

# Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



June 11, 2023:

**The Second Sunday after Pentecost**

11:00 AM

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

Handbell Ensemble: "Let All Things Now Living"  
Cheryl Strecker, Amy Fugate, Kendra Parker

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music

"As We Gather" #646

As we gather may your Spirit work within us,  
As we gather may we glorify your Name.  
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship,  
We'll be blessed because we came—  
We'll be blessed because we came.

*(Repeat)*

### **Invocation**

One: Holy and loving God, you draw near and invite us to walk by faith. You call and send us to new and unfamiliar places, so that your Reign of love might be known everywhere.

**All: Remind us, O God, that the life of faith is about learning to trust in the promises of the living Word, even when we are uncertain where Spirit is leading us.**

One: People of God, let us open our hearts and minds, now, to the Spirit's calling. Let us learn to trust, anew, that the path of Jesus always leads us deeper into the kingdom of heaven and the power of love.

**All: Amen!**

### **\*Song of Praise**

**"Let the Whole Creation Cry" #6**

Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high!"  
Heaven and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty King!"  
Praise him, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;  
Sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice.

Christians striving for the Lord, prophets burning with his Word,  
Those to whom the arts belong add their voices to the song.  
Those of knowledge and of law, to the glorious circle draw;  
All who work and all who wait, sing, "the Lord is good and great!"

Men and women, young and old, praise the anthem loud and bold,  
And let children's happy hearts in this worship take their parts;  
From the north to southern pole—let the mighty chorus roll:  
"Holy, Holy, Holy One, glory be to God alone!"

### **\*Opening Prayer**

## First Reading

## The Book of Genesis 12:1-9

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

## Song of Reflection

“Step by Step” #494

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways;  
And step by step you’ll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

*(Sing 3x)*

## A Guided Meditation on our First Lesson

One: People of God, think again to the story we just heard from the Book of Genesis. In it, we find the characters of Abram and Sarai. They will later be renamed Abraham and Sarah. According to the story, God called them to leave their homes, and their families, and to journey into a new land. Think, now, of times when you had to leave the familiar and go into new places. How did you feel? Why did you have to go? How did that alter the course of your life?

*[Pause for silent reflection]*

One: The promise of God to Abram and Sarai is that they would become a great nation, and that they would become a blessing to all the families of the earth. And yet, that great nation did not rise until generations after Abram and Sarai took their final breaths. What is more, there are still shores and souls of this world that are awaiting blessing. Think now of our own lives. Do we expect God to work more like a vending machine, or as the one who works through the courses of time? What would it mean to have a life of faith that is as patient as it is expectant of blessings?

*[Pause for silent reflection]*

One: Let us sing once more our song of reflection, “Step by Step,” and now draw on this song as a prayer to reframe how we might understand the leadings and promises of God.

## Responsorial

Psalm 33:1-12

One: Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

**All: Praise the LORD with the lyre; make melody to God with the harp—sing to God a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.**

One: For the word of the LORD is upright, and all God's work is done in faithfulness.

**All: God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. 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

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners." <sup>18</sup> While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup> And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup> Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, <sup>21</sup> for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. <sup>23</sup> When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup> And the report of this spread through all of that district.

One: This is the Gospel of Christ for the people of God.

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

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare—should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen—  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go—where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### Celebration of Communion

Pastor: People of God, come to the table!

**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: Jesus said to his disciples, “*my peace I leave you, my peace I give you.*” Open your hearts now—and may the peace of Christ be with all of you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Before we come to the table, let us share with one another a sign of peace.  
*(All are welcome to show a sign of Christian love to one another, in their own way)*

Pastor: Together, now, let us bless the elements. 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!

## **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: 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

"Hyerdol"

Handbell Ensemble

***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.***

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

\*Congregational Response #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: Holy and loving God, you promise long journeys and new names. Call us out to risk holy adventures with new, surprising, and enlivening table companions.

**All: Linger with us, O God, so that we may be faithful disciples—willing to go wherever the light of your love shines. Amen.**

\*Blessing

\*Closing Hymn

“Shine Jesus Shine” #319

Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me—shine on me!

Chorus:

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,  
Shine on me—shine on me!

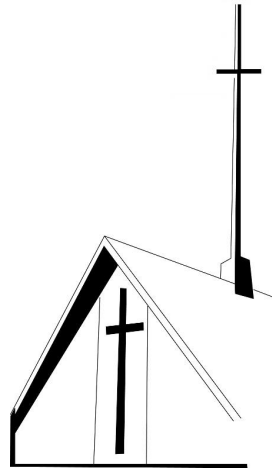
*(Chorus)*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display your likeness;  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story,  
Shine on me—shine on me!

*(Chorus)*

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

**Next Sunday, June 18, 2023:  
The Third Sunday after Pentecost**



**11:00 AM Worship**

*Assigned Readings for Study:*

Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7)

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:23

**Theme:**

**“Enduring in Times of Rejection”**

*Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect  
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 by Kathy Koziol in honor of Julie's heavenly birthday and for Michele Vahey and Pat Vahey birthdays.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- June 12:** Council Meeting 6:30 PM
- June 13:** Liberty House
- June 14:** Spirits and Spirituality 7:00 PM – Cancelled (Pride Prep)
- June 18:** Service Sunday/Father's Day
- June 21:** RESONATE 7:00 PM
- June 24:** Pride Parade
- June 25:** New Members Sunday
- June 27:** Ladies Lunch 12:00 PM

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Ladies Group will be assembling the Womens' bags after service today.

*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), Brittany Duncan (Army), Chris Duncan (Marines), Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army), Matthew Anderson (Army) and DJ Miaczynski (Marines)

### PRAYERS FOR:

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Kevin Bennett & family & friends, Rod & Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Sue Schweiwer, Diane Walker, George Churley, Robin Adams, Ralph Kester, John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Jimmyo, Sandy Gool, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone, Jared & Priscilla Hall, Ron Celeski, Sally Cubetus, Jan & Tim Crowe and Family, Debra Doerfer & David Magdid & 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.*