

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



June 16, 2024

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Richard W. McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Prelude
Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Cheryl Strecker

Centering Music

“Make Me a Servant” # 576 2X

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.

Invocation:

One: Holy God, sower of seeds, be at work among us, we pray, that your church may thrive in faithfulness. Whether we are the size of a tall cedar or are a small sprig, it does not matter.

All: You are able to put us to good use, not by our efforts, but by your power and grace we bear fruit and produce boughs of spacious welcome.

One: You can even make a dry tree flourish! Even we can become a new creation!

All: Urge us on, then, in the love of Christ. In His name we pray. Amen!

Father’s Day Litany

Song

“Tell My Father”

Bob Martin

Opening Prayer

*Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #71

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;
Sheltering you under his wings and so gently sustaining!
Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again, gladly forever adore him.

The Peace of Christ

One: The Peace of Christ be with you, All!

All: And also with you!

One: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

First Reading (from The Message)

Ezekiel 17:22-24

22-24 “GOD, the Master, says, I personally will take a shoot from the top of the towering cedar, a cutting from the crown of the tree, and plant it on a high and towering mountain, on the high mountain of Israel. It will grow, putting out branches and fruit—a majestic cedar. Birds of every sort and kind will live under it. They’ll build nests in the shade of its branches. All the trees of the field will recognize that I, GOD, made the great tree small and the small tree great, made the green tree turn dry and the dry tree sprout green branches. I, GOD, said it—and I did it.”

Responsorial

Psalm 92: 1-4, 12-15

One: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High, to declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

All: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

One: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

All: They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

One: In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,

All: Showing that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. 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!



²⁶⁻²⁹ Then Jesus said, “God’s kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!

³⁰⁻³² “How can we picture God’s kingdom? What kind of story can we use? It’s like an acorn. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go, yet once it is planted it grows into a huge oak tree with thick branches. Eagles nest in it.”

³³⁻³⁴ With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity. He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots.

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

From Small to Great – The Reign of God Grows

Pastor Joy



Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth” # 40 v. 1-4

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of night.
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child.
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the church that evermore, lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love.
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

Celebration of Communion

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

"When Feet May Fail"

Cheryl

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 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] 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.

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

“Thankful”

Bob

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 Thanksgiving



*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: Good and gracious God, we see the miracles of growth all around us. May we come to understand that we ourselves are growing, too, growing in our faith, and in our walk with you.

All: Grant that as we live by your constant love, we seek your face in all of our endeavors, and experience our own growth, through the grace and mercy you give us every day. Amen.

*Blessing

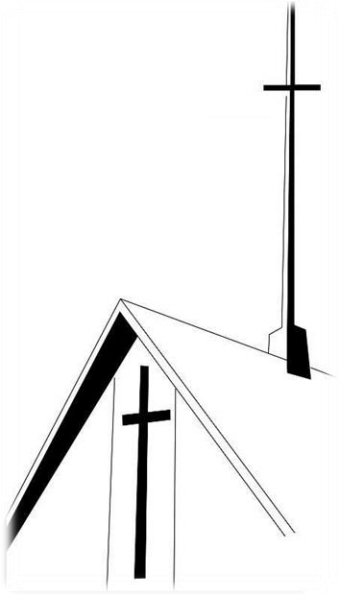
*Closing Hymn

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” # 712

Sent forth by God’s blessing our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seeds of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us,
To work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God’s children of each tribe and race
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

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



Next Week:

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

Mark 4:35-41

Theme: Finding God in the Storm

*Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect
online 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 Nancy Alberico in honor of Father's Day

UPCOMING EVENT

- June 16: Service Sunday
June 19: Resonate 6:30 PM
June 25: Ladies Luncheon (lunch provided) 12:00 - 1:30 PM: Regular monthly gathering, with special celebration of those who have gone before us into their heavenly rest
June 29: Pride Rally at the Highmark Amphitheatre & Liberty Park (828 West Bayfront)
10:00 - 11:45 AM: Church station/tent set-up and decorations
12:00 - 5:00 PM: 2024 Erie Pride Rally and Celebration
June 30: Weekly Worship & Pride Parade
8:30 - 9:50 AM: Pride parade team finish preparations on our float
10:00 - 10:45 AM: Weekly Worship (note the time change this week to accommodate the city's parade)
12:00 - 1:00 PM: Pride parade team line up on W. 11th Street with church float
1:00 - 2:00 PM: Pride Parade: 11th Street to Perry Square

- *Just a gentle reminder to our dear folks who keep our lawn tidy...Please be sure NOT to blow grass cuttings into the street as it presents a true safety hazard. Your efforts are so appreciated!*

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:

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)

PRAYERS FOR:

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Kevin Bennett & family & friends, Rod & Dew Johnson,
Harry Lamb, Diane Walker, Ralph Kester,
John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Jimmyo, Sandy Gool, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone,
Jan & Tim Crowe and Family, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich,
Dave Pakulski, Randi Johnson, Ethel Davis,
Jim Haglund, Chelsea Brown, John Waid, Celeste Eller & Family, Shirley Carrier,
Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Jerry Koziol, Uncle Charlie,
Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Ed Mumau, Sharon Cooper,
Mary Ann Schmeisser, Saundra Carlson, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein, Jenny Jacob,
The Doerfer-DePoorter Family & Jeremiah.

Council Members:

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

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