

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



July 30, 2023

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

"He Knows My Name"

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy Johnson

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

Centering Music

“Holy Spirit Rain Down”

Ladies Worship Ensemble

Holy Spirit rain down, rain down
Oh comforter and friend
How we need your touch again

Holy Spirit rain down, rain down
Let your power fall,
Let Your voice be heard
Come and change our hearts as we stand on Your Word
Holy Spirit, rain down

Invocation

One: Creating and caring God, architect of our bodies, our minds, our souls....

All: WE PRAISE YOU!

One: We come with praise for the wonder of our Creator.

All: Even before we speak, God knows us completely.

One: The Holy One knows us and sustains us, even in our moments of confusion and doubt.

All: Who can count the thoughts of God?

One: They are more than all the sands of the desert.

All: We come with praise for our God who knows us by name, and who will always be there for us! Amen!

Opening Prayer

***Opening songs**

“There is no Rock”

There is no rock, There is no god like our God
No other name worthy of all our praise
The Rock of Salvation that cannot be moved
He's proven Himself to be faithful and true
There is no rock, There is no god like ours

Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock
Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock
Rock of Ages, Jesus is the Rock
There is no rock, There is no god like ours

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

What a friend we have in Jesus, all ours sins and griefs to bear,
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright, unclouded, There will be no need for prayer—
Rapture, praise, and endless worship Will be our sweet portion there.

“Forever grateful”

You did not wait for me to draw near to You
But You clothed Yourself with frail humanity
You did not wait for me to cry out to You
But You let me hear Your voice calling me

And I'm forever grateful to You
I'm forever grateful for the cross
I'm forever grateful to You
That You came to seek and save the lost

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:1-8

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, ² to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. ³ It came also in the days of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah until the end of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah son of Josiah of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

Responsorial Song: “He Knows My Name” Scripture: Psalm 139 -The Message

One: God, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand.
I’m an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I’m thinking.
You know when I leave and when I get back; I’m never out of your sight.
You know everything I’m going to say before I start the first sentence.
I look behind me and you’re there, then up ahead and you’re there, too—
Your reassuring presence, coming and going.
This is too much, too wonderful— I can’t take it all in!

**All: He knows my name; He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls, and He hears me when I call**

One: Is there any place I can go to avoid your Spirit? To be out of your sight?
If I climb to the sky, you’re there! If I go underground, you’re there!
If I flew on morning’s wings to the far western horizon,
you’d find me in a minute— you’re already there waiting!

**All: He knows my name; He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls, and He hears me when I call**

One: Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb.
I thank you, High God—you’re breathtaking!
Body and soul, I am marvelously made!
I worship in adoration—what a creation!
You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body;
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,
how I was sculpted from nothing into something.
(Please stand)

**All: *He knows my name, He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls, and He hears me when I call**

***Gospel Lesson**

John 4:1-26 The Message

Jesus realized that the Pharisees were keeping count of the baptisms that he and John performed (although his disciples, not Jesus, did the actual baptizing). They had posted the score that Jesus was ahead, turning him and John into rivals in the eyes of the people. So Jesus left the Judean countryside and went back to Galilee. To get there, he had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon. A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, “Would you give me a drink of water?” (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)

The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, “How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” (Jews in those days wouldn’t be caught dead talking to Samaritans.) Jesus answered, “If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking *me* for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.” The woman said, “Sir, you don’t even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this ‘living water’? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?” Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.” The woman said, “Sir, give me this water so I won’t ever get thirsty, won’t ever have to come back to this well again!” He said, “Go call your husband and then come back.” “I have no husband,” she said. “That’s nicely put: ‘I have no husband.’ You’ve had five husbands, and the man you’re living with now isn’t even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough.” “Oh, so you’re a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?” “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God’s way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when what you’re called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter. “It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.” The woman said, “I don’t know about that. I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we’ll get the whole story.”

“I am he,” said Jesus. “You don’t have to wait any longer or look any further.”

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

“He Knows My Name”

Pastor Joy



Song of Response “That’s Why We Praise Him”

He came to live live a perfect life
He came to be the living word, our Life
He Came to die so we’d be reconciled,
He came to rise to show His pow’r and might, and

Chorus

That’s why we praise Him, that’s why we sing
That’s why we offer Him our everything
That’s why why we bow down and worship this King,
‘cause He gave His everything
‘cause He gave His everything

He came to live live again in us
He came to be our conquering King and Friend
He came to heal and show the lost ones His love
He came to go prepare a place for us

(Chorus)

Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah! (Repeat as directed)

Passing of the Peace

(When prompted, all are welcome to show a sign of peace with one another, in their own way)

Celebration of Communion

Pastor: Beloved children of God, you are personally invited to the table of Jesus, our Redeemer. It is the same Jesus who knows your name, who was sent by the Creator as a gift to the world, and whose love pursues you your whole life long.

