

**Emmanuel United Church of Christ**  
**Welcomes YOU on this Thanksgiving Sunday**  
**We are warmed by your presence among us this day**  
*Service Liturgy – November 22, 2020 9:30 AM*  
*Reign of Christ Sunday*

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Gathering around the Word

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Our Life Together  
The Solemn Declaration  
Chiming of the Trinity  
Prelude  
\*Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord. For He is good.

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name.

**All: Make known God's deeds among the peoples!**

Leader: God blesses us with the gifts of love:

**All: With food and clothing, home and family.**

Leader: God blesses us with daily work.

**All: And all we need from day to day.**

Leader: God protects us in time of danger.

**All: And guards us from every evil.**

Leader: God calls us into relationship with Him.

**All: And forms us into one holy people, the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.**

Leader: Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**All: O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.**

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

**Creator God, we lift up our prayers to You, giving thanks for all You have done in creation. We thank You in this time for what we have, for the needs that are met. We pray that You guide us in ways of fulfilling the needs of others, that we might be Your hands and feet on earth. We lift up to You our burdens and cares, our unmet needs. We pray that You will call us to live in ways that are mutually fulfilling and sustaining of others around our globe and all of creation. We thank You for all the gifts You have given us – gifts of love, friendship and family – and help us to share these greater gifts with those who are without. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Call to Confession

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**Because we live in this modern, tech-driven, twittering age, we often forget what you have done for us, God of every blessing. We pat ourselves on the back for our ability to learn new computer skills, but have forgotten that life is more than a machine. We have more than we could ever use, yet, like squirrels, store up more and more. Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily. Forgive us, Restorer of Life. As you clothe us with your grace and mercy, may we share with those who have so little. As our hearts overflow with your love and wonder, may we offer them as gifts to everyone we meet. As you feed us with your joy and hope, may we welcome into our lives all those whose days are filled with tears and pain. As we gather with family and friends in sometimes new and different ways this season, may we continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

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

**Choral Response**

**“Kyrie”**

Lord, have mercy upon us. **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Christ, have mercy upon us. **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us. **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: This is the good news: as God dresses creation in wonder, so you will be clothed in grace; as God pours our abundance upon earth, so you will be blessed with peace and joy.

**All: We don't day it enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder, for mercy. We are blessed, for we are forgiven. Amen.**

**\*Praise Response**

**“Gloria Patri”**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. If I am friendly, it will be friendly. If I work and serve, it will do great work. If I invite and welcome them, people will be drawn into its worship and fellowship. If I am a generous giver, it will have more than enough for every need and can be generous in its support of God's work. If I am a fearless follower of Jesus and a person of gentleness and grace, my church will be one full of love and faith, a church ready and able to do great things for Christ. Therefore, with God's help, I pledge and dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.**

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Listening for the Word

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Readings from Scripture      Ephesians 1: 15-23  
                                         Matthew 25: 31-46  
Message                            *"The Other Six Days"*                            Pastor Cope

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Responding to the Word

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Call to Offering

Offertory

**\*Offertory Response**

**"The Doxology"**

**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**

**O God, who desires good for all creatures, satisfy our hunger not just for food, but for freedom, truth, justice and love. O Risen Christ, you revealed yourself to us as one who gives to the poor and cares for all people. We dedicate our lives and our offerings to your service. O Holy Spirit, bless these gifts and abide in our hearts so that our gifts and our actions may live out our faith, glorify God, and bring forth a fruitful harvest for the kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Prayer Litany for Thanksgiving

Insert

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Bearing the Word into the World

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**\*Benediction**

Leader: May the Lord of all creation shower His blessings and favor upon you.

**All:      Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord of the harvest grace your Thanksgiving table with His presence and fill your loved ones with peace.

**All:      Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord of salvation guide you all your days until you come into the joys of His eternal kingdom.

**All:      Amen.**

Leader: And may Almighty God the Creator, our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**All:      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.*

*Acknowledgments: The liturgy for this Thanksgiving service was written by the Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel.*

Litany for Thanksgiving:

Leader: As the pioneers of the Plymouth Colony gathered around the feasting table with Native Americans in 1621 to give thanks for all that they had been given by our Bountiful Provider, so we too gather on this week of Thanksgiving to offer thanks for all those gifts which the Lord has seen fit to give to us, especially for our country, our state and our town.

Almighty and Generous God, we bring before you, in our hearts and on our Thanksgiving table, the gifts and blessings which you have given us this year. And, in humble gratitude, we give you thanks for them. We thank you as well for the blessings which come to us through the peace and prosperity of our nation.

**All: We praise and thank you, O God.**

Leader: We acknowledge that as we have greatly received, so are we responsible. Therefore, O Lord, keep us from being unfaithful in our lives as citizens of this nation and as recipients of all that past generations of Americans have bequeathed to us. Help us to be worthy of our ancestors and of their God.

**All: Help us, O God, to be faithful.**

Leader: To all the high desires of the pioneers and prophets,

**All: Help us, O God, to be faithful.**

Leader: To their belief in the possibilities of a common people:

**All: Help us, O God, to be faithful.**

Leader: To their passion for freedom and their readiness to die in its defense:

**All: Help us, O God, to be faithful.**

Leader: To their scorn of tyranny, and their trust in man and women to rule themselves:

**All: Help us, O God, to be faithful.**

Leader: To their vision of a human commonwealth in which the people of many lands may share:

**All: Help us, O God, to be faithful.**

Leader: To their release from the prejudice of an old world and their will to build a new one:

**All: Help us, O God, to be faithful.**

Leader: As our ancestors trusted in you, O Lord, and you delivered them:

**All: Keep us ever closer to you.**

Leader: Lord of the nations, guide our people by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give us what outward prosperity may be your will, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: Our Father who art in heaven...**

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