

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



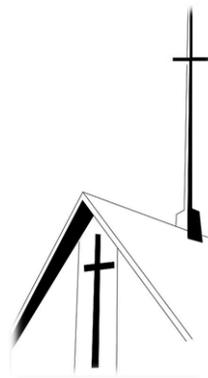
Worship & Veterans' Day Commemoration

November 13, 2022:

11:00 AM

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

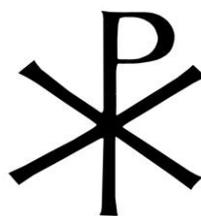


Today's Readings:

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalm 98

Luke 21:5-19



Theme:

Living Until the End

&

Veterans' Day Commemoration

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!

Welcome, Prayer Requests & Announcements
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, you are the Beginning and End of all creation; and from our endings you create new beginnings.

All: On this journey of faith, help us to remember that times of struggle and suffering do not mean your absence. In this hour of worship, infuse in us the wisdom and faith we need to live in the world as it is, so that we might show the world what it can be. Amen!

*Opening Hymn

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing” #87

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before God’s throne rejoice;

Praise is God’s gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!

Christ is our Guide and Friend; to us he’ll condescend;

Christ’s love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven’s blissful shore, God’s goodness we’ll adore,

Singing for every more, “*Alleluia! Amen!*”

***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.

(You may choose to shake hands, hug, or simply acknowledge one another without physical touch based on your comfort and/or health needs.)

Veterans' Day Commemoration

(Adapted from the Rev. John Gundlach, Retired Navy Chaplain, and the UCC's minister for government chaplaincies)

Response Reading & Prayer

One: In commemoration of Veterans' Day in the United States, we honor all of those among us who have served in the military. Today we hear words that have not always been offered, "*Thank you for your service.*"

All: **Though these words will never go far enough to bring healing for some wounds, it is one small but important way to acknowledge what veterans have given, especially to the nation they serve.**

One: Though we hate war—and we may disagree about the justifications for particular wars—it is important to recognize the sacrifices of those who have served on our behalf, and to care for them in return. As people of faith, we acknowledge that we are not yet on the Mountain of the LORD—the place where swords will be transformed into tools of peace. We still live in the "*already*" and "*not yet*" world, where the Reign of God is here, and yet its total fulfillment is not yet manifest.

All: **We remember the words of Jesus that there will be "wars and rumors of war" in this life. We do not celebrate this failure of peace, but with Jesus we acknowledge that war and ruin is often what we find in our world.**

One: And so, we acknowledge the vocation impressed upon many people's hearts: to stand on the line to defend and protect those who would otherwise be harmed by the weapons of war. For many, this legacy of service is one of pride for having served, and for having helped to preserve international civil justice. We also recognize that for others, this legacy includes unhealed wounds of the body, mind, or spirit; living with addictions, broken relationships, dreams that haunt their nights, feelings of guilt because of the ways of war; or deep grief because of what and whom they lost. And so, we pray:

All: **God of All Nations, where pain persists, we ask you to heal the wounds of our veterans. Give them peace so they may enjoy the fullness of their lives We offer thanks for our veterans. Help us to care enough to give them the respect and honor they are due, and strengthen our resolve to build a world modeled on your realm, where war will be pursued no more. This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Holy One of Heaven and Earth. Amen.**

Recognition of our Veterans



Song of Reflection “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand” #728

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Your love divine has led us in the past,
In this free land by you our lot is cast;
Be now our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be your strong arm our ever-sure defense;
Your true religion in our hearts increase,
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh your people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with heaven-born love and grace,
And songs of praise we’ll lift before your face.



First Reading

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. ²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well. ²⁴ Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Responsorial

Psalm 98

One: O sing to the LORD a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

All: God has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness to the people...all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

One: Make a joyful noise the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

All: Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it. For God is coming to bring justice to the earth. 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 21:5-19

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” ⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. ⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

“Living Until the End”

Pastor Rich

O God of every nation, of every race and land,
Redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;
Where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
From pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
Deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,
And Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.



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: 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 those who put themselves in harm's way to resist injustice and to bring about lasting peace.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: That all people would learn to live by the power of love, and not the love of power.

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

Ministry of Music and Time for Contemplation:

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 Music

Offertory Prayer of Thanks

*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, in Christ you give us hope for a new heaven and a new earth.

All: Grant us wisdom to live well in these complicated times. Give us courage to stand when love and justice require it. Give us faith to show all people that the Reign of God endures in all times and places—until the very end. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn “God of Grace and God of Glory” #569

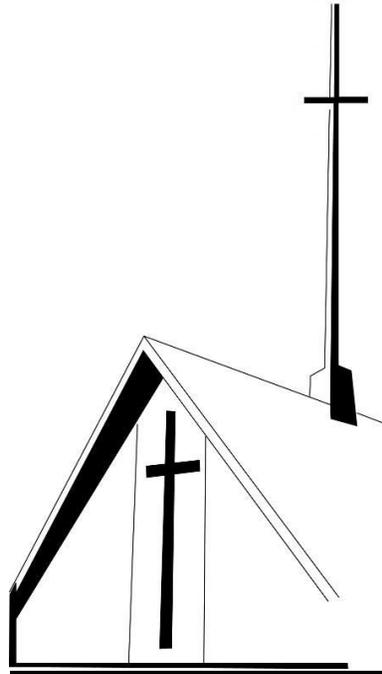
God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
Crown your ancient Church’s story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts 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.

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



Next week:

November 20, 2022

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Colossians 1:11-20

Psalm 46

Luke 23:33-43

Theme: The Way of the Reign of God

***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

This Week:

- November 13: Council Meeting following Worship
November 16: RESONATE 7 PM
November 20: Service Sunday, Church Decorating for Advent

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Samantha McHenry (Army), Shelby Wescott (Army), Mathew Anderson (Army) and DJ Miaczynski (Marines)

PRAYERS FOR:

Rod and Dew Johnson, Dan Wingerter, Jill, Phillip Harris, Harry Lamb, Jimmyo, Jimmy Gillespie, Sue Scheiwer, Jesse, Brenda, Grace, John, Julie Davis, Diane Walker, George Churley, Rose, Dick, Skinny, Tammy McIntyre, Robin Adams, Joannie, Brandie, Ralph Kester, Sharon Cooper, Sandy Gool, Jerry and Kathy Koziol, Todd Carrier, Teddy Long and Laura Stone

Council Members:

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