



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word - November 8, 2020

9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringing of the Bell
Our Life Together
The Solemn Declaration
Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: It is time to wake up,

All: for God is about to surprise us.

Leader: It is time to prepare,

All: for God's love is about to change the world.

Leader: It is time to get ready,

All: for God needs us to proclaim the good news.

Leader: It is time to start planning,

All: for God's invitation will fill our church.

Leader: It is time to worship,

All: for God is here now!

Prayer of Invocation

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

The Unison Prayer of Confession

With insta-this and insta-that, we are an impatient people, God our help. We are so focused on our hand-held electronics, we do not notice the changing seasons. We are so rushed to get to our next activity, we do not see the victims of injustice by the side of the road. We are so determined to get right the date of your return that we forget you are waiting for us to focus on what we can do with our days. Forgive us, God our rescuer, and teach us patience. As we wait, may we continue to seek to do your will. As we do your will, may our eyes be opened to those around us. As our eyes are opened, may we see Jesus Christ, our Lord the Bridegroom, coming toward us with justice and righteousness as his companions.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God is pleased to pour salvation upon us, drenching us in the waters of grace and hope.

All: Thanks be to God! We will rejoice and be glad in the One who delivers us from our brokenness and who makes us whole. Amen.

*An Affirmation of Our Faith

It is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did great signs in our midst. It is the Lord our God who has protected us and loved us through all the years. It is the Lord our God whose own Son, Jesus Christ, died and rose again, conquering death. It is the Lord our God whom we worship today. Amen!

The Gift of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Joshua 24: 1-3

New Testament Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25: 1-13

Sermon

"I Am Not Sure"

Pastor Cope

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

It seems like just a drop, the gifts we offer to you from our abundance. But our drop added to hers, then to his, then to theirs soon become a river of hope, a flood of peace, a torrent of grace rushing into and through our world. May it be so, Just God, may it be so. 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

***Charge and Benediction**

Leader: In the presence of the Lord
we have reflected on his words
about the wisdom of vigilance.

**All: What are we, foolish or wise?
Probably a bit of the two:
foolish when we sin,
wise when we are vigilant and try to live a bit like Jesus
and to put his words into practice.**

Leader: May almighty God keep you vigilant and wise
and bless you: the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Go in the peace of the Lord,
and may he keep you always faithful.

All: Thanks be to 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.*