

# Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Affiliated with the United Church of Christ & the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



April 9, 2023: Easter Sunday

*Celebrating the Resurrection*

11:00 AM

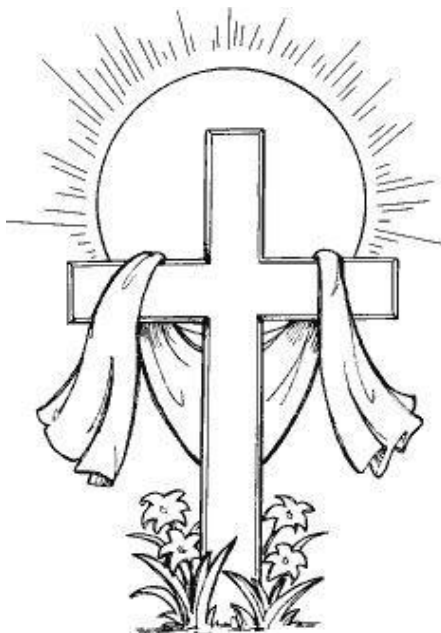
## April 9, 2023: Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of Christ

Easter proclaims a great mystery: *Christ is risen from the dead!*

Resurrection is the transformation of the finite to the infinite. Resurrection undoes the finality of death with the power of immortal life.

Resurrection is not simple, nor obvious. It defies the natural order. It pushes us beyond our every notion of what can be known and shown to be real. But today we live into this hope: In the resurrection, God emerges triumphant over death itself.

*Celebrate the Resurrection!*



*Today's Readings:*

Matthew 28:1-10

Colossians 3:1-4

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

John 20:1-18

**Theme: The Resurrection of Christ**

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty

Pastor Joy Johnson

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

Prelude  
Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Sarah & Cheryl

Centering Music

“Because He Lives”

Bob Martin

**Easter Sunday Proclamation:**

**Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

One: People of God, Christ is Risen!

**All: Christ is Risen indeed!**

\*Processional

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” #288

Christ the Lord is risen today, *Alleluia!* All creation join to say: *Alleluia!*

Raise your joys and triumphs high: *Alleluia!* Sing, ye heavens and earth reply: *Alleluia!*

Love’s redeeming work is done, *Alleluia!* Fought the fight, the battle won! *Alleluia!*

Death in vain forbids him rise, *Alleluia!* Christ has opened paradise: *Alleluia!*

Lives again our glorious King, *Alleluia!* Where, O death is now thy sting? *Alleluia!*

Once he died our souls to save, *Alleluia!* Where thy victory, O grave? *Alleluia!*

Soar we now where Christ has led: *Alleluia!* Following our exalted Head: *Alleluia!*

Made like him, like him we rise! *Alleluia!* Ours the cross, the grave, the skies: *Alleluia!*

\*Invocation

One: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you, from God our Creator, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our eternal Advocate and friend.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Living God, long ago, faithful women were the first to proclaim the good news of Christ’s resurrection, and the world was changed forever.

**All: Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen!**

\*Hymn

“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!” #293

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.  
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding, bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.  
Walk with gladness in the morning, see what love can do and dare.  
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.  
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven never-more shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation, where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: “Christ is risen! Get you gone!”  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!

\*The Peace of Christ

One: People of God, the Peace of Christ be with you, All!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

**First Reading**

**Paul’s Letter to the Colossians 3:1-4**

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

HYMN

“Alleluia” #291

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of Creation! *(Chorus)*

Spread the good news o’er all the earth; Jesus has died and has risen *(Chorus)*

We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever *(Chorus)*

Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior *(Chorus)*

## Second Reading

## The Book of the Prophet Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. <sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. <sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. <sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. <sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. <sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. <sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well. <sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. <sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

## Responsorial

## Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever! Let the people of God say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

**All: The Lord is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous.**

One: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

**All: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

One: This is the day that the LORD has made!

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen!**



## \*Gloria

## "Glory Be to God, Creator" #145

Glory be to God, Creator, glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit, known as Three, yet God the One

As it was in the beginning, it is now and so shall be,  
In a world without an ending, glory through eternity.

Holy, holy God Almighty! Holy, holy Prince of Peace!  
Holy, holy Wind of Presence! Holy, holy, holy! Amen!

## \*Gospel

**John 20:1-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

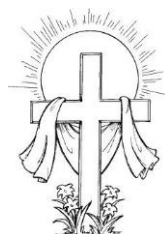
One: These are the words of God for the people of God.

**All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!**

Message

The Resurrection of Christ:  
The World Forever Changed

Pastor Rich



## Hymn

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today” #295 Vv. 1, 2, 4

Jesus Christ is risen today: Alleluia!  
Our Triumphant holy day: Alleluia!  
Who did once, upon the cross: Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss: Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing! Alleluia!  
Unto Christ our heavenly king! Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave: Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save! Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above: Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as his love: Alleluia!  
Praise him, all ye heavenly host: Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia!

## Easter Celebration of Communion

Pastor: People of God, come to the table! Christ promised that as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we not only remember him, but we commune with him—*the Redeemer of All, who is resurrected and ascended*—by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

**All: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come. We come to the table as a people who are learning the way of Christ. We confess that we are not always right. But we share this faith: that those who trust in Christ Jesus will grow in the assurance of God’s eternal love.**

Pastor: And so, here at this table we take bread and cup and ask the Holy Spirit to make it for us: communion with Christ, who gave his life as the bread of heaven and as the cup of eternal life.

**All: Here at this table we remember that Christ gave his entire life as an outpouring of God’s love—a love that will, one day, renew all things. Amen.**

Pastor: People of God, come to the table!



