



# Emmanuel United Church of Christ

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

We Welcome You

on this Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word – July 26, 2020

9:30 AM

Dr. James Cope, Pastor

## The Gathering

Ringling of the Bell

Words of Welcome and Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like:

**All: A tiny mustard seed that carries the life of a tree.**

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like:

**All: A tiny portion of yeast that makes bread rise.**

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like:

**All: A tiny pearl of great price that we would give all our “stuff” to have.**

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like:

**All: A fishing boat filled with catch – good and bad together – with fisherfolk wise to recognize the good.**

### Prayer of Invocation (unison)

**Holy One, you call us to find your kingdom already hidden in our world—in tiny, transforming possibilities; in beauty that calls us to surrender all; in complicated choices that call for wisdom. Reveal yourself here in this moment and heighten our senses that we may find you...and join you in building this kingdom of love, and hope, and peace. In the name of the One who calls us to seek, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

## The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

### The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

**You know us, God, better than we know ourselves. You know the ways we scheme and manipulate for our own advantage. You are aware of how often our deeds fail to match the faith we claim. Help us to face ourselves with honesty. Give us the will and courage to change our ways. We give thanks for Christ’s intercession for us. We rejoice as the Spirit gives voice to all we**

**cannot express. Save us, O God, that our lives might give expression to your realm.**

*(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)*

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Who has the right to judge us? Only Christ. Yet Christ died for us, Christ was raised for us, Christ reigns in power over us – Christ even prays for us!

**All: This is the love which binds us to God forever. There is nothing in this world, or beyond, which will keep us from being God’s children. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## The Gift of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 119: 129-136

New Testament Lesson Romans 8: 26-39

Gospel Lesson Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Sermon

Pastor Cope

## Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call to Offering

Offertory

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**We offer our gifts to you, God of steadfast love, not because you need them, but so others might be as blessed as we are by your presence, your power, and your peace. Amen.**

## The Ministry of Prayer

*Lifting up our joys and concerns and those in need of prayer.*

Pastoral Prayer

### The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

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The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

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**\*Benediction**

Leader: Go forth to proclaim God's constant love.

**All: We will live out that love for everyone we meet.**

Leader: Go forth to unfold God's Word to the world.

**All: We will gather up the tears of those around us, as we offer the healing grace of Jesus.**

Leader: Go forth to tell stories of hope and peace.

**All: We will spread the Spirit of life all around us.**

Leader: In all places, God holds you fast. May you know deeply the presence of God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Go with God.

**\*Three-fold Amen**

**#812 (NCH)**

\*Postlude

\*Indicates that all who are able, please stand. **Bold** print indicates unison reading.  
**Notice Someone Missing?** *If so give them a call and let them know they are missed.*

