educated and empowered by your generosity. In Jesus Christ, we have been shown a way to the wholeness you intend for us. Receive these offerings as a joyous expression of our gratitude. Amen.**

**THE eucharistic prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ’s birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere.

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

*(please be seated)*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**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**.

**COMMUNICATION**

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

**The Bread of Life, broken for us.**

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

**The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.**

(You are invited to partake of the elements)

*(Please stand if you are able)*

**POST COMMUNION PRAYERS**

The Lord be with you.

**A**nd also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**litany PRAYER of thanksgiving**

Let us give thanks to God our creator for the gifts so freely bestowed upon us:

For the beauty and wonder of creation, in earth, and sky and sea.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For all the valiant seekers after truth, liberty, justice, and peace.

**We thank you, Lord.**

For the communion of saints, in all times and places.

**We thank you, Lord.**

Above all, let us give thanks for the great promises and mercies given to us and to all the world in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**To Christ be praise and glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

***TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER***

**By your word and sacraments, O God, you have given us a foretaste of the new heaven and new earth that will be ours forever. Strengthen in us this vision that we might draw others to believe in the hope that is ours, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**hymn *Now Thank We All Our God* #73**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** ***Trumpet Tune***    **Lau**

Nancy Enders, Organist



**Ministering Tonight**

Pastor Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Lector Jeff Hackenberger

Greeter/Usher Karen Olley

**Thank you to Nancy Enders and Carmen Richards for sharing their musical gifts with us tonight!**

**PRAYER CONCERNS: The family of Don Huber, the family of Joyce Becker, George & Sandy DeLong, Denny Eberly,** **Robert Richards** (brother of Jerry Richards), **Hillary Brennan** (mother of John Brennan), **Ann Wolf** (neighbor of George & Sandy DeLong), **the Brennan family,** **Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, David &** **Ann Potts** (friends of Brenda & Harry Himelwright), **Pete & Nora Petrosky** (friends of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), **Lynn Dull, Jill Otthofer,** **Paul Zirkel** (son of Donna Zirkel), **Ronald Himelwright** (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright), **Barry Richards**(son of Jerry & Carmen Richards), **Tyler Miller** (grandson of Iris DeMaio), **Joan Kalbach** (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), **Donna Denlinger, Cathy Hoshauer, Pat Miller,** **Nancy Patton,** **Gary Reynolds** (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), **Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser, Phyllis Zimmerman, Donna Zirkel**, **Jose Arroyo** (husband of Sandy & George DeLong’s niece), **Chris Rice** (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley), **Jaimie & Aurora Commero** (friends of Sarah Paulukow), **Mark Zody** (friend of Denise Huggins), **Jim & Kathy Long** (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards), **John Siebern** (Bob Siever’s brother-in-law), **Carl Roth** (Gretchen Leinbach’s brother), **Scott Summers,** **Rev. Frank Lantz,** **Lainie Christensen**, **Sandra Englert** (niece of Betty Tyndall), **Charles & Betty Booraem**, **Betty Tyndall and family**, **Dorothy Fasnacht**, **Jo Jo Richards & family** (Carmen & Jerry’s granddaughter-in-law), **Bob & Marlyn Wible**, **Lily Kilgore & family**, **Barry Moore** (Donna & Ron Denlinger’s brother-in-law), **Sam & Rosemary Minder**, **Jordan** **Sensenig** (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig), **Judy Wisniewski** (sister of Chuck Husted), **Elaine Sturgis** (friend of Sue Husted), **Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman**, **Doris Leaman**, **Kelsey (Minnich) and Tom Burgo**, **Judie Bistline**, **Hilma Slechta**, and **the** **Bonilla-Rodriguez family** (friends of Trinity Church).

Advent Workshop

November 27th FROM 1:00-5:00 P.M.

It’s time to think about preparing Trinity Church for the Advent season. 

We are planning on doing indoor decorating and outside decorating and crafts for both kids & adults.

All help in making this happen is greatly appreciated as we decorate our church for the season. Call the church office at 717-569-1632 or use the sign-up sheet in the church hall way or use the link on the home page of the church website. We will conclude with a brief service and a pizza dinner!

**Schedule for Advent Workshop**

1:00-3:30 decorating and crafts

3:30-4:00 worship service

4:00-5:00 pizza and fellowship

Speak with me if you are willing to help plan the workshop.