Communion Music

“Meditation from Thais”

Cheryl & Sarah

## **Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer ("Debts and Debtors")**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: ***And also with you.***

One: *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows.... [prayer requests are presented] .... Holy and Loving God, in your wisdom, meet all of these needs in the perfect way of your grace.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: Christ Jesus, by the power of God you triumphed over sin and death. For all of those who need the infusion of your resurrection power:

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: Spirit of God, you proceed from the heart of God. You were set loose upon the whole earth by Christ, and now you stir within our midst. For those who need the heavenly gifts of faith, hope, and love; healing, comfort, and inspiration, we pray together:

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: For all that we hold in the silence of our hearts, we come to you in the confidence of quiet, O God, and lift our petitions privately to you. (*Silent prayer*)... Almighty God, Sovereign of Heaven, shower your blessings upon all people! Move the mountains in our lives, or help to move us so that we might be fully at peace. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

All: **"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, the Power, and the Glory forever." Amen.**

## **Offering**

*Our offerings are first and foremost what we give to the world through justice, kindness, and mercy—and these we can do every day. Our offerings can also take the form of financial contributions to the church to support our ministries.*

**If you are not in the sanctuary, online donations can be made at:  
[www.communityunited.church](http://www.communityunited.church)**

*Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:  
1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508*

Ministry of Music

"Living Hope"

Shelly Conrad

***Your offerings make this inclusive ministry possible. Thank you! Because of you, our church reaches through and beyond Erie: providing worship, community, and service. As you can give generously, it is well received.***

## **Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving**



\*Congregational Response (BLUE) #147

***“Praise God, from whom all blessing flow:  
Praise God, all creatures high and low: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known!  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!”***



\*Departing Prayer

One: We rejoice in your love, O God of the living, for you made the tomb of death the womb from which you bring forth Christ and universal eternal life.

**All: Make us joyful witnesses to this good news, that all humanity may one day gather at the feast of new life in the kingdom where you reign forever and ever! Amen.**

\*Blessing

\*Closing Hymn                      “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” #289

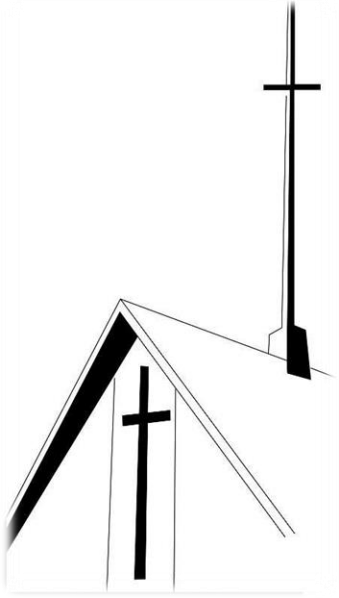
Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
He who on the cross a victim for the world’s salvation bled—  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from dead!

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:  
See the ancient powers of evil in confusion and retreat!  
Once he died, and once was buried: now he lives forever more!  
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer, whom we worship and adore.

Christ is risen, we are risen! Set your hearts on things above!  
There in all the Father’s glory lives and reigns our King of Love!  
Hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wounded hands and side!  
Now let every wrong be ended, every sin be crucified.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:  
Alleluia to the Savior who has gained the victory!  
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia to the Triune Majesty!

**Thank you for worshipping with us this morning at  
Community United Church!**



**Next Week:**  
**Baptism & New Members Sunday**  
**11:00 AM**

*Readings:*

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 1:17-23

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Luke 24:13-35

**Theme: From Christ to Community**

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect  
online with a small group or church ministry?***

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429

[www.communityunited.church](http://www.communityunited.church)



## Community United Church

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

**THE FIRST ARE ALSO GIVEN IN HONOR OF DAUGHTER ANNA MCJUNKIN'S 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY—AN EASTER SUNDAY BABY! THEY ARE ALSO GIVEN IN MEMORY OF PAUL MCJUNKIN, ANNA'S DAD WHO PASSED AWAY ON AN EASTER SUNDAY, WITH LOVE BY EVON AND TOM.**

**THE SECOND ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY OF CHERYL ANN EMPEY ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING, FROM HER SON CODY AND MIKE.**

### **This week:**

- **Tuesday, April 11:** Liberty House, 5:30 PM
- **Wednesday, April 12:** Spirits & Spirituality, 6:30 PM at Calamari's on State Street

### **Special Announcements:**

- **Sunday, April 16:** New Members and Baptism Sunday (Please talk to Pastors Rich & Joy if you would like to be a formal member or associate member, and/or to be baptized.)
- **Sunday, April 23:** Church Rally Day (*before and after the worship service*).

*Need hearing assistance? We have four available units. Please talk to our tech crew in the back of the sanctuary.*



### **WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:**

Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Samantha McHenry (Army),  
Chris Duncan (Marines), Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott  
(Army), Mathew Anderson (Army)  
and DJ Miaczynski (Marines)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Dorothy Moyer, Kathy Koziol, Anna Silvia, Kevin Bennett and family and friends, Rod and Dew Johnson,  
Harry Lamb, Sue Scheiwer, Diane Walker, George Churley,  
Robin Adams, Ralph Kester, John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Jimmyo, Sandy Gool, Tammy McIntyre,  
Laura Stone, Jared and Priscilla Hall, Ron Celeski,  
Sally Cubetus, and Annette Minich.

### **Council Members:**

***Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Dina Johnson (Secretary), Janice Skelly, Mike Pruzinsky, April Knapp, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Angel Hall***