

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 19, 2025

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy Johnson

Centering Music

“As We Gather” #646

As we gather may your Spirit work within us,
As we gather may we glorify your Name.
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship,
We'll be blessed because we came,
We'll be blessed because we came.
(Repeat)

Invocation

One: Holy and loving God, you reveal yourself to us in many and varied ways. From the greatness of the cosmos to the intricacies of invisible atoms.

All: In and through Christ, you are distinctly revealed, O God. In Christ we discover your unconditional love, and the joy you bring when transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary—as when Christ turned water to wine. In this time of worship, we ask that you transform us into a people of glory and fulfillment. 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.



First Reading

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her and your land Married, for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Responsorial

Psalm 36:5-10

One: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

All: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgements are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

One: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

All: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

One: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

All: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the upright of heart! Amen.

***Gloria**

"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 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. ⁹ When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Children's Message



Song of Preparation

"This is a Time to Remember" #579

This is a time to remember—the greatness of the Lord;
He has so faithfully led us—as promised in his Word;
He has so bountifully given—his grace like freshening rain;
He has so lovingly pardoned—and made us whole again.

This is a time to remember—the glories that have been;
This is a time to press onward—to vistas yet unseen;
Christ is alive in his people, he meets us face to face;
Granting the power of his Spirit—to serve him in this place.

This is a time to remember—the Church is his, not ours;
This is a time to surrender—ourselves, our wealth, our powers;
This is a time to be servants—to give ourselves away,
Building the Church of the future—until the coming day.

We gather here—in Jesus' name, his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
 For through the loving Son—the Father makes us one:
 Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
*No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs;
 Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.*

He joins us here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
 The one we love the most is now our gracious host:
 Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
*We are now a family—of which the Lord is head;
 Though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.*

We'll gather soon—where angels sing; we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
 Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
 Come, take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.

COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: People of God, as we journey through the season of Epiphany, we come each week to discover how Christ was revealed to the world. Christ came for us, and for our salvation into wholeness and holiness.

All: Our altar table is another place to encounter the living Christ—who meets us once again in the bread and in the cup. Here at this table, food for the body also becomes food for the spirit.

Pastor: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come.

All: 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 we ask the Holy Spirit to make it for us communion with the living Christ, body and blood, love poured out, forever!

All: Here at this Table we remember that Christ indeed 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 and find the Light of Heaven as true light for our lives.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer ("Debts and Debtors")

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 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 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

God is inviting us to serve in response to God's great love for us, so that the whole world may know the fullness of God's peace.

How is God calling you this week to give of your time, talent, and resources?

Community United Church has the following ministries opportunities and needs:

Prayer ministries

Food ministries: Liberty House & Service Sunday

Children's Church leaders

Financial gifts to cover monthly needs (every contribution helps so much)

Every gift is great. Let us all give joyfully!

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

Offering & Offertory

"Simple Gifts"

Sarah Strecker

Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving

*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: O God of steadfast love, at the wedding in Cana your living Word, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ turned water into wine, delighting all who were there.

All: Transform our hearts by your Spirit, that we may use our varied gifts to show forth the light of your love as one body in Christ. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn “The World is Full of Stories” #558 Vv. 1-3

The world is full of stories, of stories that have passed
To us along the ages; great stories that still last,
To tell of human feelings drawn deep from heart and mind,
More true than fact: their meaning—the surest we can find.

The world is full of stories, new stories people tell,
And young and old come under the storyteller’s spell
Which stirs imagination and opens wide our eyes
To duty and conviction, to wonder and surprise.

The world is full of stories that capture and enthrall;
But joyful faith discovers that one transcends them all:
God’s love as told in Jesus, who shared our life on earth,
And human recreation beginning at his birth.

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



Next Week:

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings to Study:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

Luke 4:14-21

Theme:

The Mission of Christ Revealed

***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 honor of the 50th Anniversary of Linda Weber's mother's passing from this world into glory.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 19, 2025: Coffee Social 10:15 AM
Worship at 11:00 AM
Annual Congregational Meeting
Service Sunday

January 26, 2025: Monthly Praise & Prayer Service 9:00 AM
Coffee Social 10:15 AM
Worship at 11:00 AM

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:

Jackson Feiock (Army), 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), Jaden O'Hara (Army), Toby Charlton (Marines), Cole Poshett (Army) & Hunter Miaczynski (Army)

PRAYERS FOR:

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Diane Walker, Ralph Kester, John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pakulski, Ethel Davis, Chelsea Brown, Celeste Eller & Family, Shirley Carrier, Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Sharon Cooper, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein, The Vadzemnieks Family, Reverend Susan Strouse & Reverend Barbara Peronteau, and John & Tina Schnarrs

Current Council Members:

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