



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Word – July 11, 2021
9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringling of the Bell
Our Life Together

†The Solemn Declaration
Prayer of Invocation

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning...

All: The dance began to swirl and ponder.

Leader: In the beginning, all was dark.

All: And the dance cast forth bright light.

Leader: In the beginning, the earth burst forth with wondrous things, creatures of all sorts, mountains and hills, vast seas and rivers, valleys and desert areas.

All: And the Lord of the Dance saw that it was good and blessed it all.

Leader: In our beginning, God blessed us.

All: And the dance went on, through our lives, into all that we have done.

Leader: Sometimes the dance was slow and plodding, at other times it was sprightly and fast.

All: Yet in the midst of it all, the Lord of the Dance is with us.

Leader: This dance, called Life, is everywhere—in the light and in the dark. It is in places of hope and in places of deepest sorrow and tragedy.

All: How shall we dance our dance for God?

Leader: We shall live lives of hope and peace, bringing the good news of Jesus Christ and all that he taught to us, so that others may join the dance.

All: Praise be to the Lord of the Dance, the Lord of Creation, the Lord of Life!

***Hymn**

“Lord of the Dance”

#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

“Gloria Patri”

#759 (NCH)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Call to Confession

The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Holy God, we confess that too often we have not been open to the rhythms of life you offer to us. We let ourselves be put off your pace and allow ourselves to wander off into our own songs. Too often the melodies of the world confuse us. We have led ourselves and others to paths that are not according to your loving pace and direction.

Help us pay attention with all of our senses. Make our dancing faithful; help us take the risks that are part of letting you lead. Pull us back into your rhythms. Clean our hearts, purify our hands and steady our feet that we might know and share your blessings.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Choral Response (please remain seated)

Hymn

“O for a Closer Bond with God”

#450 (NCH)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The God of Hosts assures us that if we trust God’s Word, we will be led back to the songs that God would have us sing. God is eager to show us the path home.

All: We accept the offer of the new song we have been given through Jesus the Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen!

The Gift of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading 2 Samuel 6: 1-5

New Testament Reading Ephesians 1: 3-14

The Gospel Reading

Mark 6: 14-29

Sermon

“Are You Willing to Let Go of Your Stick?”

James Cope

Hymn

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

#493 (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**

Generous God, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring a brighter day of justice and love, not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

The Ministry of Prayer

Prayer of the Day

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn**

“Forward through the Ages”

#377 (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.*