

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



June 9, 2024

The Third 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

“Spirit of the Living God” #492

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love;
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing, Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

Invocation:

One: God of goodness, Jesus teaches us that a house divided cannot stand. As we gather in Your house, may we extend to each other the kind of grace we receive from You.

All: **And may we show the same grace and the same consideration in our own families and circles of love and friendship. May these *houses* be strengthened by Your mercy, so that we are reconciled to you and to one another for the work of justice, peace, and love. Amen!**

*Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory” #569

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
Crown your ancient Church’s story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn your Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us – free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Heal your children’s warring madness, bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage lest we miss your kingdom’s goal,
Lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage serving you whom we adore,
Serving you whom we adore.

* Opening Prayer

*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

2nd Corinthians 4:13-5:1

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture— ‘I believed, and so I spoke’—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Responsorial

Psalm 138

One: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

All: I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness.

One: For you have exalted your name and your word above everything. On the day I called you, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

All: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

One: They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, FOR great is the glory of the LORD.

All: For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

One: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

All: The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

***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**

Mark 3:20-35

And the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, ‘He has gone out of his mind.’ And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.’ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

‘Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin’— for they had said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, ‘Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.’ And he replied, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

The House that Stands

Pastor Joy



As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
 So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
 Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
 We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
 We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
 By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.
 In a humble, listening spirit, we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
 So may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
 As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
 May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

Celebration of Communion

(offered this morning by Rev. Evon Lloyd)

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

"Holy Spirit"

Kristine Kozol



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

"Make Us One"

Kristine

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: Holy and loving God, may we be comforted and empowered by Your presence in all of life's settings. May we be stunned and emboldened by the strength of Your love and the ability of that same love to bring wisdom and harmony where there is division and separation.

All: **As Christ's disciples, let us recognize that unity in our homes, churches, workplaces, and relationships only comes from acceptance and caring, and consideration and inclusion. May we follow Christ's amazing example. Amen!**

***Blessing**

***Closing Hymn**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" #72

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Though changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As though has been though forever wilt be.

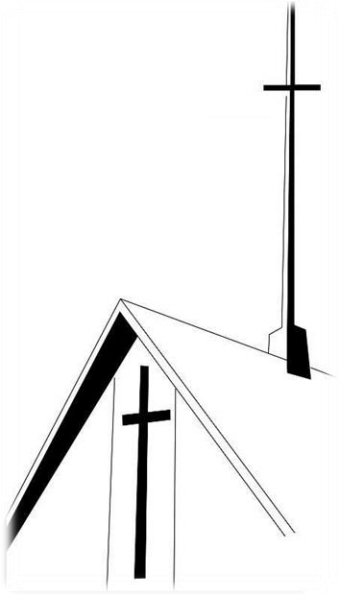
Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided –
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun moon and stars in their courses above.
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. (Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

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



**Next Week:
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Readings:

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

Mark 4:26-34

Theme: From Small to Great—The Way the Reign of God Grows

***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 Kathy Koziol, Lorre Rapp & Pat Smith in loving memory of their sister Julie.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- June 10: Council Meeting 6:30 PM
June 11: Liberty House
June 12: Spirits & Spirituality – Calamari's 7:00 PM
June 16: Service Sunday

Car magnets are still available if you haven't had a chance to purchase one yet...See Ginnie.

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

Please submit any announcement requests by **Tuesday** for the Sunday bulletin.

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, Sandra 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

Community United Church is committed to ethical and legal compliance in our music and livestreaming:
CCLI Church Copyright License: 11405428 Streaming License: 20856761