Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him

MATTHEW 25:6

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520 717-569-1632 Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail:secretary@trinityeastpete.org 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 Mr. James Landis, Interim Organist Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

<u>Celebrating 175 Years: Honoring Our Heritage, Moving Forward in Faith!</u>

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory-the marriage feast of the lamb.

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. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. *Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.*

Prayer As You Enter: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PARISH 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.

Put away the things you have substituted for God. Let your worship of the one true God be genuine.

We seek to know God and to rejoice before our Creator. We know that God is beyond all our false images.

Our hope is in God's grace beyond all judgment. Our trust is in God's love, greater than our feeble imitation.

We welcome the light God promises us. We seek to respond with faithful service.

As we come to the table of God's heavenly feast, let us prepare our hearts anew to be in communion with one another and the risen Christ.

We come, ready to partake of bread and cup; ready to commune with one another and with the living God.

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Let us pray the collect together.

God of our ancestors, be our God today as we gather in sincerity and faithfulness to honor you. Attune our hearts to your commandments as we remember your mighty acts. Declare your Word to us so we may be inspired to obey. We know that we must decide today whether or not we will serve you. Not to decide is to reject you. O God, save us from idols that appear so attractive to us, the things that take so much of our attention and the pursuits that dominate our time. Make your dwelling place with us here. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

THE PSALTER

Psalm 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me! Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life.

Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me. Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times. Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON "Abundant Life in the Midst of Our Waiting!" 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

We set our hope in you, God of all ages, and seek to serve you through our offerings and our efforts to encourage and equip one another for ministry. Help us to decide daily to live according to your will, preparing ourselves for the opportunities and challenges you give us. May your rule shape our lives in ways that introduce many to the joys of eternity in the midst of time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 AND 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, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

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.

(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.)

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**.

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**.

O God in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**.

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers & The Worship Aids are given in memory of our father's, George N. Royer, Jr., birthday from his children: Donna R. Zirkel & Rev. Harry Royer.

Happy Birthday

Today – Dorothy Fasnacht Thursday – Autumn Shenk Saturday – Stan Seachrist Tuesday – Heather Harley Friday – Megan Good

Ministering Today Pastor Lector Money Counters Altar Guild Building Trustee Koinonia Ministries	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin Rev. Jack Esbenshade Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller, Denise Pfeiffer Hedwig Hunsicker, Karen Olley, Sally Rodenberger			
Attendance for Sur Christian Educatio		7:45–13 28	10:30-83	TOTAL – 96
This Week at Trinity Church(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m2 p.m.)TodayFollowing 2^{nd} Service – Annual MeetingMonday7:00 PM – Choir/8:15 Bells7:00 PM – Evangelism CommitteeChoir RoomTuesday7:00 AM – Peanut Fellowship7:00 PM – Property Com.Wednesday7:00 PM – Christian Ed. CommitteeIsenberg HallThursday1:30 PM – Pinochle2:00 PM – CROP Walk CommitteeChoir Room6:00 PM – Cub ScoutsSaturday7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AASunday7:45 AM – Eucharist10:00 AM - Koinonia10:30 AM – Worship				

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman	Ron Becker	Scott & Jane Owens
Hedwig Hunsicker	Janice Jenkins	Dorothy Fasnacht
Don & Pat Miller	Nancy Patton	Dr. Janet Harriger
The Lehman family	Joann Peck	Harry Himelwright
Donna Wolf & Family	Shelly Family	Mary Lou Shaab
Stan & Pat Seachrist	Donna Zirkel	Carmen & Jerry Richards
Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley	Sam Minder III	Lainie Christensen
Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser	Hank Fox	Charles & Betty Booraem

Betty Tyndall and family Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman Joann & Dawn Garvin Mary Witmer Erika Otthofer Dave Trostle John Shelsky Bob & Marlyn Wible Kathleen Sensenig Adams Danielle Huggins Holbein Dr. Blaine Connor

