

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 2

February 5, 2023:

11:00 AM

The Fifth 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!

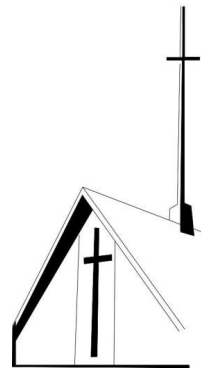


Today's Readings:

1 Corinthians 12:4-31

Psalms 95:1-7

John 14:1-3, 25-27



Theme:

The Body of Christ: Spiritual Gifts for All

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, you are One and Holy—and yet it is your good pleasure to manifest in many ways, and through all that you have made.

All: As you are making us to be the Body of Christ, help us to better be channels of your grace, mercy, and peace—believing that your Spirit gives each one of us spiritual gifts to reveal your grace, and to shine the light of Christ. Amen!

* Opening Hymn

“Gather Us In” #649

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame.

Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;

Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;

Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

* **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

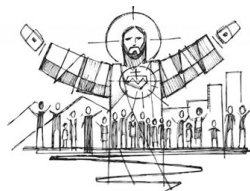
The Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 12:4-31

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.



Responsorial

Psalm 95:1-7

One: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

One: For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods. In God's hands are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God's also. The sea is the LORD's, for God made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

All: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker. For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

One: O that today you would listen to God's voice!

All: 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 14:1-3, 25-27

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

²⁵ "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

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 2:
Spiritual Gifts for All

Pastor Rich

Chorus:

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one—Lord.*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
Woman or man, no more.

(Chorus)

Many the gifts, many the works,
One in the Lord—of all.

(Chorus)

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
Gathered to one, for all.

(Chorus)



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!

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: That the Holy Spirit would make it plainly known to each of us what our spiritual gifts are, and that we would be moved to use those in the church and in the world.

All: God hear our prayer!

One: That the church, worldwide, would renew with the fire of inclusive 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**

*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

Kristine Koziol

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, in the mystery of your will, we believe you delight in working through us, the Body of Christ.

All: Help us to believe that you truly have given each of us spiritual gifts to be the Body of Christ—one and holy, just like you. Inspire us to use our gifts—and do not let us say no! Put a fire so deep within us that it will be irresistible to use your gifts in this place, and to connect with all others as they use theirs—all for your glory, and for the healing of the world through love. Amen!

*Blessing

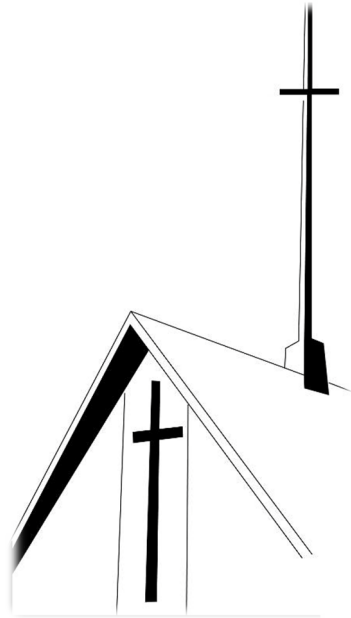
*Closing Hymn “Let There Be Peace on Earth” #614

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!



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



Next Sunday, February 12, 2023:

11:00 AM

Readings:

1 Peter 5:1-7

Romans 16:1-6

Psalm 103

John 13:1-15

Called to Be the Church, Part 3:

The Body of Christ: Leadership as Commonwealth not Hierarchy

***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
REMEMBRANCE OF FREDA, PEGGY AND ELLEN'S BIRTHDAYS
FROM THE SMITH FAMILY**

Wednesday: Spirits and Spirituality 7 PM at Calamari's

Don't forget the "Jean Reidel Memorial Souper Bowl" will take place on
February 12, but you can bring in your cans of soup anytime through 2/28.
We are collecting Chicken Noodle, Vegetable and Chili.

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), Ginnie Burger (Treas.),
Mike Pruzinsky, April Knapp, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Angel Hall***