

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



October 6, 2024

The Twentieth 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

Music Medley & "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Ensemble

Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

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, you indeed are Mystery upon mystery, and Deep upon deep. Your ways exceed ours, beyond comprehension. Even so, you reveal yourself to us as the God of love and redemption.

**All: You have created us a little lower than the angels, and you bid us to come to you with open hearts like children. In this time of worship, help us to trust in all your promises, and in all of your love for us. Amen!**

\*Hymn

"I Will Sing of the Mercies" #60

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known your faithfulness, your faithfulness;

With my mouth will I make known your faithfulness to all generations.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise forever for the things he has done.

All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise forever,

All the hosts of the angels sing God's praise.

Who can be compared to God in faithfulness, in faithfulness?

Who can be compared to God in faithfulness to all generations?

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

**\*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 New Testament Letter to the Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup> But someone has testified somewhere, "What are humans that you are mindful of them or mortals that you care for them? <sup>7</sup> You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, <sup>8</sup> subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, <sup>9</sup> but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup> saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

## Responsorial

## Psalm 8

One: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**All: You have set your glory above the heavens. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

One: You have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.

**All: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! 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

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing children to [Jesus] in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup> And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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

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

## Children's Message

### Song

"Change My Heart, O God" #373

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.  
You are the Potter, I am the clay;  
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

### Message

"What Christ Reveals about God and Why it Matters"

Pastor Rich



### Hymn

"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.

## 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

“Oh God Beyond All Praising”

Ensemble

## 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](http://www.communityunited.church)**

Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

Ministry of Music

“Amazed”

Ensemble

## 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 make us for each other, to live in loving community as friends, children, siblings, spouses, partners, and companions.

**All: Teach us to choose love that is committed and devoted; teach us like little children to wonder and to trust; and lead us so that our loving may always reflect the image of Christ. Amen!**

\*Blessing

\*Closing Hymn

“Find Us Faithful” #497

O may all who come behind us find us faithful;  
May the fire of our devotion light their way.  
May the footprints that we leave,  
Lead them to believe,  
And the lives we live inspire them to obey.  
O may all who come behind us find us faithful.  
(Repeat all)

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



**Next Week – September October 13, 2024:**

**11 AM Worship Service  
The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

*Assigned Scriptures:*

Hebrews 4:12-16

Psalm 90:12-17

Mark 10:17-31

*Theme:*

What is Possible with God

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

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429 [www.communityunited.church](http://www.communityunited.church)



## Community United Church

**The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by  
Kathy Koziol in celebration of her granddaughter Cheyenne's birthday on 9/22.**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 8: Liberty House  
October 9: Spirits & Spirituality 6:30 PM – Calamari's  
October 14: Council Meeting 6:30 PM  
October 16: Resonate – 6:30 PM Pre-Service Social, Service at 7:00 PM

### **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 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 Kaerberlein,  
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