

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



October 20, 2024

The Twenty-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!*

Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Centering Music

“Surely the Presence” #131

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels’ wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
(Repeat all)

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, you are the Sovereign of all that is seen and unseen. You are the Source of the universe, and all that is in it. Your power is great—and yet you teach us that true power is found in love and service, not simply signs and wonders.

All: **As we gather to worship you, God Most High, move within our spirits so that we learn to walk more closely in the way of Christ—the way of empowering love. Turn us ever closer to the ways of love, so that your Reign might be better known on earth. Amen.**

*Hymn

“We Come, O Christ, to You” #110 Vv. 1, 3, 4

We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man;
By whom all things consist, in whom all life began:
In you alone we live and move and have our being in your love.

You are the living Truth, all wisdom dwells in you,
The source of every skill, the one eternal True!
O Great *I Am!* In you we rest, sure answer to our every quest.

You only are true Life, to know you is to live,
The more abundant life that earth can never give.
O risen Lord! We live in you: in us each day your life renew!

***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 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness, ³ and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴ And one does not presume to take this honor but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"; ⁶ as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Responsorial

Psalm 91:9-16

One: Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

All: For God will command the angels concerning you to guard you in your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

One: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

All: When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation. 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 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶ And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ And they said to him, "Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" ³⁹ They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

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

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

Children's Message

Song

"All Hail King Jesus" #92

All hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel,
King of kings, Lord of lords, Bright Morning Star.
And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises;
And I'll reign with you throughout eternity.

(Repeat)

Message

"Greatness through Service"

Pastor Rich

Hymn

"Make Me a Servant" #576

Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.

(Repeat)



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

“Precious Lord”

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

“Go Light Your World”

Kristine Koziol

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, Christ offered himself freely as witness against our violence, in order to rise up as the true way-shower of liberation and restorative justice.

All: O God, as you delighted in the life of Jesus, in his love and faithfulness, give us the courage to follow in Christ’s footsteps. When necessary, give us the courage to sacrifice. But in all things, infuse us with your empowering and liberating love so that we may live as heirs of your grace-filled realm. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” #614

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other—in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Postlude

Cheryl Strecker

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



Next Week – October 27, 2024:

11 AM Worship Service

16th Annual Diversity Service

This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends, family, and neighbors who need to know that God loves all, Christ is for us, and that the Church is a place of welcome.

***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
Nancy Alberico in Memory of Debbie Clouse**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 20: Service Sunday
October 21: Council Meeting 6:30 PM
October 22: Ladies Halloween Dress Up Lunch at Noon – Brown Bag
October 27: Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM
October 27: Diversity Sunday 11:00 AM
October 27: Church & Paranormal Discussion Group 12:45 – 1:30 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 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,.

Council Members:

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