

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



August 28, 2022

11:00 AM

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

From the Day of Pentecost until the day before Advent, the Church is in the Season of Pentecost.

But having moved beyond the holy days of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we tend to call this long stretch of months:

Ordinary Time. In truth, there is nothing “ordinary” about Ordinary Time. It is meant to be a period in

the Church calendar when we intentionally seek to grow and flourish in faith. The

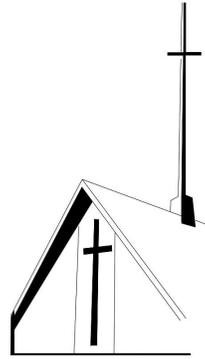
green colors throughout the sanctuary symbolize that. So let us grow together in both Spirit and Love.



Today's Readings:
Hebrews 13:1-3, 8-16

Psalm 112

Luke 14:1, 7-14



Theme: “Humility and Celebrations in the Reign of God”

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty, Senior Pastor
Pastor Joy Johnson, Associate Minister

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

Welcome, Prayer Requests & Announcements

Centering Music

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: Generous and faithful God, you give us more grace than we can ever earn and sustain us in ways we cannot imagine.

All: Give us the humility to serve without pride and instill in us the wisdom to inspire and champion hospitality and understanding in the reign of God. Amen!

*Hymn

“If My Peoples’ Hearts are Humbled” #383

If my people's hearts are humbled, If they pray and seek my face;
If they turn a-way from evil, I will not with-hold my grace.
I will hear their prayers from heaven; I will par-don ev’ry sin.
If my people's hearts are hum-bled, I will surely heal their land.

Then my eyes will see their sorrow, then my ears will hear their plea.
If my people’s hearts are hum-bled I will set their nation free.
If my people’s hearts are hum-bled, If they pray and seek my face;
If they turn a-way from evil, I will not with-hold my grace.

***Opening Prayer**

The 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.)



First Reading

Hebrews 13:1-3, 8-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them. We have an altar from which those who officiate in the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.



Responsorial

Psalm 112

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments. Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

One: Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

All: It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

One: They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord. Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

All: The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing. Amen.

***Gospel**

Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

"Humility and Celebrations in the Reign of God"

Pastor Joy

Song of Response

"Alleluia No. 1" #291

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
He is the king of creation. **(Refrain)**

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen. **(Refrain)**

We have been crucified with Christ;
Now we shall live forever. **(Refrain)**

Come, let us praise the living God;
Joyfully sing to our Savior **(Refrain)**

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. At this table, all who are far off are made very near. We come to the table as 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!

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: That we would heed the example that Jesus provided in demonstrating humility and hospitality and that we might use that example to transform our world.

All: God hear our prayer!

One: For a world desperately in need of your counsel: guide the nations into paths of justice and peace.

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.

Financial offerings are now accepted online at:

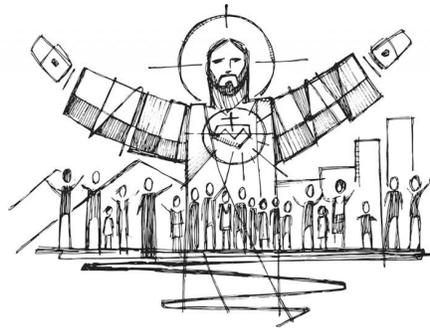
www.communityunited.church/donate/

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 Music and Time for Contemplation

As the offertory music is played, let us stay together in a spirit of prayer and worship. Open your hearts now to what Spirit is saying to you—and moving you to do in the days that we have been given.



*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: Faithful God, you bless us in Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

All: And so we praise you with lips that confess his name and hearts that listen to his calling to love and serve the Lord. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

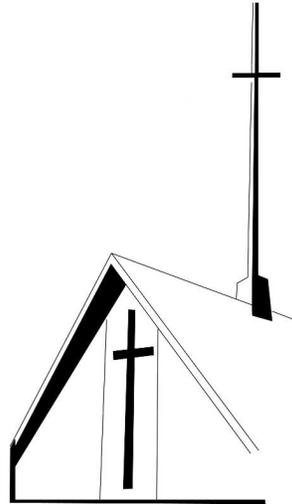
“We are Called to Be God’s People” #580

We are called to be God's people
Showing by our lives His grace
One in heart and one in spirit
Sign of hope for all the race
Let us show how He has changed us
And remade us as His own
Let us share our life together
As we shall around His throne

We are called to be God's servants
Working in His world today
Taking His own task upon us
All His sacred words obey
Let us rise then to His summons
Dedicate to Him our all
That we may be faithful servants
Quick to answer now His call

We are called to be God's prophets
Speaking for the truth and right
Standing firm for godly justice
Bringing evil into light
Let us seek the courage needed
Our high calling to fulfill
That we all may know the blessing
Of the doing of God's will

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



**Next Sunday, September 4: Thirteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

11:00 AM

Readings:

Philemon 1:1-21

Psalm 1

Luke 14:25-33

Theme:

“The Cost of Discipleship”

***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