

# Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:

“The Called and Chosen”

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy Johnson

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

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 all)*

**Invocation to Worship**

One: God of immeasurable grace, it is in our darkest valleys, at the banquet table; in the hard work of life, during moments of ease; in our day-to-day reality, and at times set aside—like this time, now, that we may hear your invitation and your call.

**All: Through our worship of You, through listening and praying... with every step we take, goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow. Amen!**

\*Opening Song

“Come, Now Is The Time To Worship”

Come, now is the time to worship  
Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship  
Come, just as you are before your God. Come!

One day every tongue will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
Who gladly choose You now

*(Repeat as Guided)*

**\*Opening Prayer**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

One: The Lord be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

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

*[Please be mindful that some people may not be able to shake hands or hug due to health precautions]*



**“Think About His Love” #57**

*Chorus:*

Think about His love, think about His goodness;  
Think about His love that brought us through  
For as high as the heavens above  
So great is the measure of our Father’s love;  
Great is the measure of our Father’s love

How could I forget His love;  
How could I forget His mercy  
He satisfies, He satisfies,  
He satisfies my desires  
(Chorus)

Even when I’ve strayed away;  
His love has sought me out and found me  
He satisfies, He satisfies,  
He satisfies my desires  
(Chorus)

**“Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty” #19**

Father in heaven, how we love You,  
We lift Your Name in all the earth  
May Your kingdom be established in our praises  
As Your people declare Your Mighty works

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty,  
Who was and is and is to come  
Blessed be the Lord God Almighty,  
Who reigns forevermore  
(Repeat as Guided)



## First Reading

## Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9 I

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## Responsorial

## Psalm 23

One: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**All: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**

One: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff---they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. 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 22:1-4**

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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

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

Message:

**The Called and Chosen**

Pastor Joy

**Song of Response**

"Be Thou My Vision" #502

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
high King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.



## 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 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: 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!

## Communion Music

Shelly Conrad



## 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*] .... We also pray for everyone who has asked their name to be on the prayer list [*see last page of the bulletin*]. 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.*

*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.*

**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, which can be addressed to the church at:  
1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508*

**Ministry of Music**            *The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*  
Shelly Conrad, Evon Lloyd, and Tom Gordnier

### **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 generous God, you set before us every day a bounty of good things.

**All:** **Bring us to your feasting table, hungry for your Word, eager to be called and chosen by you, so that we celebrate at all times and in all places the peace which is life in you. Amen!**

\*Blessing



**\*Closing Song**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” #712

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service has ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
to work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.  
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us:  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.



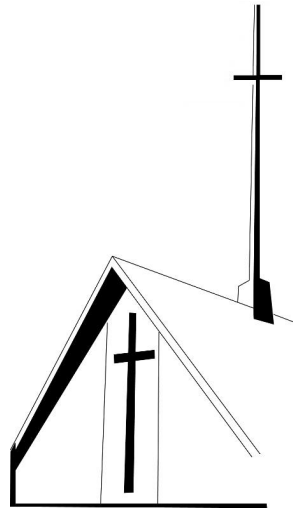


**Thank you for worshipping with us this morning at  
Community United Church!**

**Next Sunday – October 22, 2023**

**10:55 AM Announcements**

**11:00 AM Worship**



**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

**“Sorting Out Our Loyalties”**

Scripture for Study:

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalm 96:1-13

Matthew 22:15-22

***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 in Celebration of Tom Gordnier and Evon Lloyd's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Today's Elder: Melanie Vadzemnieks      Deacons: Sandra Carlson & Michelle Vahey  
Next Week's Elder: David Holmes      Deacons: Becky Pomeroy & Nancy Alberico

**Important Note:** Our "not so friendly" COVID has been visiting us here. For this reason, please maintain desired distance, particularly during the Passing of Peace.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

October 15: Service Sunday  
October 18: Resonate 7:00 PM  
October 22: New Member Sunday  
October 24: Ladies Lunch  
October 29: Diversity Sunday

*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), Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army), Matthew Anderson (Army), DJ Miaczynski (Marines), Jaden O'Hara (Army) & Toby Charlton (Marines)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Kevin Bennett & family & friends, Rod & 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, Ron Celeski, Jan & Tim Crowe and Family, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pikulski, Randi Johnson, Lillian Hendrickson, Wilma and Janice Skelly, Ethel Davis, Jim Haglund, Chelsea Brown, John Waid, Dina Johnson, Patti Rogers, Celeste Eller & Family

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