



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word – September 19, 2021

9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringing 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: Jesus challenges us in today’s gospel:

All: Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

Leader: Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them: and taking the child in his arms, he said to them;

All: Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.

Leader: We are still learning today what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago. To change the world we must change the way we love and welcome all children!

All: May we learn to love all children as if they were our own!

***Hymn** **“Great is Your Faithfulness”** **#423 (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

Dear God,

We often have not welcomed the children as Jesus has commanded. Too many children in our community and world suffer from violence, abuse, neglect and poverty. We know that if we were to join together to welcome and care, to celebrate and honor our children we would save ourselves and our world. We need forgiveness. We want to make amends. We want to change. We want to learn to welcome all children, for in loving and caring for them. We welcome your reign of justice and peace.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

All: We give thanks for our savior and teacher Jesus Christ, who was born among us as a child needing nurture and care, and grew to reveal your power to make all things new. We give thanks and rejoice that in Christ we are forgiven and given strength to grow in discipleship. Thanks be to God!

A Time with the Children

Special Music **“Rock of Ages”** **Kathryn Virgilio**

The Gift of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Holy Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Psalm 54

New Testament: James 3:13 and 4:3 and 4:7-8

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Sermon **“Wunderkind”** **Pastor Jan**

Hymn **“Jesus Loves Me”** **#327 (NCH)**