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family of Bob Morris (father of Rev. Sandy Morris) The family of Robert F. Groff, Jr. (Lancaster Funeral Director) Mary Mattern Smith (cousin of Anita Rohrer) **Deb Olley Heagy** (daughter of Jack & Karen Olley) **Donna Esbenshade** (wife of Rev. Jack Esbenshade) The Haverstick Family (friends of Mike & Shelley Wagner) Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty) **Dr. Phil Bartholomew** (friend of Pastor Rankin) Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian) Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan) Jaden Allen (nephew of Carol Kratz) **Cindy Commero Cook and family**(friend of Sarah Paulukow) Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty) The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor) Jessica Brown (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner) Janice Zimmerman (sister of Ken Zimmerman) Larry Gerlach (brother of Dolly Barr) John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr) Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen) Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity) James Malone & family Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner) Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens) Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel) Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig), **Don Pfeifer** (husband of Denise Pfeifer) Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer) The Martin family **Robert Richards** (brother of Jerry Richards) **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) Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards) John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law) Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law) **THE NOVEMBER PARISH POST** is available on both floors of the church building.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held TODAY after the 10:30 a.m. service. The kitchen team will provide a luncheon before the meeting. The agenda will include the presentation and adoption of the 2024 budget and election of lay leaders.

The following is the report of the nominating committee (The list in the Parish Post and the October 29 bulletin was not correct. This is the accurate report.):

ELDERS (2023-2026) Bob Kilgore (1st term)

Karen Olley (2nd term)

DEACONS (2023-2026) Cherie Cataldi (2nd term)

Vacancy

PRESCHOOL BOARD (2023-2026)

Noreen Trostle (1st term) Vacancy

CONFERENCE DELEGATES (2023-2026)

Diane Rice (2nd term)George DeLong (1st term)Alternates: Donna Geisler, Lon Wible

ASSOCIATION DELEGATES (2023-2026)

Anne Rankin (2nd term)Donna Geisler (2nd term)Alternates: Ron Denlinger, Tim Geiger

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Forms are available on the table in the hall across from office. The last date to order is November 19, 2023. Give order forms and payment to Dan Otthofer, or place in the offering in envelope marked Poinsettia or give to church office. If paying by check, please make it payable to Trinity United Church of Christ and mark Poinsettia in memo line. Thank you.

TRINITY T-SHIRTS: The Anniversary Committee is working with our own Mitch Gibson (from Elizabethtown Sporting Goods) to celebrate our 175th anniversary with Trinity t-shirts. We have already placed one order, but you can still order shirts on the form across from the church office.

175th ANNIVERSARY GIFTS: There are extra copies of the historical book, the prayer book and the anniversary pens and magnets on the table across from the church office.

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

PRAYER SHAWL: Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, November 21 from 1:00-3:00 PM. They 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.



DATES Thursday, November 16-1:30 PM Friday, December 15-7:00 PM

2023 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31. 2024 Flower Chart is now up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Greeter /Ushers Needed



If you would like to volunteer as a Greeter/Usher for the 10:30 a.m. service please contact the church office. We recently had some vacancies as ushers, so we are in need of help!!!



We are looking for a greeter coordinator that will recruit new people to serve and create a schedule. Contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.



Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 7:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer!



"I PROMISE" FORMS are still being accepted! We hope that you will submit the forms to help us plan for our ministry in 2024. Extra forms are available on the table across from the church office!

TRINITY PRESCHOOL SUB COUPONS: We still have eight coupons for subs at S. Clyde Weaver. The cost is \$8. Contact the church office if you are interested.

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP: We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments and drinks/coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen coordinator. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School. **CROP HUNGER WALK UPDATE:** Thank you to everyone who has already supported the walkers from Trinity Church! As of November 2, we raised \$11,515!! You can still support the CROP Hunger Walk by giving money to Mark & Chris Eyer or Pastor Rankin or donate online at https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/trinity-east-pete



GRIEF GROUPS: Prior to the pandemic, Pastor Chris was hoping to form some small groups to look at issues of grief. Please contact him or Carol Kratz if you are interested in participating in one of the groups!

SAVE THE DATE - ADVENT WORKSHOP: Saturday, Dec. 2nd



We are coming up on preparing Trinity Church for the Advent season.

All help in making this happen is greatly appreciated as we decorate our church for the season. We will start with breakfast at 8:30 AM. There is a sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office.

Watch for more information in the coming weeks!!



UPCOMING EVENTS AT

Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm - December 9, 2023



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Advent/Christmas in the Barn at The Wittel Farm - December 17, 2023 Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald - January 5 - 7, 2024

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion. and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

or Wisdom 6:12-16 [not printed]

Psalm 70

or Wisdom 6:17-20

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 We do not want you to be uninformed, broth-

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died

and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Next Sunday's Readings: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30.

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