

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Community United Church Renewal Series

Called to Be the Church, Part 3

February 12, 2023:

11:00 AM

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

We are now in the Season of Epiphany! The word epiphany means "to reveal." On the first Sunday of Epiphany many Christian churches commemorate the story of the three Magi who followed a star to Bethlehem—the time at which Christ began to be revealed to the world. For seven weeks we are in the Season of Epiphany, from that story of the mysterious star over Bethlehem, to Christ's transfiguration on the mountain. In the final four weeks of this season, we are exploring what it means to be called by God to be the church, the Body of Christ on earth. Join us each week!

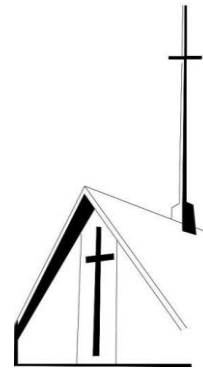


Today's Readings:

1 Peter 5:1-7

Psalm 103

John 13:1-15



Theme:

The Body of Christ:
*Leadership as Commonwealth not
Hierarchy*

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!*

Prelude

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: Holy and loving God, we profess Jesus Christ as the head of the church, and in humility and reverence we feel you making us to be the Body of Christ on earth.

All: As we come to worship you, help us to better understand how the church—as the Body of Christ—can flourish in our time, and in our place. Open our hearts to receive your wisdom, and then help us to discern your presence and guidance among us. Amen!

* Opening Hymn “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” #87

Come, Christians, join to sing—*Alleluia! Amen!*
Loud praise to Christ our King; *Alleluia! Amen!*
Let all, with heart and voice, before God’s throne rejoice.
Praise is God’s gracious choice: *Alleluia! Amen!*

Come, lift your hearts on high—*Alleluia! Amen!*
Let praises fill the sky; *Alleluia! Amen!*
Christ is our Guide and Friend; to us he’ll condescend.
God’s love shall never end: *Alleluia! Amen!*

Praise yet our Christ again—*Alleluia! Amen!*
Life shall not end the strain; *Alleluia! Amen!*
On heaven’s blissful shore, his goodness we’ll adore,
Singing forever more, “*Alleluia! Amen!*”

* Opening Prayer

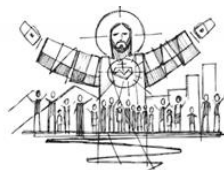
***Sign of Peace**

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

The First Letter Attributed to Peter 5:1-7

Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you ² to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it, not for sordid gain but eagerly. ³ Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. ⁵ In the same way, you who are younger must be subject to the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.



Responsorial

Psalm 103

One: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

All: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all God’s benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the place of death, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy...

One: ...God satisfies you with good, as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The LORD works vindication for all who are oppressed.

All: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love—God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God’s steadfast love toward those who revere him.

One: As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.

All: The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who revere God—[so] bless the LORD, O you angels, you mighty ones who do God’s bidding... bless the LORD, all God’s hosts, the LORD’s ministers who do God’s will. Amen!

*Doxology

“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

John 13:1-15

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

Called to Be the Church, Part 3:
Leadership as Commonwealth, not Hierarchy

Pastor Rich

Song of Response

"Ubi Caritas et Amor" #399

Where true charity and love abide,
God is dwelling there;
God is dwelling there.

(Sing 3x)



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. 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

"All the Way My Savior Leads

Dina Johnson

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

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 the congregational ministries and leaders of this church, that we would listen for the wisdom of God to speak through the many, not just the one.

All: God hear our prayer!

One: For leaders of all faith communities everywhere—may they be wise and gracious.

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 and Time for Contemplation

Cheryl Strecker

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 Thanks

*Congregational Response #147

***“Praise God, from whom all blessings 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, your Spirit is indeed infusing within us everything that we need to be the church—to be the Body of Christ.

All: We ask for your continued blessings upon this community of faith so that we might grow in love and in number for the sake of your glory, and for the healing of the world in love. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Revive Us Again” #463

We praise thee, O God, for the Son of thy love,
For Jesus who died and is now gone above.

Chorus:

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory; Hallelujah, Amen!
Hallelujah! Thine the glory; revive us again.*

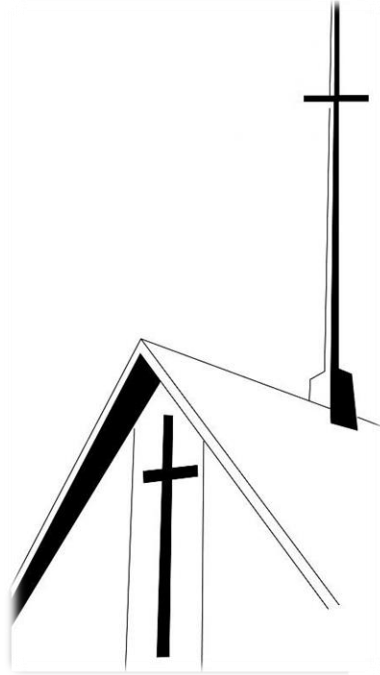
We praise thee, O God, for thy Spirit of light,
Who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night.
(Chorus)

All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
Who has borne all our sins, and has cleansed every strain.
(Chorus)

Revive us again: fill each heart with thy love;
May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.
(Chorus)



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



Next Sunday, February 19, 2023:
11:00 AM

Readings:

2 Peter 1:16-21

Psalm 99

Matthew 17:1-9

**Called to Be the Church, Part 4:
The Body of Christ: Transformed!**

***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 AND IN CELEBRATION GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR ALL FROM DINA JOHNSON

THE SECOND PIECE IS GIVEN IN CELEBRATION OF SASS'S 15TH BIRTHDAY TODAY!!

Today: "Souper" Bowl Luncheon
Monday: Council Meeting 6:30 PM
Tuesday: Liberty House 5:30
Wednesday: RESONATE 7 PM
Saturday: Private Event

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Samantha McHenry (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army), Mathew Anderson (Army) and DJ Miaczynski (Marines)

PRAYERS FOR:

Rod and Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Sue Scheiwer, Diane Walker, George Churley, Robin Adams, Ralph Kester, Sharon Cooper, Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Jimmyo, Sandy Gool, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone, Jared and Priscilla Hall, Ron Celeski, Sally Cubetus, and Annette and Ralph 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

A message from Julie Minich:

I'd like to offer a heartfelt thank you my church family who has reached out to me during my father's passing and memorial service. The cards, Facebook comments, gifts and prayers are greatly appreciated. My biological family is going through a hard time. However, it is wonderful to know that my church family supports us.