



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word – October 25, 2020

9:30 AM

The Gathering

“The mystery of ministry is that we have been chosen to make our own limited and very conditional love the gateway for the unlimited and unconditional love of God.”

-Henri Nouwen

Ringing of the Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration and Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: We are invited to share in Christ’s ministry of compassion.

All: We will widen our hearts so we might cradle the lost.

Leader: We are challenged to learn more about God each day.

All: We will open our minds so we might discern God’s dreams for us.

Leader: We are summoned to let the Spirit be planted within us.

All: We will deepen our souls so we might grow in love.

*Prayer of Invocation

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Reconciliation

Our Unison Prayer of Confession

As you know, God our healer, we stand on the edge of your promises and hopes, yet cannot seem to let ourselves cross over into the life you intend for us. We seek praise from our families, yet are unable to tell them how much we love them; we care more about our needs and desires, than for the struggles of our neighbors; we think more about the trash we read and see then focusing on the Spirit of wisdom.

Forgive us, Everlasting God. Renew our lives with your grace; restore our hopes with your vision of tomorrow; refresh our spirits with your joy which comes to us new in each moment in the gift of your Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Words of Assurance

Leader: This moment, this morning, this day, and in all the days to come, God’s compassion and hope fill our lives. What joyous good news!

All: Our hope is not in vain. God forgives our sins, and is the dwelling place for all people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God our Creator?

All: I believe in God, the Creator almighty, the maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God’s son Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, he is seated on the right hand of God; and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Gift of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

New Testament Lesson 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Gospel Lesson Matthew 22: 34-46

Sermon

“Love Simply Is”

Pastor Jim

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

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**
With what you see before us, God, we demonstrate our deepest love. Receive our gifts – our very best – as sweet offerings before you. May they be the blessing to others that they have been for us. 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)

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Benediction**

Leader: Go to celebrate the God who is our home forever.

All: God's love goes with us!

Leader: Go to follow Christ's example in loving God, self, and neighbor.

All: God's love goes with us!

Leader: Go with the Holy Spirit to change the world with love.

All: God's love goes with us!

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.*

