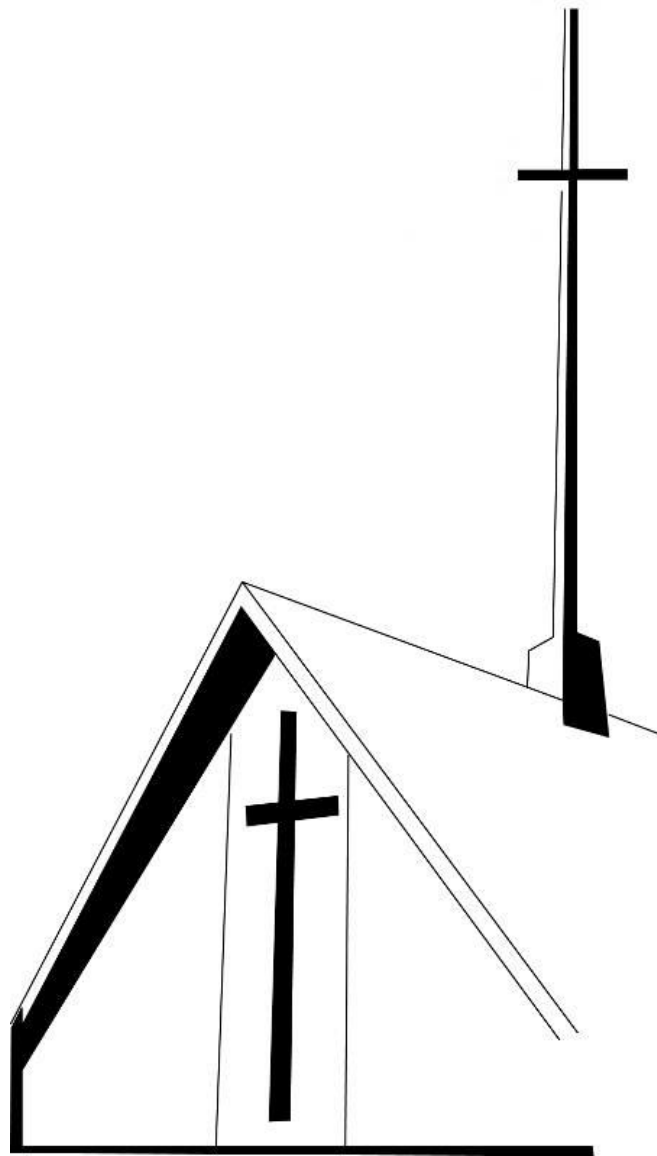


Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



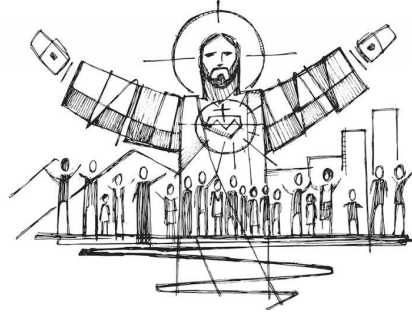
July 31, 2022

11:00 AM

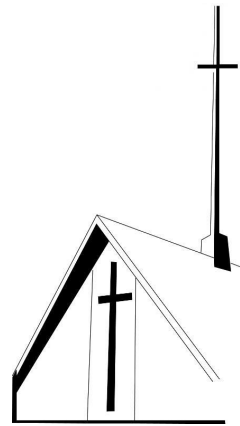
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

From the Day of Pentecost until the day before Advent, the Church is in the Season of Pentecost.

But having moved beyond the holy days of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we tend to call this long stretch of months: Ordinary Time. In truth, there is nothing “ordinary” about Ordinary Time. It is meant to be a period in the Church calendar when we intentionally seek to grow and flourish in faith. The green colors throughout the sanctuary symbolize that. So let us grow together in both Spirit and Love.



Today's Readings:
Colossians 3:1-11
Psalm 49:1-12
Luke 12:13-21



Theme: “Greed, Treasures and What Really Matters”

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

Cheryl Strecker

Centering Music

Dina Johnson and
Kelly McLaughlin

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: God of all Creation, let us give thanks and praise and gratitude to you, for you have given us blessings, abundance, and hope.

