

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



The First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2023:

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy Johnson

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

Centering Music

“Change My Heart, O God” #373

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
(Repeat)

Invocation

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

All: And also with you.

One: God, as we step into the Season of Lent, you offer steadfast love as our strong refuge, and your boundless grace is our sheltering presence.

One: In the unity of worship, we trust that you, O God, will speak to us *and through us*—as we walk anew the path of Christ, which leads to the misery and mystery of his cross, and then again, to his triumph over the grave. Amen!

* Opening Hymn “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” #99

You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword bringer—of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross,
Shining in eternal glory, beggared by a soldier’s toss,
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us, sit in pow-er at God’s side.
You, who preach a way that’s narrow, have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory. Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our death and life.

***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.)

Confession

One: Christ Jesus, we sometimes forget that you—*yourself*—faced rejection, condemnation, isolation, and death. Our perception can sometimes become so narrow that we do not sense that you are with us in our troubles. We confess, we have sometimes felt discouraged, abandoned, and even betrayed by you, O God, when all manner of things have not gone well for us.

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

One: Instead of following where you lead, O God, at times we follow a tempter who shows us a vision of the world that is a counterfeit of what you desire for us. We confess, at times we have been deceived by *imitations* of love, abundance, and joy.

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

One: Help us to trust you to journey with us and to guide us.

All: Help us to rest in your promise to never leave nor forsake us. Amen.

Lenten Meditation & Candles

Song of Reflection

“Jesus Remember Me” #285

(Sing Three Times)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

First Reading

The First Letter Attributed to Peter 3:18-22

⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Responsorial

Psalm 25:1-10

One: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

All: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

One: Good and upright is the LORD: therefore God instructs us in the way. God leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble the ways of righteousness.

All: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep God's covenant and God's decrees. Amen!

*Lenten Acclamation

“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” #250 V. 1

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
We turn to walk the inward way,
Where meeting Christ, our guide and light,
We live in hope till Easter Day.

*Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

Christ in the Desert

Pastor Rich

Song of Response

“Jesus, Your Name” #361

Jesus, your name is power, Jesus, your name is might.
Jesus, your name will break every stronghold—Jesus, your name is life.

Jesus, your name is healing, Jesus, your name gives sight.
Jesus, your name will free every captive—Jesus, your name is life.

Jesus, your name is holy, Jesus, your name is might.
Jesus, your name, above every other—Jesus, your name is life.

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

“Healing Grace”

Leah Johnson

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: ***And also with you.***

One: People of God, let us center our hearts and extend the spiritual power that is within us. *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows...*[prayer requests are presented]*...We also pray for everyone who has asked their name to be on the prayer list *[see the last page of the bulletin]*. 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 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.

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.

**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*



Offertory

“Give Me Jesus”

Leah Johnson

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Lenten Congregational Response #576

***Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak!
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant! Make me a servant!
Make me a servant today!***

*Departing Prayer

One: Holy and loving God, send us forth to follow wherever your Spirit leads.

All: May your angels guard our hearts and our souls, so that even in harm's way we will not be consumed. Remind us that whether in falling or in rising we are forever in the protection of your love. Amen!

* Blessing

*Closing Hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" #252

Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins
And close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend,
And did the victory win,
O Give us strength in you to fight,
In you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger and did thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and so to live
By your most holy Word.

And thro' these days of penitence,
And thro' your Passion-tide,
Forever-more, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, and through this life—
Of doubts and hope and pain,
An Easter of unending joy
We may at last attain!



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



Next Sunday:

11:00 AM

Readings:

Romans 4:13-25

Psalm 22:23-31

Mark 8:31-38

**The Second Sunday of Lent:
Losing and Finding Life**

***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 Janet Gregor In Memory of John & Carol Trebik and by Mandy, Nancy & Freda in celebration of February birthdays!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 18: Service Sunday – 12:15 PM
February 21: No Resonate service this month; we'll resume in March
February 25: Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM
February 25: Ladies Ministry preparing bagged lunches for “Our Neighbors’ Place”
February 26: Ladies Ministry volunteering evening “Our Neighbors’ Place”
February 27: Ladies Lunch

Need hearing assistance? We have four available units. Please talk to our tech crew in the back of the sanctuary.

Please submit any bulletin requests by **Tuesday** to ensure there is time to get them in.

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Samantha McHenry (Army), Brittany Duncan (Army),
Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army),
Matthew Anderson (Army), DJ Miaczynski (Marines), Jaden O’Hara (Army)
& Toby Charlton (Marines)

PRAYERS FOR:

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Kevin Bennett & family & friends, Rod & Dew Johnson,
Harry Lamb, Diane Walker, 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, Ethel Davis,
Jim Haglund, Chelsea Brown, John Waid, Patti Rogers, Celeste Eller & Family, Shirley Carrier,
Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Gary Peck, Jerry Koziol, Uncle Charlie,
Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, and Ed Mumau.

Council Members:

Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Nancy Alberico, Janice Skelly, Mike Pruzinsky, Michele Vahey, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Angel Conrad