

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



The Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

Centering Music "How Majestic is Your Name" #42

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise your name.

O Lord, we magnify your name:

Prince of Peace, Mighty God,

O Lord God Almighty.

(Repeat)

Invocation

One: Holy and loving God, you meet us in new and unexpected faces and places, and always in love.

All: As we seek to follow you, O Risen Christ, teach us to discern your presence with us. In hospitality shown to strangers, in acts of love and service, and in a community gathered for worship and devotion, you are with us, now and always. Amen!

* Opening Hymn "Sing a New Song" #10

Refrain:

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 God on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound.

(Refrain)

Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song.

(Refrain)

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.

(Refrain)

***Opening Prayer**

***Sign of Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

First Reading

The First Letter Attributed to Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in [reverence] during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. ²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth...have genuine mutual affection, [and] love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Responsorial

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

One: I love the LORD because God has heard my voice and my supplications.

All: Because God inclined to listen to me, I will always call on God as long as I live.

One: The snares of death encompassed me; death's pangs laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the LORD, "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"

All: What shall I return to the LORD for all God's bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people. 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

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

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

Children's Message

Song of Contemplation

"Through it All" #452

Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God;
Through it all, through it all, I've learned to depend upon God's word.

(Repeat)

Reflection

The Disguised Risen Christ

Pastor Rich

We gather here in Jesus' name, his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
For through his loving Son the Father makes us one:
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs.
Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
The one we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come share the Lord.
We are now a family—of which the Lord is head;
Though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing; we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King:
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.



COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: People of God, come to the table with open hands and love in your hearts, for this is *Christ's* table—a place where *every person* is valued, treated with kindness, and embraced in fairness and love.

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 the bread and we take the cup and we 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: Remembering that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. People of God, come to the table!

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 within us. *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows... [*prayer requests are presented*] ...We also pray for everyone who has asked their name to be on the prayer list [*see last page of the bulletin*]. 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

God is inviting us to serve in response to God's great love for us, so that the whole world may know the fullness of God's peace.

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

Offertory

"Peace Like a River"

Don Cameron and Cheryl Strecker

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Congregational Response #147

Praise God, from whom all blessings 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 walk alongside us in our daily living. You come in the form of a stranger. You come in the form of those in need of our help. You come in epiphanies of wisdom and spiritual truth.

All: Help us to pay attention to when our hearts suddenly inflame with love and grace so that we might better know your presence in our lives. Then, help us to go out and be your very presence for others. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Jesus Shall Reign” #341

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

Let all the people rise and bring
Their special honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again
And earth repeat the loud *Amen!*



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



Next Week:

Sunday, April 26, 2026

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures:

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

John 10:1-10

Theme:

Christ as Good Shepherd and Gate

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect 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
and in honor of Angel Conrad's birthday by Tracy Davis***

Coming up:

- April 19: TODAY is Service Sunday and "Serving Together" Information is offered in Fellowship Hall
April 20: CUC Council Meeting 6:30 PM
April 21: Ladies' Outreach Group Luncheon 12:00 PM at the Siebenbuerger Club

**Save the date: On Sunday, May 17th, we will have a reception honoring
Pastor Rich immediately following the Worship Service.**

***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), Brittany Duncan (Army),
Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army),
Jaden O'Hara (Army), Toby Charlton (Marines), Cole Posnett (Army), Hunter Miaczynski (Army)
Mathew Anderson (Army), Zachary Oliver (PA Army National Guard), and
Aran Maloney (Air National Guard)

PRAYERS FOR:

Linda Hilbert, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Ethel Davis, Celeste Eller & Family,
Toni Stevenson, Sandra Ganley, Dorothy Moyer, Celeste Peck,
Linda Foll Johnson, Shirley Carrier, Debra Jackman, Zoey Cathie Witmire,
Laura Will, Paul Dietz, the Smith and Schmidt families, Veronica,
Joan Schultz, family and friends of Kim Normandy.

Your 2026 CUC Council:

Thea Hyatt, President, Ginnie Burger, Vice President, Tracy Davis, Treasurer,
Michele Vahey, Justin Graff, Angel Conrad, Chuck Becker, Don Cameron

Have an Interest in Serving on Church Council?

***We have an open position on the CUC Council and are looking for someone who can provide valuable
support in taking meeting minutes as Council Secretary. This is an important role as you would be a
voting member. If you are interested, please see Thea Hyatt, any Council member or reach out
via phone or email. Thank you!***

You may call the church office at 814-864-4429 for pastoral and administrative matters or use email:
communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com