

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



April 14, 2024

The Third Sunday of Easter

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Richard W. McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Prelude  
Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Andrew Rainbow

Centering Music "All Hail King Jesus!" #92

All hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel,  
King of kings, Lord of lords, Bright Morning Star.  
And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises;  
And I'll reign with you throughout eternity (*Repeat all*)

Invocation

One: O Risen Christ, be with us this day. We recognize your wounded hands; they tell us that you know what it is to struggle and suffer, and to prevail in the power of love.

**All: We grasp those hands, that they may lead us together into a deeper place of peace. Pour into us the freshness of your new life, we pray; for you are our strength and our might. Wonderful is your loving kindness to us. Amen!**

\*Hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns" #317

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthems drown all music but its own.  
Awake my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;  
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
Rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified;  
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

**\* Opening Prayer**

\*The Peace of Christ

One: 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

## The First Letter of John 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup> See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. <sup>4</sup> Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

## Responsorial

## Psalm 4

One: Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress.  
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

**All: Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!**

One: You have put gladness in my heart more than when grain and wine abound.

**All: I will both lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety. 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**

**Luke 24:36-48**

<sup>36</sup> While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

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

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

Message

From Earthly Jesus to Risen Christ

Pastor Rich

**Hymn**

"The Power of Your Love" #467

Lord, I come to you; let my heart be changed, renewed  
Flowing from the grace that I've found in you.  
And Lord, I've come to know—the weaknesses I see in me  
Will be stripped away—by the power of your love.

Chorus:

*Hold me close, let your love surround me.  
Bring me near, draw me to your side.  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle,  
And I will soar with you; your Spirit leads me on  
In the power of your love.*

Lord, unveil my eyes; let me see you face to face,  
The knowledge of your love as you live in me.  
Lord, renew my mind, as your will unfolds in my life,  
In living every day—by the power of your love.

(Chorus)

## 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: 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

"In the Garden"

Bob Martin & Andrew Rainbow



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

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] .... 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

“Song of Bernadette”

Bob & Andrew

*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: Risen Christ, through the Spirit of God you draw us—and all people—to yourself. You now send us out to proclaim redemption, liberation, and peace.

**All: Help us choose to be an Easter people every day of our lives. Ever more, may our lives reflect the glory of your resurrection and the promise of your love. Amen.**

\*Blessing



\*Closing Hymn

“Rejoice, the Lord is King!” #342

Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,  
And triumph ever-more.

Refrain:

*Lift up your heart,  
Lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

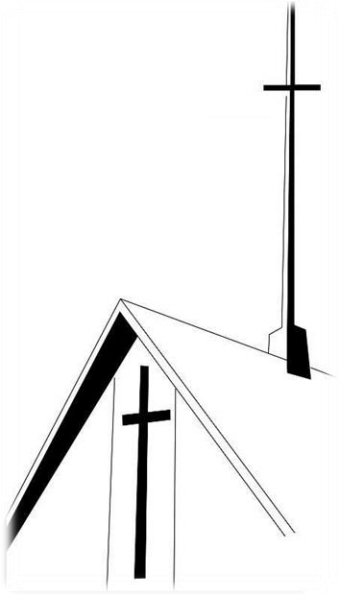
Our Savior, Jesus, reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains,  
He took his seat above:  
*(Refrain)*

His Kingdom cannot fail,  
He rules both earth and heaven;  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus given:  
*(Refrain)*

Rejoice in glorious hope  
For Christ the Judge shall come  
To gather all his saints  
To their eternal home:  
*(Refrain)*



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



**Next Week:**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**11:00 AM**

*Readings:*

1 John 3:16-24

Psalm 23

John 10:11-18

**Theme: Christ the Good Shepherd**

***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 and in honor of Kathy Koziol and Smith's Family Father's Birthday**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- April 15: Council Meeting – 6:30 PM  
April 17: NO RESONATE – SANCTUARY BEING PAINTED!  
April 23: Ladies Lunch  
April 28: Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM

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, 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, Jerry Koziol, Uncle Charlie, Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Ed Mumau, Renee Gullekson, Sharon Cooper, Mary Ann Schmeisser, Sandra Carlson, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein.

### **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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