

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



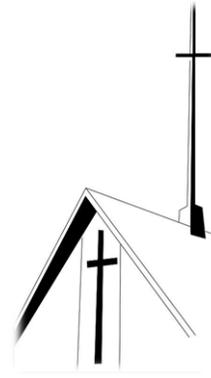
Reformation Sunday

October 30, 2022:

11:00 AM

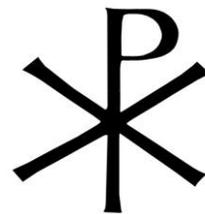
The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

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 1:10-18
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Psalm 119:137-144
Luke 19:1-10



Theme:

Ever Reforming: to Seek and Save

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, throughout the ages you have called your people to fill our religious traditions with the prophetic values of justice, kindness, and mercy. You have warned us never to let our faith or practices become cold and heartless

All: Stir in all churches, Almighty God, that by the power of your Spirit—through the wisdom of Jesus—we might be renewed by the fire of your love. Amen!

*Opening Hymn

“Sing a New Church” #577

Summoned by the God of who made us rich in our diversity,
Gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity:

Chorus:

*Let us bring the gifts that differ and in splendid varied ways,
Sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.*

Radiant risen from the water; robed in holiness and light,
Many genders in God’s image, many genders, God’s delight! *(Chorus)*

Trust the goodness of creation; trust the Spirit strong within.
Dare to dream the vision promised sprung from seed of what has been. *(Chorus)*

Bring the hopes of every nation; bring the art of every race.
Weave a song of peace and justice; let it sound through time and space. *(Chorus)*

Draw together at one table all the human family;
Shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free. *(Chorus)*



***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.)

First Reading

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah 1:11-18

¹¹What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of goats. ¹²When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more! ¹³Bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation—I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. ¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil; ¹⁷learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. ¹⁸Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: If your sins are like scarlet, will they become like snow? If they are red like crimson, will they become like wool?



Second Reading

Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ²Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

¹¹To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Responsorial

Psalm 119:137-144

One: You are righteous, O LORD, and your judgments are right. You have appointed your decrees in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

All: My zeal consumes me because my foes forget your words. Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.

One: I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is the truth.

All: Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but your commandments are my delight. Your decrees are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live. 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 19:1-10

[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

“Ever Reforming: To Seek and Save”

Pastor Rich



Song of Response

“The Power of Your Love” #467

Lord, I come to you; let my heart be changed, renewed,
Flowing from the grace that I've found in you.
And Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away—by the power of your love.

Chorus:

*Hold me close, let your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle,
And I will soar with you; your Spirit leads me on
In the power of your love.*

Lord, unveil my eyes; let me see you face to face,
The knowledge of your love as you live in me.
Lord, renew my mind, as your will unfolds in my life,
In living every day—by the power of your love.
(Chorus)

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 we would always be open to reformation and transformation by the wisdom of the Living Word, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: That all churches would be open to renewal and reform, more than we are loyal to denominational identities.

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

*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: God of faithful surprises, throughout the ages you have made known your love and power in unexpected ways and places.

All: May we daily perceive the joy and wonder of your abiding presence and offer our lives in gratitude for our redemption. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“The Summons” #350

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

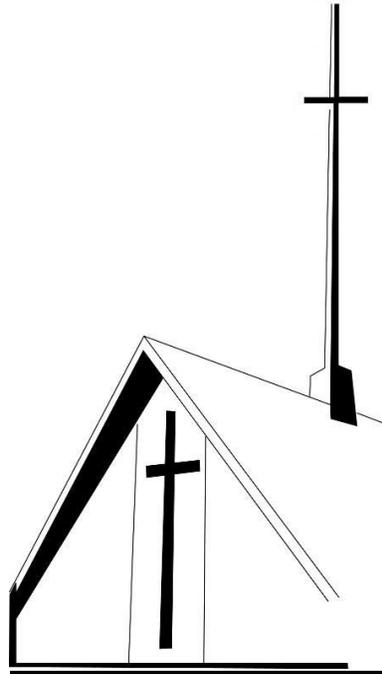
Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go, where you love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.



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



Next week:

November 6, 2022

All Saints Day Celebration

Ephesians 1:11-23

Psalm 149

Luke 6:20-31

***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 LOVING MEMORY OF DEB CLOUSE FROM NANCY ALBERICO.**

**THE SECOND ALTAR PIECE IS GIVEN BY BOB MARTIN IN
LOVING MEMORY OF HIS FATHER, CHARLES.**

**THE THIRD ALTAR PIECE IS GIVEN BY MARTI SAWYER
IN HONOR OF HER MOTHER'S 82ND BIRTHDAY!**

This Week:

November 2: RESONATE 7 PM

November 6: Worship Commemorating All Saints Day 11 AM and The Lake Erie
Association annual fall meeting 3 PM at Zions Reformed United Church
of Christ in Greensville, PA

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
and Teddy Long

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***