

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024:

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Palm Sunday Proclamation**John 12:12-15**

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!*"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

*Processional Hymn "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" #267

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang:
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" The ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

***Invocation**

One: Come, O Holy One! Come through the streets. Come into this house. Come to find a space beside us at the table.

All: Come to challenge our answers about why tragedy comes, why poverty increases, and why we are afraid.

One: Come, O Holy One! Speak to us in the silence and in song; in scripture and in prayer.

All: With wisdom greater than ours! With love deeper than ours! With change wider than ours! Amen!

***Sign of Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

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

(You may choose to shake hands, hug, or simply acknowledge one another without physical touch based on your comfort and/or health needs.)

Confession & Assurance

One: Holy One, as we walk with you towards your Cross, we see that your face did not turn from your dedicated mission to pour out the love of God. We have not always been so bold, nor courageous.

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy.

One: Jesus, you have told us that you identify with the least among us and with all who walk in love and faith. And yet, too often, the church—throughout the generations—has not opened her doors of welcome to all.

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy.

One: Loving God, we each have a foot in the kingdom of heaven and a foot in the kingdom of sin. In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to you...*(hold silence for one another)*...O Holy One, speak to us. Fill our silences. Comfort us with your love so that we may find your understanding.

All: Trust us to find your answers when we finally tire from our own. Save us, O Holy One, with your steadfast and restorative love. Amen!

Lenten Meditation & Candles

Song of Reflection

“Jesus Remember Me” #285

(Sing Three Times)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Responsorial

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever!

All: Let the people of God say, “God’s steadfast love endure forever.”

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

All: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

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

All: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

All: The LORD is God, and the Holy One has given us light.

One: Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

All: O Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, for God’s steadfast love endures forever! Amen!

*Lenten Acclamation

“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” #250 V. 1

Throughout these Lenten days and nights,
We turn to walk the inward way,
Where meeting Christ, our guide and light,
We live in hope till Easter Day.

*Gospel

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this: ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*” ¹⁰ *Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!*” ¹¹ Then [Jesus] entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

What King Do We Welcome?

Pastor Joy

Song of Reflection

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” #268, Vv. 1-2, 5

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, pursue your road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
In Christ, your triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow your meek head to mortal pain
Then take, O Christ, your power and reign.

COMMUNION LITURGY

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: 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

“Where Feet May Fail”

Cheryl Strecker

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

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

One: People of God, let us center our hearts and extend the spiritual power that is within us. *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows...*[prayer requests are presented]*...We pray for everyone who has asked their name to be on the prayer list *[see the last page of the bulletin]*. And as we pray for our own church, we pray for our Christian Education ministries this week, including our monthly Supper and Study, and we pray for our future classes and programs as we continue Spiritual growth. 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**

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



Offertory

“Ride on King Jesus”

Ensemble

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Lenten Congregational Response #576

***Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak!
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant! Make me a servant!
Make me a servant today!***

*Departing Prayer

One: Sovereign God, you have established your rule over the human heart, not by force but by the servant example of Jesus Christ.

All: Move us by your Spirit to join the joyful procession of those who confess Christ Jesus with their tongues and praise him with their lives. Amen!

*Blessing



*Closing Hymn

“All Glory, Laud and Honor” #265

Chorus:

*All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

You are the King of Israel, and David’s royal Son,
Now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and blessed One! *(Chorus)*

The company of angels are praising you on high,
Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply: *(Chorus)*

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present: *(Chorus)*

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise: *(Chorus)*

As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
For you delight in goodness, O Good and Gracious King! *(Chorus)*

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



Next Sunday:

11:00 AM

Readings to Study:

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18

EASTER SUNDAY!

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

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429

www.communityunited.church



Community United Church

**The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by the Ladies Outreach
in honor of the Ladies of Community United Church**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 26: Ladies Lunch
March 28: Holy Week/Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 PM
March 29: Holy Week/Good Friday Candlelight Service 8:00 PM
March 31: Easter Sunday 11:00 AM
April 3: Monthly Bible Study – Supper & Study

SAVE THE DATE: June 1: Craft & Bake Sale at CUC

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

Please submit any announcement requests by **Tuesday** for the Sunday bulletin.

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, Diane Walker, 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 Pakulski, Randi Johnson, Lillian Hendrickson, Ethel Davis,
Jim Haglund, Chelsea Brown, John Waid, Patti Rogers, Celeste Eller & Family, Shirley Carrier,
Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Gary Peck, Jerry Koziol, Uncle Charlie,
Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Ed Mumau, Renee Gullekson, Sharon Cooper,
Mary Ann Schmeisser, Sandra Carlson & Josh Cook.

Council Members:

Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Nancy Alberico, Janice Skelly, Mike Pruzinsky, Michele Vahey, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Angel Conrad

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