



April 9, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Shadow of A Last Chance

The message for us tonight is that God's grace is open to all, even in the last possible moment.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520
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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:
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 a last chance. God's grace is available to us to the last second or the last grain of sand, just like the thieves who were crucified next to Jesus. The cross shows us a hope that can be ours when time seems to have run out.

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. Dr. Joel Hummel, a new member of our congregation, as our guest preacher. Dr. Hummel is a graduate of the University of Maryland, Yale Divinity School, Dickinson School of Law, and Lancaster Theological Seminary. He was a classmate of Pastor Rankin in the Doctor of Ministry program at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Since 2023, he has been serving two Lutheran (ELCA) congregations in Littlestown and New Oxford.

He has also served the following ministries:

2022-2023: Designated Senior Minister, Willow Street U.C.C., Willow Street, PA

2006-2022: Director of Pastoral Care, Homewood at Plum Creek CCRC, Hanover, PA

2002-2005: Worship Team, Kailua Christian Church U.C.C., Kailua, Oahu, HI

1999-2002: Christian Education Teacher, First U.C.C., Carlisle, PA (while in law school)

1994-1999: Associate Minister, The Neighborhood Church U.C.C., Palos Verde Estates, CA

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

Rest in the Lord

Lester Groom

(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

Abide With Me

#51

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.

In this Lenten season, O God, we come before you, asking for courage to open our eyes. We want to see ourselves as you see us; the empty and barren places, the half-hearted struggles, the faint stirrings of new life. We come, trusting your grace, waiting for your illuminating word, longing for your healing light. Do not let us be blind to your presence. Shine upon us, O God, and make our paths clear, for we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURES

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 23:32-33, 39-43

Glory be to You, O Lord. (spoken)

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ. (spoken)

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"Unexpected Places"

Rev. Dr. Joel Hummel

(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.

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

Jesus, Remember Me (2 times)

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

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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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord that this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful:

We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill:

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses:

We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world:

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart from this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ:

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ:

We entreat you, O Lord.

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

Before You Who Can Pretend
(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

Kevin Hackett

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

Lord, When Thy Kingdom Comes

#157

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

MUSICAL MEDITATION

BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE

Psalter

Arr. Anne Marie David

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ministering This Evening

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Joel Hummel

Building Trustee: Pat Sensenig

Ushers: Mike & Shelley Wagner

Greeters: Gene & Cathy Kopp

DEVOTIONALS: The April-June 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 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.

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



Look for the Easter breakfast sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office!

The Sunrise Service is in the parking lot, but will be moved to Isenberg Hall if it is raining. Those attending the service are invited to bring your own chair or we will have some available.

Good Friday Breakfast at YMCA of the Roses

Join us for community gathering that brings people of faith together to mark this important holy day with an inspirational message and ecumenical worship service in keeping with the Christian traditions of the YMCA.

When: Friday, April 18 @ 7:30 am (Doors open at 7 am)

Where: Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

Details: The speaker will be Rev. Dr. John Gordon Smith, Lead Pastor from Lampeter United Methodist Church, along with live music, and a buffet-style breakfast. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Call the church office to reserve your ticket. **We have 3 tickets left!!!**

MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST MEETING: The men will be meeting at the Family Fare Restaurant for breakfast on April 12 at 8:00 AM. This is open to all men of the congregation! You are encouraged to invite other men to the breakfast.

THE SERVICE FOR PAT MILLER will be held on Saturday, April 19 at the Blue Collar Restaurant in Landisville (where we had our 175th anniversary luncheon). The family invites you to arrive at 11:30 a.m. and we will begin shortly before noon.

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.

PRAYER SHAWL: The Knit in God's Love Prayer Shawl Group will be meeting on April 15 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



TRINITY PRESCHOOL SUB SALE

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 at least seven sub varieties:

**Sweet Bologna · Ham · Italian · Turkey
Roast Beef · Chicken Salad · Tuna Salad**

**Each Sub Redemption Certificate:
\$8.00
Deadline to Order: April 15, 2025**

BREAD OPTIONS:
white sub roll · bread · tortilla wrap

CHOICE OF YOUR CONDIMENTS:
mayonnaise · mustard · creamy horseradish · olive oil · vinegar

CHEESE OF YOUR CHOICE:
American · Provolone · Swiss

YOUR CHOICES OF VEGETABLES:
lettuce · tomatoes · onions · marinated onions · sweet peppers
banana peppers · hot peppers · black olives · pickles
salt · pepper · herb mix · Parmesan

Please make checks payable to: TRINITY PRESCHOOL
Sign-up sheet on table outside office.

**East Petersburg - Scout Troop #33
(Trinity is the charter organization)**

**Annual Pancake Breakfast FUNDRAISER
Our 34th annual breakfast!**

**Located at the East Petersburg Mennonite Church
Saturday, April 26, 2025
7:00am – 11:00am**

- ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES!!**
- 2 SAUSAGE LINKS (\$1.00 FOR 2 EXTRA SAUSAGES)**
- COFFEE, TEA, O.J. OR WATER**

Pre-sale tickets - \$6.00 (2 & under, free)

**Stop by the Scout Hut (end of Pine St.) Mondays 7:00-8:00
or, the neighborhood Ticket Blitz on Saturday 4/12/25)**

OR

**At the door - \$8.00 (2 & under free)
Raffles Available**

Donations are graciously accepted at the breakfast.



Trinity UCC Summer Camp

Come learn, explore, and create at our Science and Art Camp



Week 1 -Science Camp
9:00-11:30
May 12-May 16

Week 2: Art Camp
9:00-11:30
May 19- May 23



Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 4 and 5 year olds \$90/week
Tuesday and Thursday – 2 and 3 year olds \$65/week

Based on a minimum of 8 students
Tell a Friend!

*Please submit your check and form below to save your spot!

*For those new to Trinity UCC Preschool, you will be sent our emergency form, car rider information and permission page to fill out after registering.

My Child _____, age _____ will attend Science Camp____, Art Camp____,
Both camps____. Parent's Name(s) _____
Cell#(s) _____ Email _____
Tuition enclosed \$ _____ Check# _____