

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



November 3, 2024

## **Sundays of Gratitude, Part 1:**

Grateful for our Departed

All Saints & All Souls

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Richard W. McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

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 all)*

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, in the mystery of your great wisdom, you have created us a little lower than the angels, but when we rise in glory you promise to share your divine nature and eternal life with us.

**All: We come to give thanks for the lives that you have given us, and for all of those who have passed on into your realm of glory. Remind us that our ultimate destiny is to join with all the angels and saints—all who live in the power of your glory—so that our unity in you will be complete; through Jesus who redeems us, and the Spirit who sustains us all. Amen.**

\*Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #59 Vv. 1-2, 4

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

**\*Opening Prayer**

\*The Peace of Christ

One: The Peace of Christ be with you, All!

**All: And also, with you!**

One: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

## A Profession of Faith

## “The Apostles’ Creed”

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**  
**Amen!**



## Song of Praise

## “Glorify Thy Name” #146

Father, we love you, we worship and adore you,  
Glorify thy name in all the earth;  
*Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,*  
*Glorify thy name in all the earth.*

Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore you,  
Glorify thy name in all the earth;  
*Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,*  
*Glorify thy name in all the earth.*

Spirit, we love you, we worship and adore you,  
Glorify thy name in all the earth;  
*Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,*  
*Glorify thy name in all the earth.*

## First Reading

## The Book of the Prophet Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. <sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations;<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, “See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

## Responsive Reading:

## The Book of Revelation 21:1-6a

One: When the Prophet Isaiah had the vision of death being destroyed, and the people being restored in fullness, he said it would take place upon a mountaintop. This was a reference to Mt. Zion, one of the hills upon which Jerusalem sits. It was a promise of comfort to the ancient Jewish people—that they would not experience suffering and death forever.

**All: We who follow in the way of Christ also long for a promise of deliverance from suffering and death. To what do we turn?**

One: The vision of the Prophet John in the Book of Revelation offers us such hope. There, we find a great promise and a preview of eternity. The prophet described it this way:

**All: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

One: <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.

**All: “And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.” Amen.**



## Responsorial

## Psalm 24

One: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it, for God has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

**All: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false and do not swear deceitfully.**

One: They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from the God of their salvation.

**All: Such is the company of those who seek the Holy One, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. 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 11:32-44**

[Now, after Lazarus had died] when Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

One: This is the Gospel of Christ for the People of God!

All: **Come, Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God.**

**Children’s Message**

**Song**

“Holy, Holy, Holy” #737

Holy, holy, holy,  
My heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart is glad to say the words:  
You are Holy, Lord!  
*(Repeat)*

**Message**

“Grateful for our Departed”

Pastor Rich

## Hymn

“We’re Marching to Zion” #390 V. 1, 4

Come, we that love the Lord and let our joys be known;  
Join in a song of sweet accord,  
Join in a song with sweet accord  
And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

### Chorus:

*We’re marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We’re marching upward to Zion,  
The beautiful city of God.*

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;  
We’re marching through Emmanuel’s ground,  
We’re marching through Emmanuel’s ground,  
To fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high  
*(Chorus)*



## Celebration of Communion

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!

Communion Music

“In My Life”

Leanne Koziol

## **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 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] .... 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.*

How is God calling you this week to give of your time, talent, and resources?

## **Community United Church has the following ministries opportunities and needs:**

Facility care and maintenance  
Hospitality for socials and services  
Prayer ministries  
Food ministries: Liberty House & Service Sunday  
Children's Church leaders  
Financial gifts to cover monthly needs (every contribution helps so much)  
Sanctuary decorating team

*Every gift is great. Let us all give joyfully!*

**If you are not in the sanctuary, online donations can be made at:**

**[www.communityunited.church](http://www.communityunited.church)**

*Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:*

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

## Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*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, we have received your promise once more—that in our living and in our dying, we can trust in you. Our final exhale on earth awakens us to the inhale of heaven.

**All: As we grieve those who have died, meet us with comfort. So, too, meet our uncertainty about death with trust and grace. And may we leave our time of worship with a deeper measure of faith in Christ. We dare to believe: Jesus is preparing a place for us in our eternal home, where we will love one another for ever and ever. Amen!**

\*Blessing

\*Closing Hymn

“For All the Saints” #529 Vv. 1-3, 5

For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Thou was their rock, their fortress and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine.  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

But lo there breaks—a yet more glorious day;  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of glory passes on his way.  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*



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



**Next Week – November 10, 2024:**

**11:00 AM**

**Sundays of Gratitude, Part II:  
Grateful for Those Who Serve in Society**

Romans 12:9-21

Psalm 82

John 15:12-17

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect  
online with a small group or church ministry?***

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429 [www.communityunited.church](http://www.communityunited.church)



## Community United Church

**The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by  
Bob Martin in memory of his father, Charles Martin**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 6: Supper & Study 6:30 PM  
November 10: Pot Luck Dinner following Service  
November 11: Council Meeting 6:30 PM  
November 12: Ladies Lunch – Thanksgiving Tureen  
November 13: Spirits & Spirituality – Calarmari's 6:30 PM

**November 17: New Members Sunday!**

*Any CUC friends who want to become CUC members, please see one of the pastors or leave a message in the church office!*

***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), Samantha McHenry (Army), Brittany Duncan (Army), Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army), Matthew Anderson (Army), Jaden O'Hara (Army), Toby Charlton (Marines), Cole Poshett (Army) & Hunter Miaczynski (Army)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Diane Walker, Ralph Kester, John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pakulski, Ethel Davis, Chelsea Brown, Celeste Eller & Family, Shirley Carrier, Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Sharon Cooper, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein, & The Vadzemnieks Family.

### **Council Members:**

Debbie Anderson (President), Angel Conrad (VP), Nancy Alberico (Secretary), Janice Skelly, Mike Pruzinsky, Michele Vahey, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Bob Martin