

# Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



April 16, 2023

The Second Sunday of Easter

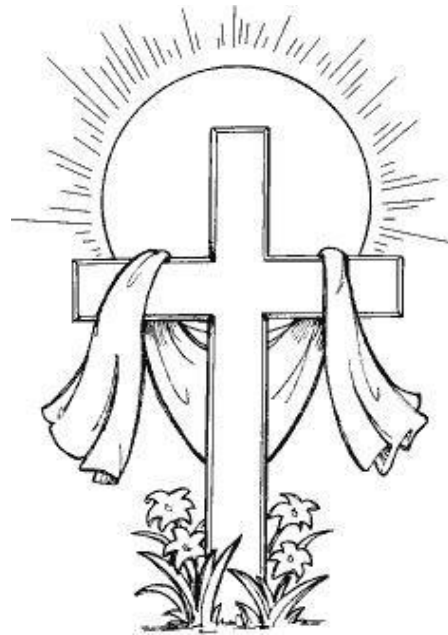
11:00 AM

## April 16, 2023: The Second Sunday of Easter

The Easter season proclaims a great mystery: *Christ is risen from the dead!* Resurrection is the transformation of the finite to the infinite. Resurrection undoes the finality of death with the power of immortal life.

Resurrection is not simple, nor obvious. It defies the natural order. It pushes us beyond our every notion of what can be known and shown to be real. But today we live into this hope: In the resurrection, God emerges triumphant over death itself.

*Celebrate the Resurrection!*



*Today's Readings:*

1 Peter 1:17-23

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Luke 24:13-35

**Theme: From Christ to Community**

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, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Cheryl Strecker

Centering Music

Jerry Strobel

Invocation

One: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you, from God our Creator, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our eternal Advocate and friend.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Holy and loving God, we come together to worship on this second Sunday of Easter to continue in the power, glory, and mystery of the resurrection of Christ.

**All: By the power and presence of your Holy Spirit, show us—once more—how faith in the resurrection of Christ should move us to create loving community, inclusive of all, so that the world may be healed. Amen!**

\*Hymn

“The Day of Resurrection!” #298

The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from sin’s dominion free,  
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;  
And, listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
His own “all hail” and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!  
The world resound in triumph, and all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end.



\*The Peace of Christ

One: People of God, the Peace of Christ be with you, All!

**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.)*

## Celebration of Baptisms

Song of Reflection

“Borning Cry” #680

I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;

In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on.

You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time, and you join your hearts as one,

I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, not longer young,

I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun.

When the evening gently closes in—and you shut your weary eyes,

I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see you life unfold.



### First Reading

### The First Letter Attributed to Peter 1:17-23

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in [reverence] during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

## Responsorial

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

One: I love the LORD because God has heard my voice and my supplications.

**All: Because God has inclined and listened to me, I will call on the LORD as long as I live.**

One: What shall I return to the LORD for all God's bounty to me?

**All: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD; I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.**

One: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

**All: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Holy City. Praise 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

Luke 24:13-35

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then

enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

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

Message

From Christ to Community

Pastor Rich



## Welcoming New Members

### Hymn

"As a Fire is Meant for Burning" #551

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners, we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening spirit, we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,  
So may we be signs of oneness, 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

## 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

### 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 those seeking community—may we learn the art of sharing and receiving.

**All: God hear our prayer!**

One: For those who struggle with community—may the pains of the past be healed by the ways of love.

**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

“Love Crucified Arose”

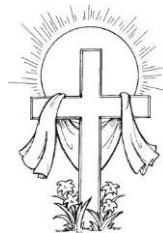
Jerry Strobel

*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:** Holy and loving God, in creation you will all things to work in relation with one another—now, in your work of redemption, guide us in how to be one body, of many parts.

**All:** Spirit of God, fill each part of us so that our diversity reveals your grace and that our common purpose reveals your love. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Blessing



\*Closing Hymn

“Lift High the Cross” #287

Refrain:

*Lift high the cross,  
the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world—  
adore his sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow  
Where our Savior trod,  
Our King victorious,  
Christ, the Son of God.

*Refrain*

All newborn servants  
Of the Crucified  
Bear on their brow  
The seal of Christ who died.

*Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted  
On the glorious tree,  
Your death has brought us  
Life eternally.

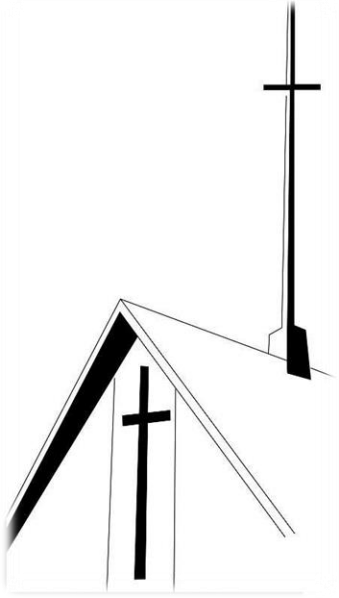
*Refrain*

So shall our song of  
Triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Cru-ci-fied  
For victory.

*Refrain*



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



**Next Week:**

**Third Sunday of Easter & Rally Sunday!**

**11:00 AM**

*Readings:*

1 Peter 1:3-9

Psalm 16

John 20:19-31

**Theme: Living our Questions**

***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 DAVID'S BIRTHDAY FROM MELANIE VADZEMNIEKS!**

**This week:**

- **Today, April 16:** Service Sunday at 12:15 PM, with meal preparations in the meeting room, and delivery to the Upper Room (downtown Peach Street).
- **Wednesday, April 17:** Resonate Contemplative Service at 7:00 PM with Andrew Rainbow and Bob Martin, wine and tapas social after the service.

**Special Announcements:**

- Join us for cake, cupcakes, and punch in Fellowship Hall after the service today to celebrate our newly baptized and new members!
- **Sunday, April 23:** Church Rally Day (before and after the worship service).

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

**PRAYERS FOR:**

Dorothy Moyer, Kathy Koziol, Anna Silvia, Kevin Bennett and family and friends, Rod and 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, Jared and Priscilla Hall, Ron Celeski,  
Sally Cubetus, and 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***