

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



September 29, 2024

The Nineteenth 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!*

Prelude
Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Cheryl Strecker

Centering Music “Open Our Eyes” #491

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.
(Repeat)

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, you meet us in our joy and in our sorrow, and you call us to do the same for one another.

All: Spirit of God, as you gather us to worship, enlightened our hearts and grant us the resolve to be a people of healing, peace, and presence. Amen!

*Hymn “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” #56

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation.
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
My soul with comfort rich he fills, and every grief he gently stills:
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty power has made, in mercy he is keeping;
By morning glow or evening shade his eye is never sleeping.
And where he rules in kingly might, there all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness and came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord, who is by one and all adored:
To God all praise and glory!

Let all who name Christ’s holy name give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know his power proclaim aloud the wonderful story.
Cast every idol from its throne; the Lord is God, and God alone:
To God all praise and glory!

***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.

Reading

The Letter of James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰ you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Responsorial

Psalm 19:7-14

One: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple.

All: The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the reverence of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.

One: More to be desired are the precepts of God than gold; sweeter also than honey.

All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. 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 9:38-50

³⁸ John said to [Jesus], "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us." ³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴² "If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to Gehenna, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into Gehenna. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into Gehenna, ⁴⁸ where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹ "For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

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

Children's Message

Song

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer" #484

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
God, the wellspring of life.

Message

Cutting Out, Adding In

Pastor Rich



Hymn

“Christ Be My Leader” #453

Christ be my leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for he is the Way.

Gladly I follow, my future his care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for he is the Truth.
Grant me to trust him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me for he is the Life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.



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

“Let it Be”

Brad Stuart

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer ("Debts and Debtors")

One: The Lord be with you.

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

One: People of God, remember the words of the Apostle James today: "*Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.*" With such encouragement, 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

"Simple Gifts"

Don Cameron & Sarah Strecker

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, today you have called us to give ourselves to prayer and to serving one another. And you have called us to throw out whatever does not belong to the reign of God, so that we might rise in the power of new life.

All: The power of eternal life is already within us. By God's grace, we are being transformed to live in wholeness, love, and peace. To the One who is able to do this—and so much more—we give glory and honor, forever and ever. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Give Thanks for Life” #518

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
Mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
Yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give thanks for those who made their life a light
Caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,
Who touched the truth, who burned for what is right:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And for our own, our living and our dead,
Thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
A love not changed by time or death or dread:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give thanks for hope, that, like the wheat, the grain
Lying in the darkness does its life retain,
In resurrection to grow green again:
Alleluia! Alleluia!



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



Next Week – September 29, 2024:

9 AM Praise and Prayer Service!

11 AM Worship Service

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Assigned Scriptures:

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Psalm 8

Mark 10:13-16

Theme:

What Christ Reveals about God and Why That Matters

***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
Melanie Vadzemnieks in celebration of their
wedding anniversary**

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2:	Supper & Study
October 6:	Pancake Breakfast 10:15 AM
October 8:	Liberty House
October 9:	Spirits & Spirituality 6:30 PM – Calamari's
October 14:	Council Meeting 6:30 PM
October 16:	Resonate

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY:

The Ladies Outreach Group is collecting FULL SIZED bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and body wash, as well as new or GENTLY USED bath towels. We will be donating the items to the Church of the Covenant where they have a women's shower ministry. We will collect the items through September and October.

Thank you for your support!

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, 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, Ethel Davis, Jim Haglund, Chelsea Brown, John Waid, Celeste Eller & Family,
Shirley Carrier, Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Jerry Koziol, Uncle Charlie,
Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Ed Mumau, Sharon Cooper,
Mary Ann Schmeisser, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein,
The Doerfer-DePoorter Family & Jeremiah, & Linda Foll-Johnson.

Council Members:

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