

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



June 2, 2024

The Second 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

“Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty” #19

Blessed be the Lord God almighty,
Who was, and is, and is to come;
Blessed be the Lord God almighty,
Who Reigns forevermore.

(Sing 3x)

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, throughout the ages, your Spirit has stirred in prophets, sages, and seers. Through them, stories, laws, poems, and lyrics have been put into written word. These have been handed down throughout the ages—touchpoints of sacred text to open our hearts to the living Word.

All: Our spiritual ancestors are many and varied—and their sacred stories are now in our hands. Their histories and myths, their songs and laws, all pointing us to you, O God. And at just the right time, your living Word delivered the Gospel, the good news, of Jesus Christ. In this time of worship, help us to better understand your wisdom so as to truly be people of the Living Word. Amen!

*Hymn

“Sing a New Song” #10

Chorus:

Sing a new song unto the Lord; let your song be sung from mountains high.

Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing, “Alleluia.”

Yahweh’s people dance for joy; O come before the Lord.

And play for him on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound. *(Chorus)*

Rise, O children from your sleep; your Savior now has come.

He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song. *(Chorus)*

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.

The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I know my Savior lives. *(Chorus)*

*** 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

The Book of Deuteronomy 5:12-15

¹² “Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴ But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.



Responsorial

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

One: O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

All: You search out my path and my lying down. You are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

One: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

All: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you. 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 2:23 – 3:6

²³ One Sabbath he was going through the grain fields, and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” ²⁵ And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food, ²⁶ how he entered the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions?” ²⁷ Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the Sabbath, ²⁸ so the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

3 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ² They were watching him to see whether he would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” ⁴ Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. ⁵ He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

Law & Gospel

Pastor Rich

Hymn

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” #93

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert’s burning sand.
From this well comes living water quenching thirst in ever land.

Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

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



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

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, as we prepare to go back out into a world that wonders about *who* you are, *where* you are, and *how* you work in our lives—help us to embody the good news of Jesus Christ.

All: **Like Christ, help us to know how to be bold—and to always seek the greatest of all sacred laws: to love you, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Amen!**

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Spirit, Working in Creation” #128

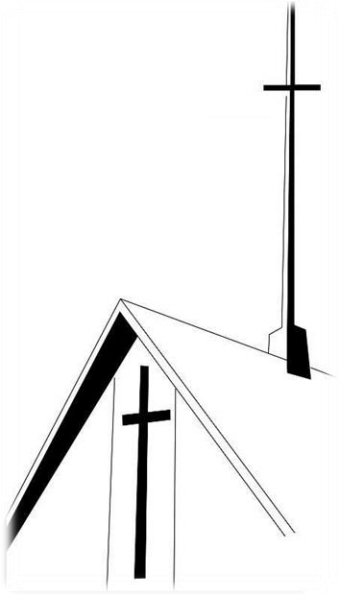
Spirit, working in creation,
Bringing order out of strife:
Come around God’s gathered people,
Giving harmony and life.
Spirit, speaking through the prophets
So the voice of God was heard:
Come, inspire, alert your people
To this day’s prophetic word.

Spirit, over-shadowing Mary
As the Christ-child in her grew:
Come, so that the Christ within us
May today be born anew.
Spirit, coming from the Father
As a dove upon our Lord:
Come upon your favored people,
And your blessings be out-poured.

Spirit, driving to the desert
Even God’s Anointed One:
Come to us in trial and testing
That God’s will in us be done.
Spirit, breathed on the disciples,
Giving peace where there was fear:
Come among us, touch us, send us,
Making Jesus’ presence near.

Spirit, wind and flame, empowering
Fearless witness to the lost:
Come, unite, renew your wonders
As of a new Pentecost!
Praise and glory, Holy Spirit,
For your love on us outpoured,
Giving honor to the Father
And proclaiming Jesus Lord.

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



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

Readings:

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Psalm 138

Mark 3:20-35

Theme: The House that Stands

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

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(814) – 864 – 4429

www.communityunited.church



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**The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Ginnie Burger in
Celebration of our Church Community**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- June 5: Supper 'n Study 6:30 PM
June 10: Council Meeting 6:30 PM
June 11: Liberty House
June 12: Spirits & Spirituality – Calamari's 7:00 PM

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

Please submit any announcement requests by **Tuesday** for the Sunday bulletin.

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

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, Kevin Bennett & family & friends, 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, Lillian Hendrickson, 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, Renee Gullekson, Sharon Cooper,
Mary Ann Schmeisser, Saundra Carlson, Josh Cook & Danny Kaerberlein, 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

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