

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



July 21, 2024

The Ninth 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 “His Name is Wonderful” #102

His name is Wonderful, his name is Wonderful, his name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord;
He is the mighty King, Master of everything, his name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.
He’s the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages, Almighty God is he;
Bow down before him, love and adore him, his name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord
(Repeat all)

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, you are our great Shepherd, and we are the sheep of your keeping.

All: You have created us to glorify you and to enjoy life forever. Lead us with your wisdom and grace so that we might fulfill all of the purposes you have set out for us. Amen.

*Hymn “Praise Him! Praise Him!” #95 Vv. 1, 3

Praise him! Praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim!
Hail him! Hail him! Highest archangels in glory;
Strength and honor give to his holy name!
Like a shepherd Jesus will guard his children,
In his arms he carries them all day long:
*Praise him! Praise him! Tell of his excellent greatness.
Praise him, praise him, every in joyful song!*

Praise him! Praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Heavenly portals—loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever.
Crown him, crown him, Prophet, and Priest, and King!
Christ is coming, over the world victorious,
Power and glory unto the Lord belong:
*Praise him! Praise him! Tell of his excellent greatness.
Praise him, praise him, every in joyful song!*

***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.

Litany of the Word

One: People of God, having praised the Holy One in song and heart, and having extended our peace to one another, our worship now turns to the ancient scriptures of our tradition.

All: The Word of God comes to us as we reflect, study, and pray through the texts. Reading or hearing the Bible is only the first step.

One: Today, our readings share the theme of what it means to be a good shepherd. Our first reading comes from the Prophet Jeremiah. Like other Jewish prophets, Jeremiah's teachings were given when the Jewish people were held captive by the Babylonian Empire, almost six hundred years before Christ. Jeremiah's heart burns for the spiritual leaders of the people to be kind and just. Even so, the prophet promises that God will show forth as the true good shepherd, even when human beings fail. We will see this theme once again in our reading from the Book of Psalms, and finally with Jesus presented as one, like God, who is the good shepherd of all.

All: Spirit of God, we are all in need of a shepherd; and sometimes we are called to be shepherds for others. Grant us the wisdom to know what makes for a good shepherd—not only so that we might better know who you are, but so that we might imitate you in all that we do. Amen.

Reading

The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! Says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."



Responsorial

Psalm 23

One: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. God makes me lie down in green pastures; the Holy One leads me beside still waters; God restores my soul.

All: The LORD leads me in right paths for the sake of God's name. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. 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 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

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

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

Children's Message

Song

“Ubi Caritas et Amor” #399

Where true charity and love abide,
God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there.
(Repeat)

Message

“The Measure of a Good (and Bad) Shepherd”

Pastor Rich



Hymn

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” #705

Chorus:

*You satisfy the hungry heart, with gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.*

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
So when you call your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice.
(Chorus)

With joyful lips we sing to you—our praise and gratitude,
That you should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heavenly food.
(Chorus)

Is not the cup we bless and share—the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord?
(Chorus)

The mystery of our presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell.
(Chorus)

You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name in truth and charity.
(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

“Ave Verum Corpus”

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 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

“Shepherd of My Heart”

Julie Lokahi

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, Good Shepherd of us all—help us to know and follow your voice. Help us to accept your restraint when we feel your protective staff holding us back. Help us to enjoy our freedom when you send us into the playgrounds of green pastures.

All: **Remind us, all of our lives, to trust how you are leading us. You are the Shepherd, we are your sheep—and we believe you are guiding us into wholeness and life eternal. Amen!**

*Blessing



*Closing Hymn

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” #440

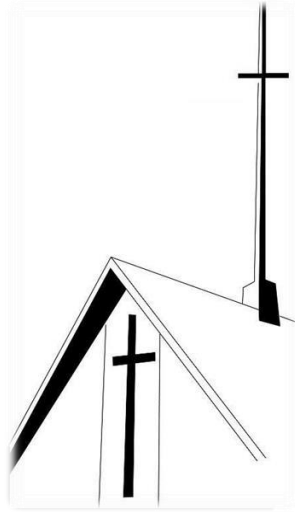
Savior, like a Shepherd lead us,
Much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine, do thou befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to thee.

Early let us seek thy favor,
Early let us do thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

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



**Next Week:
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Readings:

Ephesians 3:14-21

Psalm 145:10-18

John 6:1-21

Theme:

Filled with the Fullness of God

***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 Jan & Tim Crowe in loving memory of Timmy Crow on his birthday

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 21: Service Sunday
July 23: Ladies Outreach Group:
Colony Restaurant, 5:30 PM Please let Carol know if you can attend (814-450-0194)
July 28: Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM

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

The Maintenance Committee would like to thank Kyle Beatty of BPM Lawn and Landscaping for his recent volunteer efforts on our grounds.

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, Randi Johnson, 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, 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