All: Help us to put aside our interest in temporary things, and to focus our lives on living as God would have us live. Guide our steps and place a song in our hearts as we celebrate your love and open our minds to the ways of service and compassion. Amen!

*Hymn "We bring the Sacrifice of Praise" #651

We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.
We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving.
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.

We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.
We bring the sacrifice of praise, into the house of the Lord.
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving.
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.

***Opening Prayer**



The 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

Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:1-11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your^[a] life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.^[b] ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.^[c] ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive^[d] language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal^[e] there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Song of Renewal

"You Are My All in All" #427 (2X)

You are my strength when I am weak, you are the Treasure that I seek,
You are my All in All. Seeking you as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool, you are my All in All!

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is your name.

Responsorial

Psalm 49

One: Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world, both low and high, rich and poor together.

All: My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.

One: Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me, those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

All: Truly, no ransom avails for one's life; there is no price one can give to God for it. For the ransom of life is costly and can never suffice, that one should live on forever and never see the Pit.

One: When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together and leave their wealth to others. Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they named lands their own.

**All: Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.
Amen!**

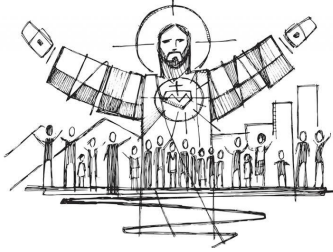
***Gloria**

“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**

Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

“Greed, Treasures and What Really Matters”

Pastor Joy

Song of Response

“Seek Ye First” #349 (2X)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you; Al-le-lu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you; Al-le-lu, alleluia!

COMMUNION LITURGY

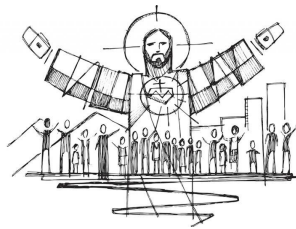
Pastor: People of God, come to the table! Christ is generous to us and opens His table to all, no matter who we are – or where we are – on life’s journey. He promised that as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we not only remember him, but we commune with him by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

All: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come. At this table, all who are far off are made very near. 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 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 and Lord’s Prayer (“Debts and Debtors”)

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 all of us who collect the things of this earth, that we might concentrate our efforts in helping to provide for those who lack the means to help themselves.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: For the greedy, that they might be made generous; for the poor, that they might be sustained. May we not be afraid, for it is the Creator’s good pleasure to give us the kingdom.

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.

Financial offerings are now accepted online at:

www.communityunited.church/donate/

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 Music and Time for Contemplation

Dina and Kelly

As the offertory music is played, let us stay together in a spirit of prayer and worship. Open your hearts now to what Spirit is saying to you—and moving you to do in the days that we have been given.



*Congregational Response (BLUE) #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: Generous and gracious God, as we have embarked on yet another day, we know that if we allow it, we will be guided by you as you teach us to walk with cords of human kindness and love.

All: May we not fear failure or worry that we will not have enough time or goods if we give a little to those in need, and may we know that you love us with a steadfast love: low and high, rich and poor together. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn “Let All Things Now Living” #22

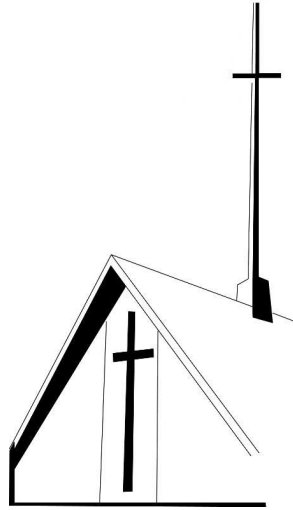
Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the
Creator triumphantly raise, Who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us, who guides us and leads to the end of our days.

His banners are o’er us, his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, Till shadows have vanished and
darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

His law he enforces; the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.

We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise, Till all things now living unite in Thanksgiving;
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

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



Next Sunday, August 7: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Readings:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Psalm 33:12-22

Luke 12:32-40

Theme:

“Walking by Faith, in Hope”

***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