



## Emmanuel United Church of Christ

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

We Welcome You on this

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word – October 18, 2020

Laity Sunday

9:30 AM

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### The Gathering

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**"We are leaves of one branch, the drops of one sea, the flowers of one garden."**

*Jean Baptiste Lacordaire, 19th century*

Ringing of the Bell  
Our Life Together  
The Solemn Declaration  
Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Come and give thanks to God, constantly remembering God's faithfulness.

**All: The Lord our God is holy! Praise the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Come before God with abiding faith and steadfast hope.

**All: The Lord our God is holy! Praise the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Come hear the powerful message of good news in Christ.

**All: The Lord our God is holy! Praise the name of the Lord.**

#### \*Prayer of Invocation

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### The Refreshment of Forgiveness

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#### Call to Reconciliation

#### Our Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, we place our trust in tangible things—things we can see and touch—and question whether you are really there. Forgive us, Holy One, when we fail to recognize that you are always nearby, patiently waiting for us to recognize your presence and your glory. Help us when we lose our way, and forgive us when we forget to whom we truly belong. O God, you who loves justice, open our eyes to see you; open our ears to hear you; and open our hearts to love you; and open our hands to serve you.**

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

#### Words of Assurance

Leader: When we cry to God, looking for favor in God's sight, God answers: "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

**All: In the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus, we are forgiven! We will rest in God's mercy.**

#### A Celebration, Affirmation, and Blessing for ALL People of the Church    Insert

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### The Gift of the Word

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#### Prayer for Illumination

#### The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson    Exodus 33: 12-23

New Testament Lesson    1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Gospel Lesson    Matthew 22: 15-22

#### Sermon

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### Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

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#### Call to Offering

#### Offertory

#### \*Offertory Response

#### "Doxology"

#778 (NCH)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

**God, source of all that is, lover of justice and source of equity, help us live boldly and truthfully as we seek to follow your ways. Embolden us to share with others the gift of grace that you have so abundantly given us. Receive and bless these gifts that we return to you now. In the name of the One who gives us life, we pray. Amen.**

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The Ministry of Prayer

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*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: From this sanctuary of song and silence, we will go to be with God's people.

**All: We will carry hope to the fearful and worried; we will share light with those in the shadows.**

Leader: From this time of healing and hearing, we will go to share the justice of Jesus.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter; we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

Leader: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers, we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace the forgotten; we will work to set the weighed down free.**

Leader: And may the blessed, eternal Trinity grant you the peace the world cannot give, now and forever. Amen

**\*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.*

