

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



June 4, 2023:

Trinity Sunday

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
Welcome & Announcements

Cheryl Strecker

Centering Music

“Find Us Faithful”

Leah Johnson

Call to Worship (I)

A Paraphrase of Psalm 8

One: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

All: You have set your glory above the heavens.

One: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of us, mortals that you care for us?

All: You have made us a little lower than the angels, and crowned us with glory and honor. You have given us leadership over the works of your hands; you have entrusted us to care for all the creatures of the earth. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Amen!

*Opening Song of Worship

“How Majestic is Your Name” #42

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord—we praise your name!

O Lord—we magnify your name:

Prince of peace, Mighty God,

O Lord God Almighty!

(Repeat)

Trinity Sunday Invocation

One: Spirit of God, you have gathered us today to worship the Holy One of heaven and earth, and we dare to proclaim this mystery:

All: You, O God, are One and Mysterious, you are at once Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

One: You, O God, are One and Mysterious, you are at once the Source, the Word, and the Spirit.

All: You, O God, are One and Mysterious, you are the great I AM, you are the living Divine Word, incarnate in Christ; and you are the eternal divine presence made known in the Holy Spirit.

One: You, O God, are One in Three and Three in One, a mystery too great for us to fathom, and a God in whom we are called to trust.

All: Be with us, most Holy Trinity—One God, forever and ever. Amen!

Song of Praise “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” #136

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
Only though art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed trinity!

A Meditation on the Trinity from Scripture

One: On this Trinity Sunday, we pause to name a great mystery: God who is one and holy is revealed in the scriptures as a plurality. Not different gods who share a common purpose; but one God whose divine nature exceeds our understanding—and yet the same God who inspires prophets and poets, as well as musicians and ministers to use human words to point towards divine truths.

All: In the book of Genesis, we remember the first creation story, in which Yahweh God creates all things by speaking—by the divine Word—and over the face of the deep, the Spirit of God hovered.

One: Pause now and consider how the same God called you into being, how God shapes you by the living Word, and how God goes with you as the Spirit hovers over the courses of our lives.

[Pause, in silence, to reflect on God’s presence in your life]

One: Though God is always with us, we sometimes cannot perceive that. And so, we are reminded in scripture, in the writings of the apostle Paul, to trust in “*the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.*”

All: Be with us, O God, that we may be assured of your love and your presence. By the mystery of the Trinity, may we be reminded that you meet us in many ways, and at just the right time. We open our hearts and minds to your presence with us, now and always. Amen.

***Song of Praise**

“Glorify Thy Name” #146

Father, we love you, we worship and adore you, glorify thy name in all the earth!
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name, glorify thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you, glorify thy name in all the earth!
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name, glorify thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you, glorify thy name in all the earth!
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name, glorify thy name in all the earth.

***Gospel**

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

“The Mystery of the Trinity”

Pastor Rich

Song of Response

“Come, Thou Almighty King” #148

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing,
Help us to praise: Father, all glorious, o’er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend: Come and thy people bless,
And give thy word success: Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour: thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne’er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be:
Hence, ever more! Thy sovereign majesty, may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore!

Affirmation of Faith:

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.*

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: 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: Having shown our love for one another, and for God, let us center our hearts on the sacrament. Together, 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

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

Cheryl Strecker

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

Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

Ministry of Music

"He Will Hold Me Fast"

Leah Johnson

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, holy, holy God, in calling forth creation from the void, in revealing yourself in human flesh, and in pouring forth your wisdom to guide us, you manifest your love for your whole universe.

All: Send us out as your people to tend to the world's needs in our hearts and in our actions. Fill us with strength and courage, with discernment and compassion, that we may be instruments of your love and justice, until the whole earth is filled with the peace of heaven. Amen.

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“O God of Every Nation” #626

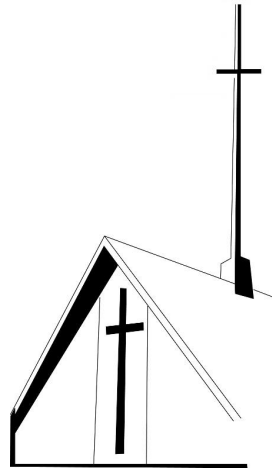
O God of every nation,
Of every race and land,
Redeem your whole creation
With your almighty hand;
Where hate and fear divide us,
And bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us,
And heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power
And scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower
Destruction through the night,
From pride of race and station
And blindness to your way,
Deliver every nation,
Eternal God, we pray.

Keep bright in us the vision
Of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division
Give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious
When truth and justice reign,
And Christ shall rule victorious
O'er all the world's domain.

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

**Next Sunday, June 11, 2023:
The Second Sunday after Pentecost**



11:00 AM Worship

Assigned Readings for Study:

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalm 50:7-15

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Theme:

“Living by Faith”

*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 Lina & Joy and
in Honor of August's 4th Birthday

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- June 7:** Monthly Bible Study (Supper & Study)
- June 12:** Council Meeting 6:30 PM
- June 13:** Liberty House
- June 14:** Spirits and Spirituality 7:00 PM
- June 18:** Service Sunday/Father's Day
- June 21:** RESONATE 7:00 PM
- June 24:** Pride Parade
- June 25:** Pride Sunday
- June 27:** Ladies Lunch 12:00 PM

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Pride parade and festival is **Saturday, June 24th**. We will be decorating and readying our float in advance, so we need people to help with that, as well as to march in the parade Saturday morning and staff the table in Perry Square. Please sign up to volunteer, call the church, and/or see Pastor Joy or Pastor Rich to let us know we can count you in.

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.