

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



July 28, 2024

The Tenth 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

“We Exalt Thee” #47

For thou, O Lord, art high above all the earth; thou art exalted far above all gods.

For thou, O Lord, art high above all the earth; thou art exalted far above all gods.

We exalt thee, we exalt thee, we exalt thee, O Lord.

We exalt thee, we exalt thee, we exalt thee, O Lord.

(Repeat all)

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, we worship you in Spirit and Truth as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

All: **You promise to fill our lives with good things and to do far more in us than we can even imagine—through the same power that raised Christ from the dead. Amen.**

*Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #59

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.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother—all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

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.

Litany of the Word

One: People of God, when we come into worship, we begin with songs and prayers of praise, as God is worthy of all our adoration. We then center our hearts to reflect on the ancient scriptures, so that we might connect with the primary teachings of our faith 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, we consider teachings from Paul's letter to the Ephesians and from the Gospel of John. Paul was not one of the twelve disciples during the life of Christ. Paul had a mystical encounter with the resurrected and ascended Christ, and was then sent out to declare the grace and power of the Gospel in light of the mystery of the resurrection. Likewise, the author of the Gospel of John emphasizes mystery and miracle. The Gospel of John is wholly unlike the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Through John's Gospel, we are led to believe that Christ is none other than the living Word of God, who is God, made human for us and for our redemption.

All: Spirit of God, open our hearts and minds to uncover the meaning of the scriptures. Help us to perceive your divine truth for the living of our days. Amen.

Reading

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Responsorial

Psalm 145:10-18

One: O God, your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

All: The LORD is faithful in word and deed. The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The LORD is near to all who call on God, to all who call on God in truth. 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 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹ “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰ Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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

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

Children's Message

Song

"Goodness is Stronger than Evil" #296

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours, victory is ours—through him who loved us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours—through him who loved us.
(Repeat)

Message

"Filled with the Fullness of God"

Pastor Rich



Hymn

"Alleluia" #291

Chorus:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.
(Chorus)

Spread the good news o'er all the earth;
Jesus has died and has risen.
(Chorus)

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever.
(Chorus)

Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior.
(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

“Bread of the World in Mercy”

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

“He Loved Me”

Jerry Strobel

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 are the One who turns lack into plenty and the God who can dance upon stormy waves.

All: Open our hearts to believe that the same power that worked through Christ Jesus is working through us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of you, O God, forever and ever. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing 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 every land.

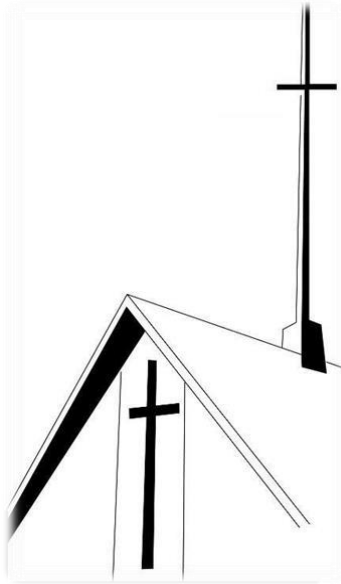
Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place.

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.



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



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

Guest Preacher:
Douglas Hearn

***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



Community United Church

The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Nancy Alberico in honor of Maverick's 3rd Birthday

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 28: Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM
August 12: Council Meeting 6:30 pm
August 13: Liberty House
August 14: Spirits & Spirituality 6:30 PM at Calamari's

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 Wooledge, 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, Marti Sawyer & 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