



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Third Sunday of Easter

Service of the Word - April 18, 2021

9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringing of the Bell
Our Life Together
Prelude
The Solemn Declaration
Prayer of Invocation

*Call to Worship

Leader: Like the disciples who met the risen Christ,

All: we come hoping for unexpected appearances of God's love.

Leader: We come with our questions and doubts, and listen for Christ to appear in our midst saying:

All: "Peace be with you."

Leader: "Touch me and see who I am," says Jesus: We look around at the lives of our neighbors and guests, and seek the power of the risen Christ at work there, offering peace, offering hope, offering courage, offering transformation.

All: We are witnesses to the tangible love of Jesus! Come, let us worship!

*Affirmation of Faith

We know that God is in the world—was and is and will be. God made it all, and continues to renew and remake and resurrect.

We know God best in the life of Jesus, who was and is our maker of hope, the one who saves.

We know the power and energy of God in the Holy Spirit.

We are filled with God's joy and pledged to discipleship and love.

We trust in God. We celebrate God. We work together for justice and peace through God.

We choose the ways of Christ. We are never alone.

Thanks be to God!

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

O Present God, our lives are filled with distractions big and small. We confess that like the disciples we are easily scared by the unknown. We are overcome with worry about illness, unemployment, our children, and the world as a whole. In our most vulnerable moments, we demand that you answer us when we call to you. But often, we do not listen for you or seek your unexpected, grace-filled presence in our trouble. Forgive us for our demands. Be gracious to us and hear the longing found within our prayers.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

All: Remind us that your light shines in all moments of life. Give us eyes to see the light of your face shining on us, O God. Let us feel the gladness you have placed in each of our hearts – more plentiful than grain and wine – And let us live out of that glad confidence. On our waking and in our slumber, give us peace.

Leader: Easter people, whose light is found in Jesus our risen Christ, may the light of God's face shine upon you in all that you say, do, think, feel, and love. You have the light of God within you this day and always!

The Gift of the Word

Prayer for Illumination and the Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 4

New Testament Lesson 1 John 3: 1-7

Gospel Lesson Luke 24: 36-48

Sermon

"See What Love"

Pastor Cope

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call to Offering

Offertory

*Prayer of Dedication

What will be done with the gifts we offer in these moments has not been revealed to us, Holy God, but knowing you through Jesus, and trusting in you by the power of the Holy Spirit, we do know they will be used to bring hope, to bring healing, to bring justice to all those people and places who long for these blessings. And so we offer these gifts with gratitude to you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Ministry of Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Charge**

Leader: Go now, to be God's children in the world.

All: We will open our minds to understand the needs around us.

Leader: Go now, to be Christ's servants in the world.

All: We will open our hands to share our blessings with all.

Leader: Go now, to be the Spirit's hope for the world.

All: We will open our hearts to welcome those who have no one to care for them.

*Benediction

***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.*

Alleluia!