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: Together, now, 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: Children of God, come to the table!

Communion Music

“Gift of Finest Wheat” #705

You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer (“Debts and Debtors”)

One: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also, with you.*

One: Let us pray today for all whose names or circumstances have been presented before us, whether from within the sanctuary or online. Let us also pray for each individual whose name is printed on the prayer list found on the last page of the bulletin, and may we also remember and pray for all those in our armed forces.

(prayer requests are read – when you are prompted, please respond, “God, hear our prayer.”)

One: Holy and Loving God, in your wisdom, meet all 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 now in the confidence of quiet, O God, and we ask for your healing, your grace, and your mercy upon ourselves and on those for whom we care.

(Silent prayers)

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, which can be addressed to the church at:

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

Ministry of Music

“Jesus, You Paid it All for Me” Ladies Worship Ensemble

Your offerings make this inclusive ministry possible. Thank you! Because of you, our church reaches through and beyond Erie: providing worship, community, and service. Please give generously for the maintenance of our building, our programs and our ministries!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Congregational Response** “Majesty” #43

Majesty, worship His majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from His throne unto His own, His kingdom reigns.

*Departing Prayer

One: All-powerful God, may we understand and appreciate that you know our names, our lives, and everything about us.

All: May we praise you for your unending love and everlasting care for us, your children, understanding that You are the Force within us and around us. You are the omniscient One whom we praise and worship, for our very lives belong to you. Amen!

*Blessing

***Closing Hymn** “How Can I Keep from Singing” #424

My life flows on in endless song, above earth’s lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain

*No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav’n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
(Refrain)

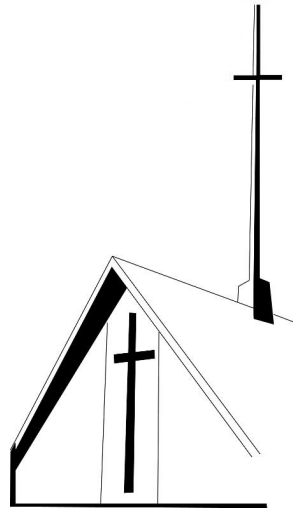
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am His! How can I keep from singing?
(Refrain)

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

Next Sunday - August 6, 2023

10:55 AM Announcements

11:00 AM Worship



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Will You Be My Neighbor?”

Scripture for Study:

Deuteronomy 6: 1-9

Psalm 146

Mark 12:28-31

***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 Shelly Conrad in honor of her mother Carol Conrad's birthday, and also Nancy Alberico in Celebration of Maverick's 2nd birthday from Grandma.

Please consider signing up for our prayer ministry. This is not a prayer chain, nor another meeting or committee. We simply ask for those who are interested to email communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com and let us know if we can email you prayer requests for the church. It will not become a group email chain, nor a discussion group. It is simply (but importantly) an opportunity to pray for the life and ministries of Community United Church.

Today's Elder: Linda Johnson Deacons: Wilma Todd Skelly & Nancy Alberico

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 2: (cancelled for August only) Bible Study – Supper & Study
- August 8: **ERIE GIVES** (checks should be mailed by August 4)
- August 8: Liberty House Outreach
- August 9: Spirits and Spirituality – Calamari's 7:00 p.m.
- August 14: CUC Council 6:30 p.m.
- August 16: Resonate Service 7:00 p.m.
- August 17: Tie-Dye Night at 4 and 6 pm (signup sheet is forthcoming)
- August 24: Art Show 3.2 !

Mark your calendar! Please support Community United Church during ERIE GIVES on August 8, 2003. This is a chance to give over and above your normal offering, to support our having a web presence and outreach programs, and to ensure the operations of CUC in all we do. Thank you in advance for your contribution: remember that your gift gets nearly "doubled!" See eriegives.org for more information!

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, Ron Celeski, Jan & Tim Crowe and Family, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pikulski, Randi Johnson & Lillian Hendrickson.

Council Members: Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Dina Johnson (Secretary), Janice Skelly, Mike Pruzinsky, April Knapp, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Angel Hall.