

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



June 23, 2024

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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!*

Centering Music

“Jesus, Your Name” #361

Jesus, your name is power, Jesus, your name is might.
Jesus, your name will break every stronghold, Jesus, your name is life.

Jesus, your name is healing, Jesus, your name gives sight.
Jesus, your name will free every captive, Jesus, your name is life.

Jesus, your name is holy, Jesus, your name brings light.
Jesus, your name, above every other, Jesus, your name is life.

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, you are the one who brings order out of chaos and purpose out of meaninglessness.

All: When your living Word dives into the storms of life, you bring us courage, comfort, and abiding peace. As we come to worship today, help us to find your grace, strength, and wisdom in the storms of our own lives. Amen!

*Hymn

“Christ the Eternal Lord” #335 Vv. 1-2, 5

Christ the eternal Lord whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured on all who name your Name;
With thankfulness and praise we stand before your throne,
Intent to serve you all our days and make your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word to every passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard set forth on Scripture’s page;
Transform our thought and mind, enlighten all who read,
Within your word by faith to find the bread of life indeed.

Christ the ascended King exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing, whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past your voice from heaven’s throne
Shall call your children home at last to know as we are known.

*** 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.

First Reading

Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-13

As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, “*At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.*” Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! ³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹ as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything. ¹¹ We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹² There is no restriction in our affections but only in yours. ¹³ In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.



Responsorial

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

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

All: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west; from the north and from the south.

One: Some went down to the sea in ships [and when the storms came] they cried to the LORD in their trouble and God brought them out from their distress; the Holy One made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

All: Then they were glad because they had quiet, and God brought them to their desired haven. Let them thank the LORD for the steadfast love of God, for God’s wonderful works to humankind. 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**

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Be silent! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

Finding God in the Storm

Pastor Rich

Hymn

“Be Still, My Soul” #451

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side! Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide—in every change God faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake to guide the future as he has the past;
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake—all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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

"I Will Praise Your Name"

Chris, Julie, and Bob



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

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.

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

Ministry of Music

“The Light in Your Eyes”

Chris, Julie, and Bob

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 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, you call us to live by both reason and faith—to make the best decisions that we can, while also trusting in your abiding presence and in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

All: Through the storms of life, teach us to turn to you. Help us to know your presence so that we can face every trial with grace. Amen!

*Blessing

Closing Hymn

“Keep-A-Goin”

Chris, Julie, and Bob

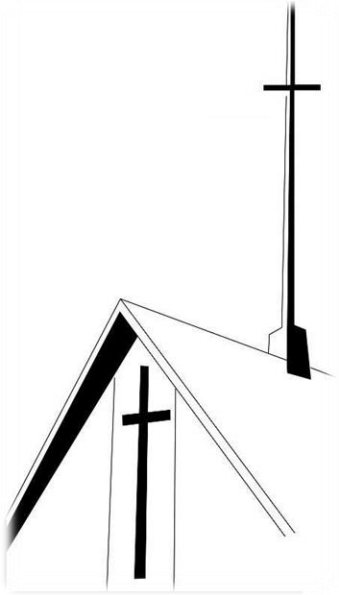
Congregation lyrics/sing:

Keep-a-goin!

Postlude

Cheryl Strecker

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



**Next Week:
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Special 10:00 AM Service!**

Readings:

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalm 130

Mark 5:21-43

Theme: Rising-Up in Faith

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect
online 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 by Carol Rodgers in memory of her sister Teresa Curty

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 25: Ladies Luncheon (lunch provided with \$5 donation) 11:45 - 1:30 PM: Regular monthly gathering, with special celebration of those who have gone before us into their heavenly rest
- June 29: Pride Rally at the Highmark Amphitheater & Liberty Park (828 West Bayfront)
- 10:00 - 11:30 AM: Church station/tent set-up and decorations
 - 12:00 - 5:00 PM: 2024 Erie Pride Rally and Celebration
- June 30: Weekly Worship & Pride Parade
- 8:30 - 9:50 AM: Pride parade team finish preparations on our float
 - 10:00 - 10:45 AM: Weekly Worship (note the time change this week to accommodate the city's parade)
 - 12:00 - 1:00 PM: Pride parade team line up on W. 11th Street with church float
 - 1:00 - 2:00 PM: Pride Parade: 11th Street to Perry Square

Just a gentle reminder to our dear folks who keep our lawn tidy...Please be sure NOT to blow grass cuttings into the street as it presents a true safety hazard. Your efforts are so appreciated!

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)

PRAYERS FOR:

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Rod & Dew Johnson,
Harry Lamb, Diane Walker, Ralph Kester,
John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Jimmyo, Sandy Gool, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone,
Jan & Tim Crowe and Family, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich,
Dave Pakulski, Randi Johnson, Ethel Davis,
Jim Haglund, Chelsea Brown, John Waid, Celeste Eller & Family, Shirley Carrier,
Dave Woolege, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Jerry Koziol, Uncle Charlie,
Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Ed Mumau, Sharon Cooper,
Mary Ann Schmeisser, Sandra Carlson, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein, Jenny Jacob,
The Doerfer-DePoorter Family & Jeremiah.

Council Members:

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