

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 18, 2026
11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:
Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy Johnson

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

"Pride in the Name of Love"

Cheryl Strecker and Vocal Ensemble

Reflection in Honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pastor Joy

Centering Music

"As We Gather" #646

As we gather may your Spirit work within us,

As we gather may we glorify your Name.

Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship,

We'll be blessed because we came,

We'll be blessed because we came.

(Repeat)

Invocation

One: People of God, in this season of Epiphany, where we strive to understand who Christ is to the world, and to us, may we open our ears to His calling, our eyes to His presence, and our hearts to His love.

All: **Through Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God, we are strengthened and renewed, forgiven and restored. We pray that through God's grace and peace we may seek His presence, know Him more fully, and live in the promise of eternal life.**

* Opening Hymn "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" #99

You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd, You, Lord, are both prince and slave.

You, peacemaker and sword bringer of the way you took and gave.

You, the everlasting instant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.

You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side.

You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide.

You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!

Worthy your defeat and victory, worthy still your peace and strife.

You, the everlasting instant, you, who are our death and life.

***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.

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Responsorial

Psalm 40:1-11

One: I waited patiently for the LORD; and God inclined to me and heard my cry. God set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

All: **The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and hear, and put their trust in the LORD.**

One: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

All: **I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.**

One: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

All: **Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever. 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

John 1:29-42

The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” ³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Song of Preparation

“There is a Redeemer” #117 v. 1, 2

There is a Redeemer – Jesus, God’s own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Refrain

Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for sinners slain.

(Refrain)

Message

Come and See: Discovering Christ

Pastor Joy

Song of Response

“You are My All in All” #427

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the Treasure that I seek,
You are my All in All.

Seeking you as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool,
You are my All in All.

Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is your name.

(Repeat all)



COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: People of God, as we journey through the season of Epiphany, we come each week to discover how Christ was revealed to the world. Christ came for us, and for our salvation into wholeness and holiness.

All: **Our altar table is another place to encounter the living Christ—who meets us once again in the bread and in the cup. Here at this table, food for the body also becomes food for the spirit.**

Pastor: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come.

All: **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 we ask the Holy Spirit to make it for us communion with the living Christ, body and blood, love poured out, forever!

All: **Here at this Table we remember that Christ indeed 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 and find the Light of Heaven as true light for our lives.

Communion Music

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Don Cameron and
Cheryl Strecker

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 within us. *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows...[*prayer requests are presented*]...We also pray for everyone who has asked their name to be on the prayer list [*see 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

God is inviting us to serve in response to God's great love for us, so that the whole world may know the fullness of God's peace.

**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 / Ministry of Music

"God is With Us"

Julie Lokahi

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*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: Gracious and Loving God, You reveal to us at all times and all places the nature and wonder of Christ Jesus.

All: May we never cease to look for Jesus, trusting His guidance and following His voice so that we might grow in our faith, experience His never-ending love, and know Him more fully as lamb and dove, Messiah and friend. Amen!

*Blessing

We will glorify the King of kings,
We will glorify the Lamb;
We will glorify the Lord of lords,
Who is the great I AM.

Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty,
We will bow before his throne;
We will worship him in righteousness,
We will worship him alone.

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth,
He is Lord of all who live;
He is Lord above the universe,
All praise to him we give.

Hallelujah to the King of kings,
Hallelujah to the Lamb;
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords,
Who is the great I AM.



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



Next Week:
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Readings to Study:
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
Matthew 4:12-23

Theme:
From the Light of God: Turn, Follow, Fish

***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 Palmer's 2nd birthday, by Nancy Alberico

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18: Service Sunday, 12:30 PM

January 21: Resonate, 7:00 PM

January 25: Plan to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck Dinner, 12:00 PM after worship
New Members Welcome! It is NOT too late!

If you are interested in becoming a formal member of the church, please see one of the pastors for more information. We will receive new members on **Sunday, January 25!**

Opportunity to Give:

**The CUC Ladies' Group is sponsoring the Jean Reidel Memorial Superbowl Soup Drive
Going on now and up to February 8th. Please bring in cans of "hearty" soups to be collected and
given to the Bethany Outreach Center which directly helps families in the
City of Erie.**

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

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)
Zachary Oliver (PA Army National Guard)

PRAYERS FOR:

Linda Hilbert, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Ralph Kester, Ethel Davis,
Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Woodelge, Dorothy Moyer,
The Vadzemnieks Family, Sharon Cooper, Sandra Ganley, Celeste Peck,
Linda Foll Johnson, Todd Carrier, The Kuzma Family, Debra Jackman, Rose Goss,
Cathie Witmire, Laura Will, Michael, Erin Mrenak, Paul Dietz, Ruth Schmidt, Wendy Wilcox

Current Council Members:

Mike Pruzinsky (President), Debbie Anderson (Vice President), Al Tilley (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

You may call the church office at 814-864-4429 for pastoral and administrative matters or use email:
communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com

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