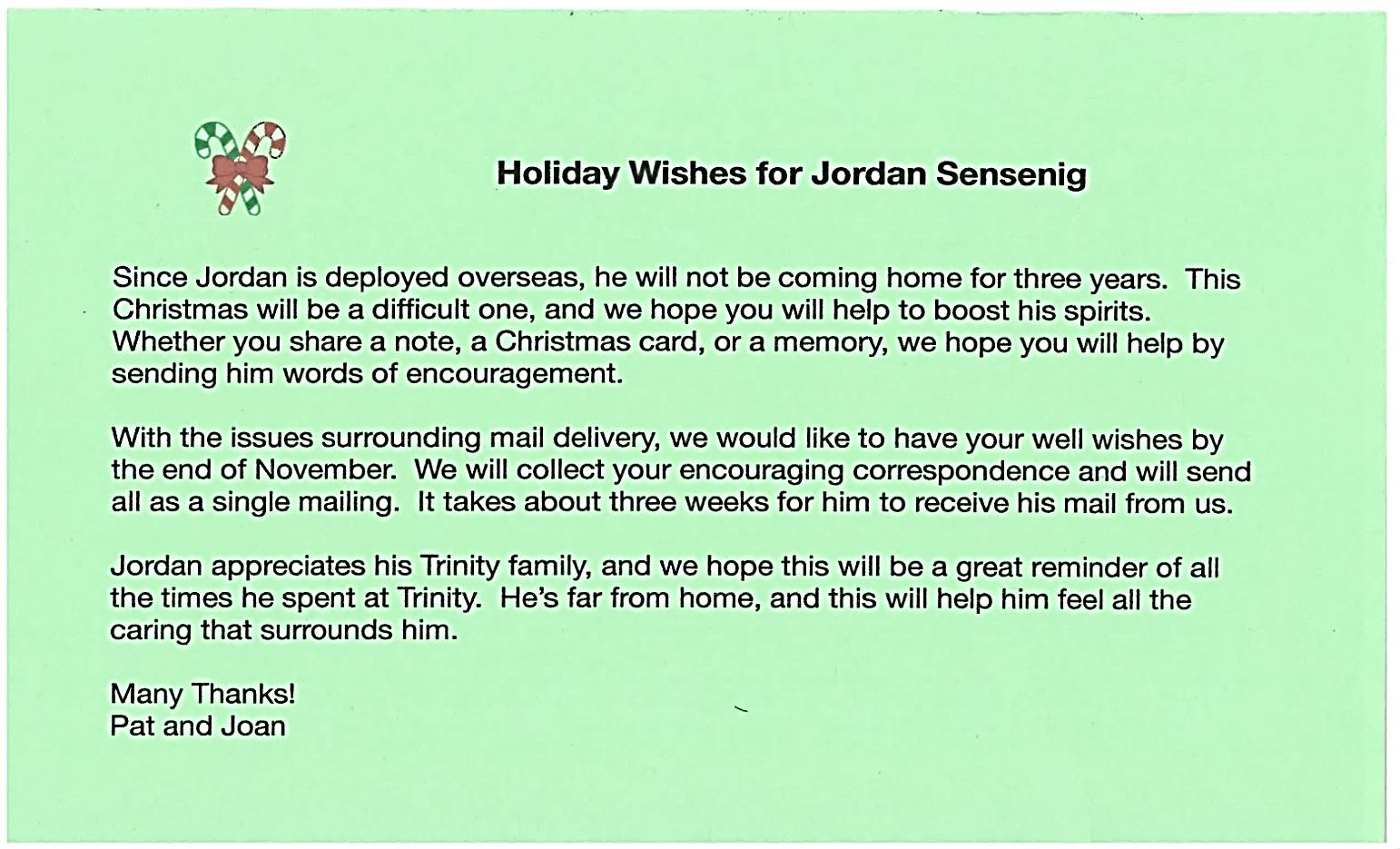
Thank you,

Cherie Cataldi

**WHITE GIFT SERVICE: dECEMBER 5**  
As in years past, we would like to share our blessings with others in need by providing gifts to the residents of Bethany Homes and Ephrata Manor. The residents at both locations are always very appreciative of our caring and giving.  Both organizations rely on our donations to make Christmas special for each of their residents.  
  
This year, due to the pandemic, they are asking for GIFT CARDs so that they can use them to purchase desired gifts for each individual. The following are the gift card requests for each location.

 **Ephrata Manor** (United Church of Christ Home) requests: Amazon, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Visa/MC, and Target gift cards.   
  
Merchant Logo **Bethany Home** requests: Target, Walmart, Amazon, Dick's, Michael's, Food Locker, Turkey Hill, and McDonalds gift cards.

**We will receive all donations on Sunday, December 5.** Contact Beth Bossert for more information.



**CHURCH COVENANT IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC**

As an individual who attends Trinity United Church of Christ I covenant to work with my fellow church members, family and friends to keep our community safe and healthy.

I covenant to. . .

***Wear a face mask as a symbol of love and care for others.***

***Sit six feet apart from others, leaving room for God to work in the in-between spaces.***

***Clean up after myself in the spaces I use because germs are everywhere I go too!***

***Honor and respect the sacredness of each person in this space and to stay home if I don’t feel well or have been around someone who is waiting the results of a COVID test, knowing God is with us wherever we are, whether inside or outside the walls of the church.***

***Work together with my church family in creating a safe and healthy space to gather for worship, fellowship, or church activities as one body, united in God’s love.***

***Acknowledge the hard work ahead, and the commitment to care for one another.***