



**Emmanuel United Church of Christ
Welcomes You on this Seventh Sunday of Easter
We are warmed by your presence among us this day
Service Liturgy - May 16, 2021 9:30 AM**

Gathering around the Word

We Gather
 Ringing of the Bell
 Our Life Together
 The Solemn Declaration
 Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning friends and neighbors! Of all the places you could be on a Sunday morning, why are you here?

All: We come seeking the blessing of the Risen One in community.

Leader: We come to celebrate the presence of the One who knows our hearts and guides our choices.

All: We come to witness to the power of the Risen One at work in our community.

Leader: The Risen One at work in us, offering us eternal life.

All: Opening our minds to God's justice, our hearts to God's mercy, our world to the place where God is all in all.

Leader: Eternal life starting here, starting now.

All: Let us celebrate!

Prayer of Invocation

***Hymn "Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!" #257 (NCH)**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Lord Jesus Christ, in you we see awesome power. You triumph over death and bring forth new life. You stand over all earthly powers. You are head of the church. Yet, we often fail to acknowledge this power in our lives. We see violence in the world. We see injustice in our communities. We see hunger and need among our neighbors. We see longing for something more. We see failures and faults in our lives. In all these things, we feel powerless. Forgive our hesitance to call upon you. Forgive our propensity to rely upon

ourselves. Forgive our reluctance to acknowledge your power. Speak your words of power again. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: May God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that the power of Jesus Christ may be visible in your life.

All: By the grace of Jesus Christ we are forgiven and empowered to serve. Amen.

***Choral Response (sung) "Alleluia! Alleluia!" #4(NCH)**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise; Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise. He who on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled, Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.

***Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' Creed"**

I believe in God, The Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

The Psalter Lesson Psalm 1

The New Testament Lesson 1 John 5: 9-13

The Gospel Lesson John 17: 6-19

Sermon "20/400 Vision" Jim Cope

Responding to the Word

Call to Prayer

Leader: We are people of all ages who enter this space bringing our joys and concerns...

Leader: As one heart is lifted...

All: May we share its celebration

Leader: As one heart is burdened...

All: May we share the pain it knows. In all our joys and in all our concerns, may we be ever mindful of the presentness of God among us and to see the new possibilities of now.

Leader: Let us join in singing “**Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am...**” **Insert**

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (unison, debts and debtors)

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Offertory Response “Take My Gifts” #562 (NCH)**

Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have yet to find, Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Fruitful God, may these gifts nourish your beloved children with wisdom, compassion, and creativity so that your beloved community is deepened and recognized. Today, tomorrow, forever: we can bear fresh fruit, sharing God's peace and joy with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn of Mission “Be Now My Vision” #451 (NCH)**

***Charge**

Leader: In the presence of Christ, we have gathered.

All: In the grace of Christ, we depart.

Leader: May God clothe you with power on high.

All: May God put this power to work in each of us. Amen.

***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.*