



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Word – June 13, 2021
9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ring of the Bell
Our Life Together
The Solemn Declaration

Prelude
Call to Worship

Leader: God is the sower, planting seeds;

All: May the seeds God has planted grow and blossom in us!

Leader: God is the gatherer at harvest-time;

All: God sees our potential, and uses it for the Beloved Community.

Leader: God is the one who encourages us to grow;

All: God desires for us to build the reign of God on earth, as it is in heaven.

Leader: Come, worship God, by living faithfully into God's desires for us;

All: Bear spiritual fruit, flourish in God's love, and grow!

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gardening God, You planted a dream of Eden in our hearts, a place that we long for, where You walk among us, where we are who we are without shame or guilt. Help us to live into Your dream by loving one another, forgiving one another, and caring for this earth that You have given us. Plant within us the desire for justice and mercy. Grow in us the fruit that bears peace and hope. Help us remember we need one another in this world. May we continue to grow in You. Amen.

***Hymn "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" #Insert**

***Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

***Choral Response "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" #433 (NCH)
Verse One**

Call to Confession

The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Almighty God, Father, Mother, and Creator of us all, we confess that we have not lived into our potential. We have shied away from the gifts that You have given to us. We have thought ourselves too small or too weak. We have thought our resources too meager and the risk too great.

Forgive us for not seeing ourselves the way You see us, as fully embodied vessels of Your love in this world, full of the Spirit. Renew in us Your Spirit of encouragement, wonder, and joy, and send us forth into this world that desperately needs Your love, peace, and justice. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

**Choral Response (please remain seated)
"In the Bulb There Is a Flower" #433 (NCH)
Verse Two**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God knows you. God knows everything about you. You were made in the image of God. God has filled your heart with good things...filled you with the Spirit. You are fearfully and wonderfully made, and God needs you in this world. Go, share the good news by loving your neighbor as yourselves.

All: This is indeed good news for us. No longer do we need to wait, but can rush into God's embrace, knowing that God will walk with us even when we stumble. God will continue to affirm us, when everyone else around us tears us down. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

***Choral Response "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" #433 (NCH)
Verse Three**

The Gift of the Word

Prayer for Illumination
Old Testament Reading 1 Samuel 15: 34 – 16: 13
New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17
The Gospel Reading Mark 4: 26-34
Sermon “Be a Growing Thing” Jim Cope
Hymn “We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed” #540 (NCH)

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

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**
You have been exceedingly generous to us, O God. We return a portion of what we have to you in grateful thanksgiving. Bless our offerings that they will nurture the seeds of love, hope, grace, and peace which we carry in our hearts and souls so that we would offer them to You for use in the work of spreading the good news. Amen.

The Ministry of Prayer

Prayer of the Day
The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn “For the Fruit of All Creation” #425 (NCH)**
*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.*