

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



October 16, 2022

11:00 AM

The Nineteenth 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.

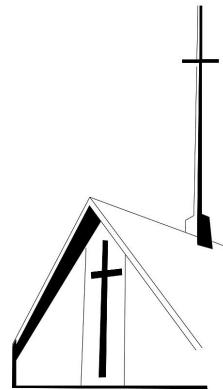


Today's Readings:

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

Psalm 121

Luke 18:1-8



Theme: Persistence in All Times

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!*

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: God of creation, even though it is difficult to continually pray and work for justice and goodness and fairness, let us not lose heart!

All: May we be persistent in our actions for the realm of God, knowing that we will be protected from malice and guided by the power and reality of Christ's grace. Amen!

*Hymn

“Gather Us In” #649

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in; our spirits inflame
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters; call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away.
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

***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 Second Letter to Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

¹⁴ But I want you to continue to follow what you have learned and are sure about. You know the people you learned it from. ¹⁵ You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. ¹⁷ By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.

I give you a command in the sight of God and Christ Jesus. Christ will judge the living and the dead. Because he and his kingdom are coming, here is the command I give you. ² Preach the word. Be ready to serve God in good times and bad. Correct people's mistakes. Warn them. Encourage them with words of hope. Be very patient as you do these things. Teach them carefully. ³ The time will come when people won't put up with true teaching. Instead, they will try to satisfy their own desires. They will gather a large number of teachers around them. The teachers will say what the people want to hear. ⁴ The people will turn their ears away from the truth. They will turn to stories that aren't true. ⁵ But I want you to keep your head no matter what happens. Don't give up when times are hard. Work to spread the good news. Do everything God has given you to do.

Responsorial

Psalm 121

One: I lift my eyes to the hills---from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

All: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

One: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

All: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and in your coming in from this time on and 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 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a story. He wanted to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said, “In a certain town there was a judge. He didn’t have any respect for God or care about what people thought. ³ A widow lived in that town. She came to the judge again and again. She kept begging him, ‘Make things right for me. Someone is treating me badly.’

⁴ “For some time the judge refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t have any respect for God. I don’t care about what people think. ⁵ But this widow keeps bothering me. So I will see that things are made right for her. If I don’t, she will someday come and attack me!’ ”

⁶ The Lord said, “Listen to what the unfair judge says. ⁷ God’s chosen people cry out to him day and night. Won’t he make things right for them? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, God will see that things are made right for them. He will make sure it happens quickly. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find people on earth who have faith?”

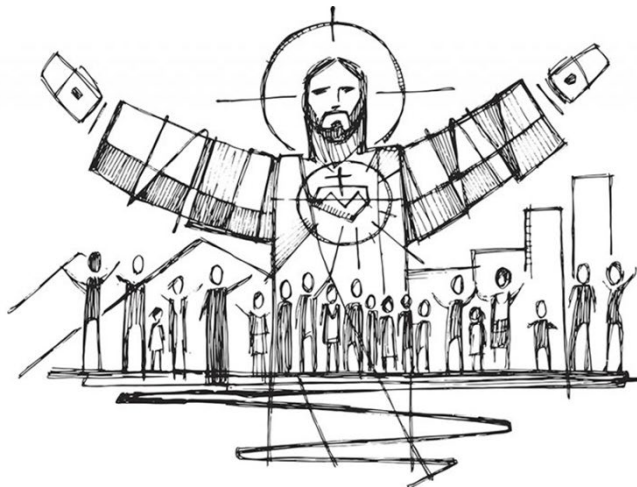
One: This is the gospel of Christ for the people of God.

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

“Persistence in All Times”

Pastor Joy



Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will 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
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside (**Refrain**)

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: That as we bring to you the cares and joys of our lives, that we rejoice with those among us who do celebrate events and experiences that bring a sense of happiness and fun and hope and comfort.

All: God hear our prayer!

One: For all who need healing and guidance, whether physically, emotionally or materially, that that the Holy Spirit would intervene on their behalf and bring restoration and reconciliation where each is needed.

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 Holy 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, grant us the energy, the persistence, and the faith to serve you in a world which so desperately needs your love and your mercy. May we act on opportunities to serve, all while staying determined to be your hands, your feet, and your devoted servants throughout the world. May each of us be relentless in our prayers, in our work, and in the grace we demonstrate to each other.

All: Holy Spirit, may we walk the paths and the hallways of our daily lives by hearing and seeing through the light of Christ, encouraged and emboldened by your devotion to us. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” #719

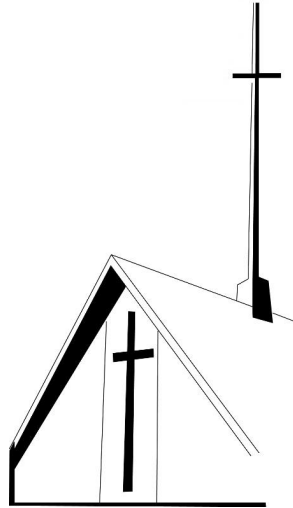
Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing– you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him,
saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my spirit’s power filled you; here his tender comfort
stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.

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



Next Sunday, October 23:

14th Annual Diversity Sunday!

11:00 AM

Readings:

Joel 2:26-28

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Psalm 84: 1-7

Luke 18:9-14

***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
AND IN CELEBRATION OF TODAY'S FALL FEST

This Week:

Today: 2nd Annual Fall Fest
October 19: RESONATE 7 PM
October 23: Sunday School 9:45, 14th Annual Diversity Sunday 11AM

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, and Jerry and Kathy Koziol.

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