



# Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
We Welcome You on this  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Service of the Word – September 5, 2021  
9:30 AM

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The Gathering

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**Ringing of the Bell**

**Our Life Together**

**The Solemn Declaration**

**Prelude**

**Opening Prayer**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

**All: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Leader: Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?

**All: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Leader: Our school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

**All: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Leader: Thanks be to God for new beginnings and for new opportunities to learn together!

**All: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

**Special Music**

**"You Say"**

**Pastor Jan**

**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.**

**A Moment for All of God's Children**

**Call to Confession**

**The Unison Prayer for Forgiveness**

Leader: Rabbi, Teacher Jesus, you who taught thousands and yet you were willing to learn from the least of these. We confess that we pretend to know when in truth we still wonder.

**All: Forgive our pretense, that we may open ourselves to unexpected teachers, to fresh ideas, to one another, and to you.**

Leader: Vulnerable Christ, you who lived in generous love, we confess that we have closed ourselves off, that we have seen so much suffering that we stop looking rather than see and respond to those in need.

**All: Forgive our neglect that we may care for one another and follow in the example you set for us.**

Leader: Christ we now come to you and confess all that separates us from you and from one and other.

*(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Choral Response**

**"Gloria Patri"**

**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.**

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The Gift of the Word

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**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 125

**New Testament Reading**

James 2:1-17

**The Gospel Reading**

Mark 7:24-37

**Sermon**

**"Would You Welcome Us"**

**Pastor Jan**

**Labor Day – What's It All About?**

**\*Hymn**

**"Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts"**

**#329(NCH)**

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Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

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**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, you have made rich and poor, powerful and vulnerable alike in your image. Bless the gifts we have gathered today that we may use them to protect the afflicted and bring greater justice to your world. Amen

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The Ministry of Prayer

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Prayers of the People  
**The Lord’s Prayer (unison, debts and debtors)**

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The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

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**\*Hymn**                      **“Rejoice You Pure in Heart”**                      **#55 (NCH)**

**\*Benediction**

Leader: As you leave this place remember the lessons you have learned here.

**All: We will remember to walk in God’s ways.**

Leader: Remember to dwell in the goodness of God.

**All: We will remember to be faithful.**

Leader: May peace be upon you this day and always.

**All: Amen**

**\*Charge**

**\*Three-fold Amen**    **#812 (NCH)**

**\*Postlude**

