



Emmanuel United Church of Christ
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
 We Welcome You on this
 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
 Service of the Word – October 10, 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: We look in the mirror and what do we see?
All: We see people who try to be faithful, even as questions and struggles challenge our faith?

Leader: We look in the mirror and how do we see?
All: We see with hearts which are open to God’s love, with lives which seek to trust when all the evidence tells us not to be so foolish.

Leader: We look in the mirror and who do we see?
All: We see Jesus, the One who struggles with the questions we raise, who models faithfulness for all who would follow.

***Hymn** **“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”** **#403 (NCH)**

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

We stand before you, Saving God, stripped of our pretensions and pride, for nothing we do or say, or do not, can be hidden from you. You hear the angry words we preach to ourselves; you sift through the rubble of hurts we have caused; you see how we stumble, weighed down by all that “stuff” which keeps us from following Jesus. We stand before you, Holy Grace. As you empty our hands of that wealth of unneeded things we cling so tightly to, fill them with your grace and hope. As we let go of all which might hold us back, give us the trust to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that life which he offers to each of us.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! Because God loves us, we lack for nothing; because God forgives us, we have everything we need; because God surrounds us with sisters and brothers, we do not journey alone.

All: Committing everything to God, trusting in the One who redeems us, we decide to live as faithful and forgiven people. 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

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Reading

Psalter Reading Psalm 22 New Testament Reading Hebrews 4: 12-16
 Gospel Lesson Mark 10: 17-31

Sermon

“Listening...”

Jim Cope

Hymn of Faith

“Listen to Your Savior Call”

#250 (NCH)

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

