

Harvest Blessings

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word – September 12, 2021

9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringling of the Church Tower Bell
Our Life Together
The Solemn Declaration
Prelude

Choral Introit **“How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place”**
How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord, my God!
How lovely is your dwelling place, is your dwelling place, O God!
(Piano will play once, Soloist will sing once, Congregation will sing once)

Call to Worship

Leader: God called our ancestors long ago to a new land, a new way of life;

All: God is calling us into a journey of faith.

Leader: Jesus called the disciples to carry their cross and to follow him;

All: Jesus is calling us into the fullness of life, to live into God’s intention.

Leader: The Spirit called the early church to live deeply into the life of God;

All: The Spirit is calling us to share our gifts for the glory of God.

Leader: Come, join in this journey of faith; live deeply into this life God has given you,

All: And love one another as Christ has loved us.

***Hymn** **“Come, O Thankful People, Come”** **#422 (NCH)**

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, Our Heavenly Creator;

We confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;

We depend on the guidance of the Holy Spirit;

We seek to live in God’s presence according to all God has made known and will make known to us.

We covenant to worship, work, and witness together in the fellowship of

Emmanuel United Church of Christ,

For the building up of the Body of Christ and the manifesting of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

*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.

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

All we need to do is open our mouths, Teacher of hearts, to show that we give our tongues free rein. We claim we love others, but speak bitter words to them. We think we are good and gracious people, but hurl epithets at those we do not like, or those we fear. We are quicker to speak of judgment for others, rather than being voices for justice.

But with your gracious mercy, Tender-hearted God, you can put out the wildfires of bitterness sparked by our words. You can stop the words on the tips of our tongues and transform them into whispers of peace and love. You can open our ears so that we can hear all that your Teacher of grace and hope, Jesus the Messiah, has to share with us, in these moments and all those to come. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Can we handle it – the good news? The fact that God’s grace can transform us? That God can teach us new songs? That God can fill us with hope and joy?

All: It is hard to believe, which may be why it is hard to accept. But God loves us, God has mercy on us, God is with us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen!

A Time with the Children

The Gift of the Word

Hymn of Preparation

“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 Holy Scripture Readings

Psalm 19 James 3: 1-12

Mark 8: 27-38

Sermon

“Words Have Power”

James Cope

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**

From you comes every gift we need, every blessing we have. May we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you, that the poor might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the despairing be filled with hope. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Ministry of Prayer

Choral Call to Prayer **“Take Time to Be Holy”**

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in him always, and feed on his word. Make friends of God’s children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone. By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be; thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.

Pastoral Prayer and **The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)**

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn** **“Lift High the Cross”** **#198 (NCH)**

***Charge**

Leader: God sends us into the world with words of hope.

All: Morning by morning, we will speak these words and live them out for others.

Leader: Jesus calls us into the world with words of justice.

All: Moment by moment, we will listen to the oppressed and challenge the unjust powers around us.

Leader: The Spirit fills us with words of grace and peace.

All: Day by day, we will sing these words, so all may hear of God’s presence in their lives.

***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.*