

Emmanuel United Church of Christ
Welcomes You on this Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
We are warmed by your presence among us this day
Service Liturgy - August 1, 2021 9:30 AM

Gathering around the Word

Ringing of the Bell
Our Life Together
The Solemn Declaration
Prelude "In the Upper Room" Gaither

***Hymn** "Immortal, Invisible" #1(NCH)

Call to Worship

Leader: You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways. This day, bring us together just as you called the people of Israel to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life.

All: God of unity, give us this day our daily bread.

Leader: Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you. As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures – faith, hope, and love.

All: God of grace, give us this day our daily bread.

Leader: All life is created and nourished by you! May we grow into new circles of understanding and being, reflecting the ways in which we have been touched by your holy manna.

All: Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.

Prayer of Invocation

Introit "Break Now the Bread of Life" #321(NCH)
Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me, as you once broke the loaves beside the sea; beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord; my spirit yearns for you, O Loving Word.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Compassionate God: like David, it is not easy for us to confront those deeds which do not please you. We are so busy looking for the miracles we desire, we cannot see the gift of your presence in others. We are so intent on indulging our appetites and quenching our thirsts, we cannot taste that Bread which gives life. We spend so much of our lives bemoaning the acts of others, we have no time to look in the mirror and see our secret faces. Forgive us. Grace us with your mercy, so we might be made whole. Touch our inner being and heal us, so we might know joy and gladness. Create new hearts within us, so they might beat as one with each other, and with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Choral Response "Break Now the Bread of Life" #321(NCH)
Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me, as you once blessed the bread by Galilee; Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall, and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Despite knowing our sin, God chooses to forgive us; seeing our emptiness, God chooses to feed us; holding our shattered hearts, God chooses to heal us. This is good news: God loves us.

All: God has graced us with mercy and created new life from our brokenness. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Choral Response (sung)** "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.

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

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Creator?

All: I believe in God, the Creator almighty, the maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God's Son Jesus Christ?

All: 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, dead, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he arose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; he is seated on the right hand of the Creator; and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All: 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
Old Testament 2 Samuel 11: 26 – 12: 13 New Testament Ephesians 4: 1 - 16

The Gospel Lesson John 6: 24 - 35
Sermon "Not Any Old Bread" James Cope

Responding to the Word

Call to Offering

Offertory "I Know Whom I Have Believed" Granahan/Smith

