

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

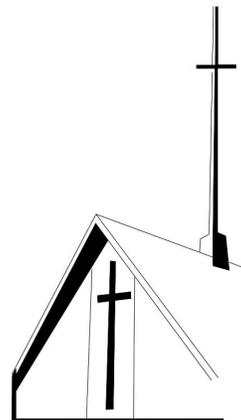
June 26, 2022

11:00 AM

The Third Sunday of Pentecost

The Church is now in the Season of Pentecost! Many Christians have long believed that on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit of God came upon Christ's disciples, revealing the presence of God and the outpouring of God's Spirit upon the world. To say that we believe in the Holy Spirit is to affirm that God's presence and power are still among us—sometimes quiet and sublime, other times boldly and with great empowerment. The Holy Spirit of God leads us in the ways of grace, and moves us to embody heaven on earth!

Today's Readings:
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Psalm 16
Luke 9:51-62



Theme: "Things of Flesh & Spirit"

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

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, for freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus! Free from ritual law, free from perfectionism, and free from any other expectation but to be loved by you and to be transformed through your grace.

All: As we come to worship you in Spirit and Truth, O God, we also ask you to break any chains that still bind our hearts, our minds, our bodies, or our spirits. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

*Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #59

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother – all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

*Opening Prayer

First Reading

Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Responsorial

Psalm 16

One: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

All: I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

One: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

All: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

One: I keep the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

All: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

One: For you do not give me up to Sheol—the place of the dead—or let your faithful one see the Pit.

All: You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. 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 9:51-62

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, ⁵³ but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶² And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

One: These are the words of God for the people of God.

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

“Things of Flesh & Spirit”

Pastor Rich

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 brings light.
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. 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: All who wish to enter more deeply into the mystery of God through the way of Christ are welcome at this table. So, as you are able, come to the table! Here, God meets us in Christ, through Spirit!

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 those who feel trapped in the wearying cycles of searching for happiness in things that only disappoint. May Spirit set us free through Christ Jesus!

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: For those who have been made to feel impure, or outside of the Reign of God, for simply enjoying the natural gifts that God has given us. May such rigid religion be far from us; and may we all remember that creation is good, pleasure is God given, and that our calling is to discern how best to enjoy the gifts of God, for the people of God.

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

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: Holy and loving God, you set us free in Jesus Christ with a power greater than all that would keep us captive.

All: Grant that we might live gracefully in our freedom without selfishness or arrogance—and then, through love, become servants to the freedom of the gospel for the sake of your reign. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“He Leadeth Me” #499

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where-e'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

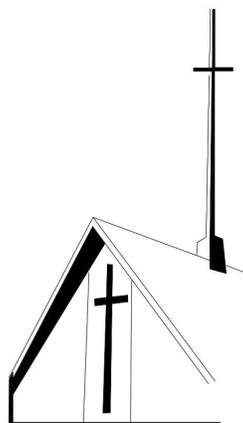
Chorus:

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me! By his own hand he leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by his hand he leadeth me.*

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
Nor ever mumur nor repine
Content, whate'er my lot may be,
Since 'tis my God who leadeth me
(Chorus)

And when my task on earth is done,
When by thy grace the victory's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me
(Chorus)

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



Next Sunday, July 3: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Readings:

Galatians 6:1-16

Psalm 66:1-9

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Theme:

“Sowing for a Good Harvest”

***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 WEEK ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF TERESA KURTY FROM HER SISTER CAROL RODGERS.

Council Members: Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Dina Johnson (Secretary), Ginnie Burger (Treas.), Mike Pruzinsky, April Knapp, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, Angel Hall

The Ladies Outreach Group will be having lunch this month at Venango Valley Inn. We will meet in the church parking lot on Tuesday, June 28 at 11:00. We will car pool to the restaurant from there. Hope to see you there!!

Summer Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Deacons:

June 26- Angel, Patti
July 3- Sass, need a volunteer
July 10- Lauryne, Natalie
July 17- Patti, Sass
July 24- Angel, Patti
July 31- Sass, Becky

Special thank you to all those who helped with the gallery opening and Pride. Both events we wonderful! We are so grateful for all of the love and support that this community of faith is able to offer and it's because you all are a part of it. We are the place of refuge, radical inclusion and welcome-- because of you. Thank you!

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Meagan Dawson (Army), Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Matt Duncan (Army), Chris Duncan (Marines), Jeremy Celline (Army National Guard), Samantha McHenry (Army), Shelby Wescott (Army) and Mathew Anderson (Army)

PRAYERS FOR: Rod & Dew Johnson, Dan Wingerter, four year old Julie, Jill, Phillip Harris, Harry Lamb, Jimmyo, Jimmy Gillespie, Sue Scheiwer, Jesse, Brenda, Grace, John, Julie Davis, Joe O'Hara, Bill, Diane Walker, Tom Coakley, George Churley, Mandy, Diane, Rose, Dick, JoMarie, Skinny and The Family of Joe Armstrong, Tammy McIntyre.