Emmanuel United Church of Christ

Welcomes You on this Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We are warmed by you presence among us this day

Service Liturgy – August 29, 2021 9:30 AM

Gathering around the Word

Ringing of the Bell
Our Life Together
The Solemn Declaration
Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Every generous act of giving is a tribute to God's love for us.
All: Lord, let us be people of generous and abundant gifts for others.
Leader: Be ready to listen and slow to react in anger.
All: Lord, prepare us to be peaceful people.
Leader: Keep your hearts and spirits ready to serve the Lord.
All: Lord, open our hearts to hear and respond to your words of life in ministries of hope and peace.

Introit "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds" #393(NCH)

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Prayer of Invocation

Lord of mercy and abundant love, we have gathered here this day to hear your healing words of compassion and to be transformed by your love. Help us to become more faithful servants in our thoughts, words, and deeds. It is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" #12(NCH)**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you know us well. We like to think that we can hide from you, but we are just kidding ourselves. You have offered to us new life, characterized by honesty, compassion, joy, and peace. You have invited us into ministries of peace and justice; but we have far too often turned our back on opportunities for service and witness to your transformational love. Forgive us for our stubbornness. Help us to turn around and listen to your words of hope. Remind us again that you require compassion and mercy in all who serve you; that you will guide our steps and our lives. Give us courage to truly be your witnesses in this world.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Even if you have transgressed and done what you know to be wrong, remember that God will heal and forgive you. Be at peace. God is with you.
All: God sends us on our way to become people of peace, hope, love and justice. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen!

***Choral Response *(sung)* "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" #293(NCH)**

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord: there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise. Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

***Affirmation of Faith "A New Creed"**

Leader: We are not alone. We live in God's world.
All: We believe in God: who has created and is creating. Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil. To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Listening for the Word

A Time with the Children

Choral Response "Spirit of the Living God" #283(NCH)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Song of Solomon 2: 8-13 Epistle Lesson James 1: 17-27

The Gospel Lesson Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sermon "Become Doers" James Cope

Hymn of Faith "O Savior, Let Me Walk with You" #503(NCH)

Responding to the Word

Call to Prayer

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

Lifting up our joys and concerns and those in need of prayer

Prayers of the People and **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**

God of light and beauty, every gift is from you. Even our ability to give is a blessing of your love. We offer you what we have and what we are. Use our gifts to give birth to a world of righteousness where none are in need and where all draw close to your grace. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn of Mission "Great Is Your Faithfulness" #423(NCH)**
***Charge and Benediction**

Leader: Love me from the inside out, God. Take the thoughts I hide deep inside and burn them with your purifying fire.
All: Love me from the inside out, God.
Leader: Take the roots of my mistrust and deaden their hold on my life.
All: Love me from the inside out, God.
Leader: Take the thoughts that run freely in my mind and trap them in your grace.
All: Love me from the inside out, God.
Leader: Take the hope that you have planted in me and nourish it with the support of the church.
All: Love me from the inside out, God.
Leader: Take the gift of the Spirit living in me and ignite your love to lead me to your service.
All: Love me from the inside out, God.
Leader: Take your love in me and let it infuse my living.
All: Love me from the inside out, God.

***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.*