

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025:

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Palm Sunday Proclamation**John 12:12-15**

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,
“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

*Processional Hymn “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #267

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
 Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang:
 To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
 The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed ‘mid an exultant crowd,
 The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
 The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
 Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” The ancient song we sing,
 For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
 O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
 And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

***Invocation**

One: Come, O Holy One! Come through the streets. Come into this house. Come to find a space beside us at the table.

All: Come to challenge our answers about why tragedy comes, why poverty increases, and why we are afraid.

One: Come, O Holy One! Speak to us in the silence and in song; in scripture and in prayer.

All: With wisdom greater than ours! With love deeper than ours! With change wider than ours! Amen!

***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.

Confession & Assurance

One: Holy One, as we walk with you towards your Cross, we see that your face did not turn from your dedicated mission to pour out the love of God. We have not always been so bold, nor courageous.

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy.

One: Jesus, you have told us that you identify with the least among us and with all who walk in love and faith. And yet, too often, the church—throughout the generations—has not opened her doors of welcome to all.

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy.

One: Loving God, we each have a foot in the kingdom of heaven and a foot in the kingdom of sin. In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to you...*(hold silence for one another)*...O Holy One, speak to us. Fill our silences. Comfort us with your love so that we may find your understanding.

All: Trust us to find your answers when we finally tire from our own. Save us, O Holy One, with your steadfast and restorative love. Amen!

Lenten Meditation & Candles

Song of Reflection

“Jesus Remember Me” #285

(Sing Three Times)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Responsorial

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever!

All: Let the people of God say, “God’s steadfast love endure forever.”

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

All: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

One: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.* This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

All: The LORD is God, and the Holy One has given us light.

One: Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

All: O Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, for God’s steadfast love endures forever! Amen!

*Lenten Acclamation

“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” #250 V. 1

Throughout these Lenten days and nights,
We turn to walk the inward way,
Where meeting Christ, our guide and light,
We live in hope till Easter Day.

*Gospel

Luke 19:29-40

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ” ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

*“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”*

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Children’s Message

Song of Preparation “O How He Loves You and Me” #270

O how he loves you and me, O how he loves you and me;
He gave his life—what more could he give?
O how he loves you, O how he loves me,
O how he loves you are me!
(Repeat)

Message

What King Do We Welcome?

Pastor Joy

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, pursue your road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
In Christ, your triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The host of angels in the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow your meek head to mortal pain
Then take, O Christ, your power and reign.

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. 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!

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

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]*...We pray for everyone who has asked their name to be on the prayer list *[see the last page of the bulletin]*. 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.

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.

**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*

Offertory

“Ain’t No Rock Gonna Shout for Me”

Choral Ensemble

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Lenten Congregational Response #576

***Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak!
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant! Make me a servant!
Make me a servant today!***

*Departing Prayer

One: Sovereign God, you have established your rule over the human heart, not by force but by the servant example of Jesus Christ.

All: Move us by your Spirit to join the joyful procession of those who confess Christ Jesus with their tongues and praise him with their lives. Amen!

*Blessing



*Closing Hymn

“All Glory, Laud and Honor” #265

Chorus:

*All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

You are the King of Israel, and David’s royal Son,
Now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and blessed One! *(Chorus)*

The company of angels are praising you on high,
Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply: *(Chorus)*

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present: *(Chorus)*

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise: *(Chorus)*

As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
For you delight in goodness, O Good and Gracious King! *(Chorus)*

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



Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30 PM
Good Friday Candlelight Vigil at 8:00 PM

Next Sunday:

11:00 AM

Readings to Study:

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 24:1-12

EASTER SUNDAY!

***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 memory Elmer Smith and celebrating his birthday from Kathy Koziol and Lorre Rapp.

COMING UP:

April 17: Holy Week: Maundy Thursday at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary
April 18: Holy Week: Good Friday Candlelight Service at 8:00 PM in the Sanctuary
April 19: Saturday Sanctuary Preparation for Easter 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
April 20: Easter Sunday: Celebrating the Resurrection of Christ at 11:00 AM

REMINDERS:

- Need **hearing assistance**? We have four available units. Please talk to our tech crew in the back of the sanctuary.
- Have you signed up for **Small Group discussion** opportunities to continue our discernment for **church growth and stewardship**? See signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jackson Feiock (Army), Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Brittany Duncan (Army), Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army), Jaden O'Hara (Army), Toby Charlton (Marines), Cole Posnett (Army), Hunter Miaczynski (Army) & Mathew Anderson (Army)

PRAYERS FOR:

Darek Baksik, Laura Will, Keith Vargeson, Joyce Kneidel, Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Ralph Kester, John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Tammy McIntyre, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pakulski, Ethel Davis, Chelsea Brown, Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Linda Foll-Johnson, Toni Stevenson, Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein, Helena Burgos, The Vadzemnieks Family, Doug Moore, and John & Tina Schnarrs

Current Council Members:

Mike Pruzinsky (President), Debbie Anderson (Vice President), Melanie Vadzemnieks (Treasurer), Nancy Alberico (Secretary), Janice Skelly, Angel Conrad, Michele Vahey, Justin Graff, and Mark Davis

Need to contact our Council President? Please email at: mpruzinsky@icloud.com

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